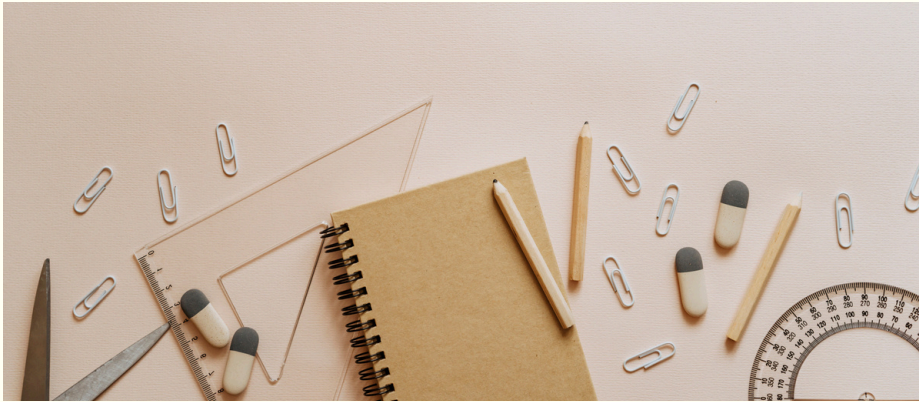


# What's The Buzz?

BETTER ENVIRONMENTS TO ELEVATE EDUCATORS



## Back to School!

With the joys and thrills of summer coming to the end a new journey starts. A season of new faces, old colleagues and the smell of a new adventure. Teachers who have been in education for years to new budding educators taking a class of their own for the first time can feel the buzz of a new school year. With recent pressures the future of education seems unsure. But we as educators help generations move forward. We guide and educate in hope that the kids we help today become great leaders of tomorrow.

For students embarking on their educational journey, the world presents incredible possibilities. The foundation laid today will shape the leaders, innovators, and change-makers of tomorrow. With curiosity as a compass and perseverance as fuel, students are embarking on an adventure that holds the promise of personal growth and societal transformation.

To those teachers who are concluding their careers, their legacy is one of profound significance. They have weathered the storms of an ever-changing educational landscape. While the decision to leave the industry may be bittersweet, it is also a testament to a journey well-traveled. They pass the torch to a new generation of educators, their impact continues to resonate. The hope lies in the enduring spirit of education—the belief that every challenge presents an opportunity for growth, that every student has the potential to thrive, and that every teacher, past and present, plays a pivotal role in shaping a brighter, more enlightened future.

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# Interview Spotlight



## ABOUT NATALIE P. STUART:

Natalie Stuart, born and raised in Miami, is a rising educator on Instagram and TikTok. Uploading content to show her journey in education while still giving students her all. In her 15 years of teaching she has gained teacher of the year and semi-finalist teacher of the year for Broward County in 2022. In this interview we learn about her start in education and declining self-esteem and motivation in students.

## Inspiring Students to Follow Their Dreams

Interviewed by Claudia Benoit

Published: 6:00 PM EDT, Tuesday July 30, 2024

**Claudia:** What motivated you to become a teacher?

**Natalie:** I never wanted to be a teacher. My initial plan was to be a journalist. I got the job of anchor on the morning announcements in fifth grade, and I knew that that's what I wanted to do. I wanted to study journalism, and so throughout my grade school years, I did radio broadcasting, newspaper, I did media, journalism, every form of journalism. I did it. And when I got to college, I sat with my guidance counselor, and she told me that I wouldn't be a good fit for journalism because my accent would not get me far in the field, and also that they hire attractive people, and so wouldn't be a good fit for me. And so right then and there in her office, my vision just crumbled to the ground, because, like I said, I was dead set on this field. And she said, What do you do now? And I said, I'm a camp counselor. And she said, Well, you like kids? And I said, Yes, and she said, Okay, well, then you should be a teacher.

