

Why I Teach:

Adam Lemisch



It was only after graduating with a BA in psychology and working at the Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital (IPH) that Adam Lemisch first heard of and became interested in school psychology.

“From the first time I learned about what a school psychologist did, I knew that it seemed like a perfect match for me since I always liked education and learning, and I enjoyed working with children,” he said.

With this new career path in mind, Adam decided to pursue a Ph.D. in School Psychology at Temple University. After graduation, and by way of his friendship with Benchmark Child & Family Support Services staff member Tom Hurster, who Adam had met while working at IPH, he came to Benchmark in 1990 as an intern, and has been here ever since.

Today, Adam serves as the Head of Child & Family Support Services and has the chance to work with students in all grades. “I focus on helping to support and strengthen our children’s social and emotional well-being,” he said. Adam does this by regularly consulting and collaborating with teachers and parents, teaching weekly class meetings, running regular student lunch groups, and meeting with children individually as needed. He also works with the Admissions team and meets with prospective parents.

Adam said he very much enjoys having the opportunity to work with students one-on-one and comments that “getting to know the students and having the opportunity to support and help them to better understand who they are and to realize the potential that they have to offer” is one of the best parts of his job. But he notes that he also “loves working with such talented, passionate and dedicated colleagues.”

“When I first started at Benchmark, I was so impressed by the institutional commitment to do what was right and needed for each child to be successful,” he said. “...I found myself growing and learning from the teachers and from the ongoing professional development. I enjoyed, and continue to enjoy working, with such a talented and passionate staff.”

As for the future, Adam is “very excited” about the direction in which Benchmark is heading. “I feel like we have been doing great things for the last 46 years but that the best is still to come, and it is exciting to know that I will have the opportunity to be a part of what will be coming next.”

Tell us about yourself, Adam!

Where did you go to school? Lower Merion High School, the University of Delaware (BA in psychology), and Temple University (Ph.D. in School Psychology).

What is your favorite memory from your school years? When I helped write and star in our 6th grade history class project/play about the Pilgrims. It was a lot of fun, and probably my first and last venture into the performing arts.

What was your favorite subject when you were in school and why? Social psychology and philosophy because I liked learning about how people interacted with each other.

What teacher most influenced you? My 10th grade English teacher, Mrs. Petrotoni, gave me an appreciation for looking for the deeper meaning in literature and a love of poetry. In graduate school, Dr. Rosner instilled the importance of always trying to advocate for the child.

What is your favorite book? When I was young, I liked *Ben*

and Me by Robert Lawson. In Junior High, I loved books by S. E. Hinton. As I got older, I was a huge science fiction fan and loved *The Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien.

Favorite inspirational quote? “Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass. It’s about learning how to dance in the rain.” —Vivian Greene

What are your hobbies outside of Benchmark? Reading, seeing a good movie, watching my children in their various performances, and following my Philadelphia sports teams.

What is an interesting fact about you? I still have my comic book collection of over 1,000 comic books. Also, the first time I was in an airplane was when I went skydiving and parachuted out of the plane.

Tell us about your family. My family includes my wife Lynda (married 19 years in April), and my children Nathaniel, 15, and Brianna, 12.