

## **Alumni Profile - Sam Belk '17**

November 2020

*Boston Trinity Academy is excited to have Sam Belk' 17 working with us this academic year. We interviewed him to find out what his experience has been like so far.*

### **We are delighted that you are now part of the BTA team. How does it feel to be back at BTA?**

I've really enjoyed being back and seeing how much the school has changed these past few years. The community has strengthened and become more unified and it is clear that parents, students, faculty, and staff alike are working towards a common goal.

### **What is your current role at BTA? How has it been going (especially, since BTA is operating in a hybrid model)? What has it been like working so closely with our students?**

My title is 'Administrative Assistant.' But this is BTA. I do whatever role needs filling. To name a few: I run the school lunch program and the BTA shuttle bus program, I'm an on-staff substitute teacher, I teach 6th grade Astronomy, and the list goes on. I'm basically here to fill in the gaps. And with an ever changing model, there are a lot of gaps that spring up. That seems to be the nature of the 'new normal,' but I am happy to be doing it.

I've really enjoyed working with the students here. And they like being here. Of course, there's always the griping and complaining, but there is also a deep recognition, particularly from the seniors, of the good that BTA is doing. Plus, they are so, SO happy to have classes in-person. And what's more, only three a day!

### **How do you like working at BTA? What has been different than you expected?**

Working at BTA continues to be a truly remarkable experience. I go to bed each night far more exhausted than I ever have before, but I have yet to feel *tired*. The positive energy and the willingness of those around to help each other out is part of what makes BTA work so well. Definitely the thing I least expected was standing in front of a class and being called 'Mr.' It took me a long while to respond to someone saying "Mr. Belk"... that's always been my Dad. I still have yet to get used to it.

### **What has it been like to work with faculty and staff as a colleague instead of a student?**

I call half the faculty and staff here by their first name, and the other half I still address by their last. I don't think I'll ever be able to call Mr. Guerra 'Frank.' But aside from wondering how to address my new colleagues, it's been very easy and very insightful.

While this new hybrid model has made students' lives a bit easier, it has made the faculty and staff lives 10x harder. But it seems to me that they've decided to put in 20x the effort this year.

**While working here, how has your thinking changed about what you would want to pursue in the future? Has it been worthwhile so far?**

Working here has been extremely rewarding so far, but it hasn't changed what I want to pursue. My long-term vision of being a technology lawyer remains the same, but I am certainly reminded of how beneficial my education at BTA has been for me.

**What is something you would like alumni to know about BTA now that you have worked "on the inside"?**

I used to think that when teachers would say to me as a student, "I'm more excited for vacation than you are," they were wrong. But it turns out that they weren't wrong. They really are more excited for vacation than I ever was. They're also way more excited to begin school again than I ever was.

**Any advice you'd like to give alumni who are going through challenges at this time?**

Well, there are a lot of challenges out there, and they feel more present than normal given all the tensions in America. In terms of advice, I can only really give the same advice I have to give myself, remember to put your trust in the LORD for he is with us. But also, remember that despite all the awful things that are happening out there, there are some really amazing, truly good things happening too.