And I listened to her, and here we are, 14 years later, three degrees later, I feel like she was put in my path as an intervention. I feel like she guided me to steer my career for the rest of my life. I think had I sat with somebody else, I probably would have never become a teacher. I would have just followed through and become a journalist. But I'm thankful that I listened to her in a way, and there are moments. I'm not going to lie to you where I do wish that I would have listened to my heart, to follow my dreams, to do what I wanted to do. But at the end of the day, this field allows me to really touch the lives of so many, and it's amazing what 10 months in a classroom can do and the profound impact it makes on people. So I think had I become a journalist, I don't think I would have been able to do that.

# Interview Spotlight

**Claudia: I want to touch on the last part, because I know, the counselor put your dream down. Has that really affected how you reach out?**

**Natalie:** Absolutely, you know, I feel like, in a way, it was kind of an ignorant comment to tell me that my accent would not take me very far. I've actually been able to speak to so many journalists who have told me that when you go to college, they do teach you how to neutralize your accent, because there are so many different, you know, immigrants and people from, you know, all over the United States. And so I wish I would have known that, because I would have stuck up for myself and continued through my journey. And so I think with my students, I always make sure that they understand that it doesn't matter where you come from, what you look like if you want to pursue something and you just have that spark and that passion, that willpower and desire, you can do it. And so I never want my students to think they can't get into a field because of something so silly, like, an accent, um, you know, I, I do work in a title one school where the majority of my students are underprivileged. And at the end of the day, it doesn't really matter if they want to be, you know, an astronaut. It doesn't matter like, I definitely will tell them, like, go do what you gotta do to become an astronaut. Like, do what you have to do to be a doctor, a lawyer, a nurse, whatever you want to do, like you should be able to do it. And even though she might have, like my guidance counselor, might have thought her intentions were good at the end of the day. You know, it's so disheartening to tell somebody that they can't do something because of something they don't have control over, if that makes sense, yeah? So, yeah, it definitely affects how I, you know, how I speak to my students, and how I motivate them for their future.

**Claudia: But how do you think social media has an effect on your teaching?**

**Natalie:** So I feel like social media has provided me with such an amazing opportunity to teach our newbies, you know, our little green bean teachers that are coming in for the first time, but also to kind of spark our veterans. I know as a veteran myself, I know that we can get very it can become very routine with what we do. And so to be able to provide a platform and a place to share what I do in the classroom, to receive so much love from people who tell me, thank you so much for sharing this lesson, I'm going to infuse it myself as well. Or, you know, thank you so much for sharing this. I've been doing the same thing for years, and it's time for a change, or, you know, I'm doing my student teaching. I'm so nervous this semester, but I'm going to infuse these things, and you know, I'll let you know how it goes. That, to me, is invaluable. I wish I had that when I was getting into the field. I would have loved to have been able to follow somebody and to kind of learn from them and do fun things that you know, that they do. I learned in a more traditional setting, you know, in college, but to be able to, you know, share that with people.

And even though I am a veteran, I've also been able to learn from so many teachers. There's so many other teachers that post on there that, you know, I'll look at something and go, my gosh, what a great idea. I'm going to do that too. I think it's vital for teachers to go on there and see what people are talking about, see what people are sharing, so that we can stay with the times and so that we. Can evolve as our students evolve with our instruction and our pedagogues.

# Interview Spotlight

**Claudia: Have you ever had any issues arise from social media?**

**Natalie:** So I've been very blessed. I have the best parents, truly. They support me in everything that I do. I haven't had any issues with any parents of students in my classroom at all. I've been very blessed. So shout out to all of the amazing parents at me. I love you. Um, I will tell you, people have taken this very far. I did have someone reach out anonymously to my principal to inform her that I was posting children online. Obviously, I have a release form, so she clarified that with the follower who did that? Um, we also, I also get, it's very common for me to get comments on my post with the kids to say, you know, did you get permission? Did you get permission for this? And you know, you're posting kids. Is that okay? So it's funny, because on every single post that has children, if you go to the comment section, I always copy paste the same exact comment that tells my followers, yes, we have release forms. Yes, we have FERPA forms, you know. But I also think something that's helped me, as far as you know, with the parents and the community, is I go to extreme measures to make sure that my students are not exposing their names or anything like that. You know, safety is number one.

