



# Mr. Schardin

## University of South Dakota

# Spanish

### A Learning Experience that Changed Me:

The summer after my sophomore year of college I studied in Sevilla, Spain. My Spanish was pretty limited at the time, but I had a truly life-changing experience. Upon my return to the US, I changed my major and started a journey that would find me learning other languages, living in Europe for 5 years, and completely breaking with all my traditions and expectations. There's a very clear line from that summer in Spain to where I am today.

### My Favorite Book:

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky--This book found its way into my life at exactly the right time. When I felt like high school was a waste of time and all the things I spent my day doing were the least important things on the planet, along came a book that spoke to me. I won't say any more about the book until you've read it yourself, so go do that and we'll talk.

### My Hobbies and Interests:

I enjoy being outdoors whenever (and almost however) possible--cycling, snowboarding, and hiking are ways I often do that. I also spend my (limited) free time playing the guitar and drums and have been in a number of bands over the years. I'm a big, big fan of Mario Kart 64, kendama, and podcasts as well. I've got 3 amazing nieflings (the collective noun for nieces and nephews) back in South Dakota, and I try to spend as much time with them as possible, too.

### Prior Experience in Education:

I have taught in a variety of settings and locations over my 10 years as an educator--from college Spanish in South Dakota to Biology in Spain to business courses in Germany. Additionally, I have worked at numerous summer camps and have led over a dozen short-term study abroad trips to Spain, Mexico, Peru, and Cuba. I've tutored a variety of subjects, taught individual music lessons, and have worked as a research assistant, writing center tutor, and copy editor at the university level.

### Something Super-Unique About Me:

Two truths and a lie:  
I speak fluent German.  
My band has music on Spotify.  
I have been to 5 continents.

### Why I am Excited About Working at DSST:

DSST has consistently showed its dedication to eliminating educational inequities across Denver at levels never before seen in the city and rarely equalled in the nation. There is an amazing community of educators and students at DSST that I have never seen anywhere else, and I'm both excited and honored to continue to be part of it.