

## ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

**Name:** Kayla Ford-Weisser

**Year of Graduation:** 2013

### **What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?**

After high school, I attended Robert Morris University. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in English. After graduating from Robert Morris, I remained in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and eventually began working for a law firm.



Within a few years, I began my journey to becoming a lawyer. I enrolled in the evening program at Duquesne University. Duquesne's evening program allowed me to work full time while obtaining my juris doctorate degree.

As if law school and working full time wasn't enough, I also purchased my first house and married the love of my life within the four years it took me to obtain my degree.

This past July, I passed the Pennsylvania Bar Exam and began practicing as a worker's compensation defense attorney.

### **Where do you currently live?**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### **Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?**

I had so many fantastic teachers in high school that it makes it difficult to determine which was my favorite. While Mr. Riley, Mr. Myers, and Mrs. Bishel are some of the most notable, I would have to say that Mr. Lawton was my favorite teacher in high school.

Like each of the above named teachers, I remember Mr. Lawton being passionate about his class and his students. However, Mr. Lawton helped my love for reading and writing grow throughout high school. I remember taking several independent study courses with him during which he gave me the liberty to focus my reading and writing on topics of my choosing, all while challenging me to be a better writer.

While it may not seem like an obvious career for a person who loves writing, being a lawyer requires strong writing skills. Mr. Lawton's support in high school has led me to be a more confident writer. He taught me that there is more to writing than just putting words on the page. His advice and passion helped me decide to pursue an undergraduate degree in English, which has led me to where I am today.

### **What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?**

There are simply too many to count. In high school, I was heavily involved in both music and sports. I could reminisce about the many wins and losses at soccer games and track meets. I have so many memories of band camps, cheering on the football team from the band stands, and performing during the halftime show. I cherished my time in the band so much that I continued playing all throughout undergrad. I am also fond of my time performing with the choirs at Winter Songs and Showcase, and going on the many trips with the music department.