If you're going to infuse social media with your class, you have to take it very seriously. It's important for the kids who don't have a release form, they can never be, you know, shown, photographed, videotaped, whatever. And, you know, again, like, for example, we just did a video two last month. We did a video where it was a Chip Challenge. This is like a super popular Tik Tok trend, and so we did the Chip Challenge, where everybody states their name, what chips they brought, and then they dump it into the bowl. Nobody said their name, everybody said the first letter of their name. That was a safety and security measure that I personally took so that nobody knows their names. A lot of people in the comments were like, Who names their kid? One letter? That's so weird. People were like, Why are all their names? One letter? Like, people weren't getting it. But again, it's important to take that into consideration.

**For the full interview transcript visit our site at  
[www.beeefoundation.org/news](http://www.beeefoundation.org/news)**

# Interview Spotlight



## KAYLA DORFEUILLE & THE PASSION TO TEACH:

“Everything that I do is for them, all the pretty pictures, all the cute designs, and all the projects. It's for them. Seeing my Instagram take it that far is definitely so amazing, because any money I hope to make in the future goes to them. After all, this is what I want to do as much as I love being like an influencer. At the end of the day, I do it for my students. So I definitely am in love with this journey, and I'm so glad that I'm been put on this platform to be able to share these things.”

## A View of Education from the Eyes of a Budding Educator

Interviewed by **Claudia Benoit**

Published: **6:00 PM EDT, Tuesday August 6, 2024**

**Claudia:** What motivated you to become a teacher?

**Kayla:** What motivated me to become a teacher? It's kind of funny. I love to tell the story because it kind of fell into my lap. I remember following going into high school, and we had, like, a Choice Program. We had several programs in high school, and as he was, like, you have two choices. You could do nursing or you could do teaching. And I'm like, I'm going to do teaching because I just didn't want to become a nurse. But eventually, as the years passed by, I fell in love with teaching, seeing how much of an impact you can make on students' lives, and how much the little things you do in class can lead to big things that they do later on in life.

I just fall in love seeing kids grasp that concept that you've been working so hard to teach them and then using it later on. So it kind of fell into my lap, and I molded myself to really just fall in love with it. And you know, I've been working on my teaching degree, and finally, now have it for over 10 years now, because I started earning my degree 2014 and now here I am a second year teacher in 2024 so being able to work with students and see them growth is like, really what motivated me to be into this position, because I always like to say, like a teacher's job helps everybody else's job. So without a teacher, you couldn't do what you couldn't do what you like. We couldn't have doctors. We couldn't have lawyers. You need a teacher in your life. So I really, I just love being that one person in students' lives.



# Interview Spotlight

## **Claudia:** How do you handle classroom management and discipline?

**Kayla:** I handle classroom management and discipline as a lover, but with stern standards, I believe that kids need routine and structure to be able to prosper in life. So I basically hold my kids to a level of standard, and it's that and only that. Of course, you know, we all make mistakes, and we always sometimes don't meet that standard, and sometimes that's okay, and I'll constantly remind my students, like, hey, we didn't meet the expectation.

Let's work on it. What were some difficulties that you couldn't meet that expectation? How can I help you? As far as, like, discipline, my kids know I like to do like, a really three strike system. First Strike, you know me. You have a talk. We sit down. How can I help you? Second strike is obviously removal from like set activity, and then we have another talk. And then the last strike is me, if it's really egregious, having to remove you from the classroom entirely, and a phone call home or probably a meeting with parents. And throughout this whole process, I always talk to students. Students have to be aware of what they did, and I have to be aware of why they do it. Some students aren't willing to tell me why, but I still sit with them and talk with them and discuss things like, Hey, these are our rules. These are our standards. These are our procedures. You have to follow them. If you don't do this, X, Y and Z, will happen. And in my classroom, I kind of like to do a class promise. Because we all promise to follow these rules, and I myself have to follow them, and we sign them every year, so I always like to refer back, hey, you sign this class. Promise you promise that you will do this. And I know sometimes we falter, but we have to be on the ball and the money to do this.

