

## Mrs. Debra Andruk Bio



Mrs. Debra Andruk has brought her passion, innovation, and dedication to students for 25 years. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education at Concordia University in Chicago. Mrs. Andruk's enthusiasm for teaching began at an early age through guiding and tutoring her siblings with developmental disabilities. Her career began as a preschool teacher. Debra then moved to middle school, where she has been a science instructor for the 15 years.

During her 10 years at Hillel Torah, she has taught middle school science and social studies, has been the yearbook coordinator, student council facilitator, faculty council and technology committee member, a sixth grade advisor, and the STEM coordinator. She is also an instructor at the Blitstein Teacher Institute, teaching college students to become science educators. Her experience has also included tutoring students in biology and chemistry, working with students with special needs, and serving as a youth group facilitator.

Mrs. Andruk's commitment to education is evident through attending various classes, in order to advance her expertise. At Roosevelt College she attended a biology seminar on cells and genetics. At Concordia University she learned strategies to help students improve their comprehension skills. In addition, she has attended a myriad of STEM workshops, webinars, and technological lessons in which she incorporates into her curriculum. Mrs. Andruk even integrated *Hatzalah* to demonstrate the basic CPR skills to 7th graders as part of her cardiovascular unit.

Mrs. Andruk believes that engaging and involving students in the learning process is key; that classrooms should be student centered, active places to learn. Her teaching goals include supporting students in developing problem solving strategies, validating their thoughts and ideas, and encouraging students to voice opinions within a cooperative social atmosphere. Through modeling social, academic, and behavior skills, Mrs. Andruk seeks to equip students to be respectful, proud, and successful throughout their lives.