

# Meet The Nursing Team

Each Weston school nurse is far from typical and brings unique perspectives to the team. Their extensive research and development experience in fields like neuroscience, epidemiology, and more helped set them up for success. However, it was their expert collaboration together that enabled them to adapt and to redefine their own practices.

Beyond boo-boos and bandaids, this year in particular our school nurses have risen to the challenge, and succeeded throughout the year, despite the odds. They exceeded the expectations for school safety, excelling and distinguishing the Weston Schools team as national leaders in the school nursing field.

Please take a moment to get to know your building-based school nurse, you might be surprised by what you find. Thank you!



**Jamy Gaynor**, Ed.D., MS, RN, NCSN, serves as both **Health Services Director** and also Field School Nurse. She is new to Weston (August 2020), and is a nationally certified school nurse, as well as a life-long learner.

She began her career as a neuroscientist investigating learning and memory at UMass Amherst, then transitioned to nursing where she has spent the last 15 years in both intensive care and school settings. Jamy enjoys traveling, gardening, and spending time with her husband and her two children.

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**Michelle Rizza**, BSN, RN, has been the **Weston High School** Nurse for the past four years. She has a BA in psychology and a BSN in nursing from Framingham State University, where she is presently working towards completion of her Masters in Education. She is a veteran of the United States Navy, where she served five years in Hawaii. Michelle enjoys reading, her cats, and spending time with her husband and their daughter who currently attends University of Rhode Island.



**Denise Schwerzler**, a master's prepared, Nationally Certified School Nurse, is excited to be part of the team caring for the students and families of **Weston Middle School** for the past four years. Before entering the field of nursing, she worked for 18 years in environmental lab research at the Harvard School of Public Health. For all of her expertise and successes in the field, Denise was the recipient of the Massachusetts School Nurse of the Year Award for the 2020-2021 year. Denise's personal interests include life-long learning, exploring, camping, hiking, skiing, and just being outdoors. She loves SCUBA diving, and she also spends many summer days enjoying time with her family on the Ashland reservoir near her home.



**Jennifer Riggs**, MS, RN, and **Field School** Nurse is both new to Weston and new to school nursing. Jennifer has a BA in Speech Communication and a MS in Human Resource Development. Having come from a Human Resources background, Jennifer's nursing experience includes educational development around food allergies, vaping and substance use, and mental health topics including suicide. Jennifer enjoys spending time with her husband and four children.

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**Joanna Sudmyer** of **Woodland School** began her school nursing career in the Ashland Public Schools district six years ago. Prior to school nursing Joanna worked in pediatric primary care. She feels it is a privilege to work with families and school staff to provide a safe and healthy learning environment to students, as they grow during their elementary school years. She enjoys spending most of her free time with her two young children and husband, especially if it involves being at the beach!



**Janet Weinstein** of **Country School** is a master's prepared, Nationally Certified School Nurse, and has dedicated the past 21 years of her career to the Weston Public Schools. Janet has brought an unrivaled commitment and compassion to the families and children of Country School. Janet prides herself on maintaining an open door policy for families in addition to the compassion and dedication to their children. Janet's personal interests include reading, going to the gym, spending time with family and friends, and reupholstering antique chairs.



**Kerry O'Brien** is the **Health Services Administrative Assistant** for Weston Public Schools. Kerry was originally trained as an Epidemiologist, and after dedicating recent years to her family she has returned to her career supporting the Health Services Team in Weston for the past two years, while continuing to moonlight as an Epidemiologist for the State of Massachusetts. Kerry's personal interests include spending time with her husband and two daughters.