A lot of people do not like my style of discipline because I seem to be a little bit mean or a little bit rough around the edges, but it's because I believe, like once you hold kids to that standard, they will always meet them. And you can't lower your standards just because their kids are very moldable and malleable, and they can do such great things. So I don't like to sell my kids short. I like to really push them to the limits and expectations. And of course, if there's something that doesn't work with my students or that classroom, I remove it or tweak it for them to work, but I never lower the standards.

# Interview Spotlight

**Claudia:** Have you ever really connected to a student or, like, just had a very aspiring moment that has stuck with you?

**Kayla:** I think I had that moment with my students last year, believe it or not. Um, being a first year teacher, it's definitely the scariest thing in the door, in the scariest thing in the world. Because once they close that door, you realize, wow, they really left me here by myself, like they believe in me. Like, oh. And I think I connected and bonded with my students so much to the point like they thought of me as, like part of them. Like, if I weren't coming to school, they'd be like, Why? Where are you going? Who you going with? What time are you coming back? So building that bond with my students really made me understand, like I'm making an impact by talking about my students all the time. I like to call them my kids, to the point my mom was like, you don't have any kids? Oh, I guess I do. I got 22 kids right now, and I'll name them all. So it's like, I think what's really important for me in the classroom is building the classroom family. And I started that really early on.

So we became this, this little family, and I genuinely adore every single one of them as many times they get on my nerves when somebody's not listening. I'm just like, wow, look at you. Like, I just, I love you and like, somebody will tell me by my seat. Like, Oh, Mr. Friendly so and so did this. I'm like, That's my student. So I genuinely love and adore all my students. I was blessed to have those students in my life and I was meant to be in that place. I think the best memory that I had with them is when I did my book exchange for Christmas and seeing their faces on getting these books for me and I was like wow. I love every single one of you, and I just know that you love me. It brings me to tears knowing I won't be with them next year, but I just, I adore them.

**For the full interview transcript visit our site at  
[www.beeefoundation.org/news](http://www.beeefoundation.org/news)**

# Tax-Free Weekend

Back to School is full of deals for teachers and parents use these tax-free weekends for the best bang for your buck.

## **Arkansas - Aug. 3-4**

- Clothing and footwear / Less than \$100
- School supplies / No maximum

## **Connecticut - Aug. 18-24**

- Clothing and footwear / Less than \$100

## **Florida - July 29-Aug. 11**

- School supplies / \$50
- Clothing, footwear and accessories / \$100
- Computers and accessories / \$1,500
- Learning aids and jigsaw puzzles / \$30

## **Iowa - Aug. 2-3**

- Clothing and footwear / Less than \$100

## **Maryland - Aug. 11-17**

- Clothing and footwear / \$100
- Backpacks / First \$40

## **Missouri - Aug. 2-4**

- Clothing / \$100
- Computers / \$1,500
- School supplies / \$50

## **New Jersey - Aug. 24-Sept.2**

- School and art supplies / No maximum
- Instruction materials / No maximum
- Computers / \$2,999.99

## **New Mexico - Aug. 2-4**

- Clothing / Less than \$100
- Computers / \$1,000
- Computer equipment / \$500
- School supplies / Less than \$30

## **Ohio - Aug. 2-4**

- Clothing / \$75
- School supplies / \$20

## **Oklahoma - Aug. 2-4**

- Clothing / \$99.99

## **South Carolina - Aug. 2-4**

- Items include computers, school supplies and clothing / No maximum.

## **Texas - Aug. 9-11**

- Clothing, backpacks and school supplies / \$99.99

## **Virginia - Aug. 2-4**

- Clothing / \$100
- School supplies / \$20

## **West Virginia - Aug. 2-5**

- Clothing / \$125
- School supplies / \$50
- School instruction material: \$20
- Sports equipment / \$150
- Computer or tablet / \$500



# BEEE Youtube

Our Youtube Channel will be launching this month! From interviews, playlist songs and more Beee Youtube will be the best way to catch up with all things media.

