

I AM ASCA

JEFF HEAVLIN

Oscar Howe Elementary School
Sioux Falls, S.D.

WHY ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ASCA? Being an ASCA member makes me feel like I am not alone, navigating all of the aspects of being a school counselor.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU ABOUT BEING A SCHOOL COUNSELOR? Watching students learn and grow is so inspiring. Being there for those "a-ha" moments and learning what my students are passionate about are some of the most amazing parts of the job.

WHAT MAKES YOU UNIQUE AS A SCHOOL COUNSELOR? I think I bring my own brand of humor to the work. I love to use accents or impersonations to bring smiles to students' faces and connect with them on more personal levels.

FAST FACTS > WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SONG? TOO MANY TO LIST; I'M ALWAYS SINGING SOMETHING. **> WHAT'S YOUR COFFEE ORDER?** SCOOTER'S CARAMELICIOUS **> WHAT'S YOUR GUILTY PLEASURE?** COMIC BOOKS **> WHAT SUPERPOWER DO YOU WISH YOU HAD?** TELEPORTATION TO CUT THOSE TRAVEL TIMES DOWN **> WHAT IS ONE THING YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT?** MAKING PEOPLE LAUGH **> WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU THINK MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?** BEING A CONTESTANT ON "JEOPARDY" IS ONE OF MY TOP BUCKET LIST ITEMS.

READ MORE ABOUT JEFF
SCHOOLCOUNSELOR.ORG/IAMASCA

WHAT WORDS DO YOU LIVE BY? "The time is always right to do what is right." – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "You make each day a special day. You know how, by just your being you." – Fred Rogers

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TOOL YOU USE IN YOUR WORK AS A SCHOOL COUNSELOR? I don't know if it's my favorite tool, but some of the things I've been able to do with a standard deck of playing cards amazes me. From playing a game to building rapport with a tough student, to letting students be the experts who teach me a new game, to even being used as a tool to match working partners for classroom lessons. Cards are like a Swiss Army knife in my program.

WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU WEREN'T A SCHOOL COUNSELOR? If I weren't a school counselor, I'd be writing for a living. I would love to write a novel or even write for some of my favorite comic book characters, like Spider-Man or the Avengers.

SHARE AN EXAMPLE OF SOMETHING IMPORTANT YOU LEARNED FROM ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS. One of my former students took the time to teach me some words and phrases in Lakota. It was great for us to teach me and has helped me connect with other students as well.