

BILL BELL

Para Professional Bill Bell found a new passion in teaching after being a journalist and working in corporate marketing for almost 30 years

What would you say was the hardest part transitioning from job to job?

“The hardest part when you lose your job [is that] it’s been 18 years, and then you get a five minute phone call and you’re done. It’s harder to go back to grad school and get a teaching degree, and your brain isn’t as viable as when it’s [a high

schooler’s age]. But, it’s really fun [to] go to work here and I know that every day there’s going to be something crazy that happens. I get to move around a lot, kids give me a lot of energy and I feel like I’m doing a little bit of good for the world.”

Do you have any favorite stories or memories since starting as a teacher?

“I brought painters tape to [physical education] class and made a four square setup, and now everybody plays four square. You can, within reason, make a difference. These kids, they’re learning

how to play with one another and have fun, and they develop these friendships that are genuine. They need to have somebody look at them like a person, and that’s been really rewarding and heartwarming.”

Bill’s Life at a Glance A timeline of Bill’s education and work over the years

- 1986 - Graduated Pembroke Hill High School
- 1990 - Graduated undergraduate school at Northwestern University
- 1993-95 - Lee’s Summit Journal Reporter
- 1995-97 - Attended graduate school at University of Missouri Columbia
- 1996-2003 - St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter
- 2005-2024 - Worked in Cerner marketing department
- August 2025 - Graduated William Jewel College with a degree in education

What have you learned the most from working with students?

“Everyone has potential. Every person on this planet has something that they’re good at, and they have unique gifts. As a teacher, it’s really part of your job to appreciate that about kids and to try to help them be the best they can be.”