## Missed our Hot Topics of July? Here's a Recap:

- Broward County Schools launches new metal detector pilot program for added school safety.
- Florida districts shutting underused schools.
- Textbook authors were instructed by Florida officials to remove climate change references for state approval.
- Cyber attack on the Alabama State Department of Education may have exposed personal data of students and teachers.
- Project 2025 Impact on Education

**For full Hot Topic Clips, check out our Instagram or Youtube!**



# We're Hiring!

Here at BEEE, we desire to grow educators and students who wish to build their experience in the fields of Communication, Marketing, Education, and Nonprofit Management.

We are currently looking for a:

- Grant Research and Writing Intern
- Marketing Intern

## Internship details:

- Application deadline: August 5th
- Location: Remote
- Internship dates: August 26th - December 31th 2024
- Where to apply: [www.beeefoundation.org/careers](http://www.beeefoundation.org/careers)

**For more information, check out our website!**

**Apply to  
join the  
BEEE Team!**



# Playlist of the Month

As an educator, staying motivated for the new year can be challenging with various stresses constantly on your mind. To kickstart your day, simply put on your earphones and tune in to this invigorating playlist designed to uplift and inspire amazing teachers like yourself.

These motivational songs are curated to keep you motivated and energized as you dedicate yourself to creating a caring and secure learning environment for your students.

1. **Hey Soul Sister** - Train
2. **EYE(S)** - LÜCY
3. **Foolish** - Ashanti
4. **Dog Days Are Over** - Florence +  
The Machine
5. **Satum** - SZA
6. **Night Changes** - One Direction
7. **Supernatural** - NewJeans
8. **Apple** - Charli xcx
9. **Walk Like This** - FLO
10. **Remember the Time** - Michael Jackson
11. **SOS** - Rihanna
12. **Permission to Dance** - BTS
13. **Stay** - Zed, Alessia Cara
14. **I'm Yours** - Jason Mraz
15. **Dance The Night** - Dua Lipa
16. **The Middle** - Grey, Maren Morris, and Zedd
17. **16 Carriages** - Beyoncé
18. **Mago** - DARUMAS
19. **Its Not Right But It's Okay** - Whitney Houston
20. **Sunshower / Tenki Ame** - Yumi Arai

**Kickback, Relax,  
and Unwind**



# August Events



## BEEE Events

### August 5-

- Internship Deadline

## Daily Observances

### August 12

- International Youth Day

### August 17

- National Nonprofit Day



# Help Create Impact by donating to Better Environments to Elevate Educators

## YOUR MONEY AT WORK



Your donation will help us organize and conduct professional development programs. These programs will focus on topics that provide teachers with the knowledge and skills to improve their teaching practices and student outcomes.



Your donation will facilitate networking opportunities for educators to connect with their peers and share best practices, create a community of educators who are passionate about improving education, we can foster collaboration and teamwork among teachers.



Your donation will help us provide educational resources such as books, online courses, and instructional materials to assist educators in their professional journey, ensuring that every teacher has the necessary tools to succeed.

## WHY CHOOSE US?

BEEE is led by teachers creating content for teachers that helps retain qualified educators it also benefits students.



### DIAMOND BEEE \$100,000+

- Thank you letter
- Donor Impact Letter
- Brochure Recognition
- Branded Merchandise
- Website and Socials Recognition
- Specific Campaign Recognition
- Exclusive Event Invitations



### PLATINUM BEEE \$50,000-99,999

- Thank you letter
- Donor Impact Letter
- Brochure Recognition
- Branded Merchandise
- Website and Socials Recognition
- Exclusive Event Invitations



### GOLD BEEE \$10,000-49,999

- Thank you letter
- Donor Impact Letter
- Branded Merchandise
- Website and Socials Recognition
- Exclusive Event Invitations



### SILVER BEEE \$1,000-9,999

- Thank you letter
- Donor Impact Letter
- Branded Merchandise
- Website and Socials Recognition
- Event Invitations



### BRONZE BEEE \$500-999

- Thank you letter
- Donor Impact Letter
- Branded Merchandise
- Event Invitations



### POLLINATOR BEEE \$5-499

- Thank you letter
- Donor Impact Letter
- Event Invitations