

Employee Spotlight: Mackenzie Bell

For the past two and a half years, Mackenzie Bell has brought a perfect blend of heart, adaptability, and organizational skills to Foothills Academy Society. She first joined the team in 2024 as a Read/Write & Math Intervention Instructor, and by September 2025, she expanded her impact by stepping into her role as a Read/Write & Math Instructor and Administrative Assistant. Whether she's working one-on-one with a student or working her magic behind the scenes, Mackenzie ensures our programs run smoothly from every angle.

On any given day, Mackenzie works one-on-one with up to three students, delivering tailored instruction to meet their unique needs. But her impact extends far beyond the classroom! In between lessons and throughout busy registration periods, she works behind-the-scenes organizing m-file databases, processing paid invoices, sending out online learning kits, and keeping emergency contact binders up to date.

What makes Mackenzie's teaching so impactful is the high degree of emotional co-regulation and adaptability she brings to every lesson. Knowing that many students struggle with low self-esteem, she practices anticipatory adaptability - pivoting her teaching strategies on the fly until she finds the exact approach that helps a student feel safe, grasp the concept, and grow their confidence. By filling in those foundational literacy and numeracy gaps and equipping clients with practical strategies, she gives them the tools to thrive and better advocate for their own learning.

A Recent Accomplishment

A recent project that Mackenzie is particularly proud of is overseeing SEARS (Social and Emotional Assets and Resilience Scale) research in conjunction with Camp Amicus. Working alongside Luke MacKinnon, Manager of Amicus Camps and Recreation, she tailored short-form response questionnaires specifically for campers to use this summer. From there, she oversaw the entire process including collecting, inputting, and analyzing the data to help measure and strengthen program impact!

Thank you, Mackenzie, for your incredible dedication, adaptability, and heart! Whether you're working directly with our students or keeping operations running seamlessly behind the scenes, we are so grateful for everything you do for our Foothills community.

Fun facts about Mackenzie:

- **Sweet or salty snacks?** Salty.
- **Favourite show, podcast, or book?** The Office.
- **Fun fact:** Mackenzie used to work at an RV park while she was in school.
- **If you could instantly learn any skill, what would it be?** She would love to be able to draw or paint.
- **Favourite season:** Fall, because it offers the perfect mix of warmth and crispness, along with gorgeous colours.