

# Darren Michalczuk

## Original application:

Darren Michalczuk has been a teacher for more than twenty years and has taught everything from kindergarten to grade nine. Being a homeroom teacher for all grades, physical education and music specialist and education consultant has given him the opportunity to work with thousands of students including hundreds of special needs children.

Darren is passionate about teaching. He has written and directed over 20 plays including versions of Sherlock Holmes, Robin Hood and the Wizard of Oz complete with songs, costumes and sets.

Along with coaching many sports from little league soccer to recreation hockey to girls varsity volleyball, he has organized many events including dances, tournaments and triathlons. Introducing many higher level learning activities into the classroom such as cooking and carpentry is also a trademark of his teaching style.

As part of his education career Darren has:

- spoke at events like the Provincial Literary Conference.
- appeared on Dragons' Den with educational resources.
- developed and designed apps for Apple.
- designed games which were sold at Indigo Chapters.
- authored books called 'The Perfect School' and 'Brain Magic; The Memory Code'.

He has facilitated Professional Development for such schools as:

- Sturgeon School Division Ochre Park School
- Aspen View School Division Landing Trail School
- Living Sky School Division Unity School
- Black Gold School Division Corinthia Park School

Most recently he has presented at Teachers' Conventions such as:

- 2015 BC Christian Teachers' Convention
- 2015 Palliser Teachers' Convention
- 2015 Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention
- 2015 Greater Edmonton North Teachers'

Darren is a passionate teacher, developer and father of three. He will captivate you with his humour, intelligence, creativity and ability to make learning fun, fast and easy for every child.

Other highlights specific to memory are :

- I have taught mnemonics in the classroom for over 25 years, specifically in math, music and language.
- I have organized several memory competitions from provincial to national level including IAM and Memory League events.
- I have done many talks and workshops on memory and learning.
- I have 2 silver medals from our national championships, my daughter has 4 national titles, and the top 10 spots in Canada (until June 2019) were held by students from my class/memory club. Currently the top memory athletes in Australia are from my club.
- I have authored two books on learning/memory and developed a math program based on mnemonics.

## Updated application - 27th December, 2019

I became interested in memory at the same time the first world memory competition took place, but had no idea it would grow into the sport that it is today. I am a teacher and when I learned the basic memory techniques (initially from Kevin Trudeau's Mega-Memory course) I taught my 10 year old students to memory long lists of words, the order of cards and people's names, but had no idea other people in the world were using the same techniques.

I took chances and experimented with different ways of doing things, which is something I still do to this day. I was able to find ways to make 'memory' easier for kids and help them use these skills in the classroom for things like remembering notes and chords in music, math facts in math and spelling and vocabulary in language arts.

I believe that by going through this process with children, I have become better at sharing strategies with others. I have memorized 125 words, a deck in under a minute and 30 names in under a minute. Though I have decent scores for some of the memory events, I am most proud of the scores my students have achieved. I have created and recreated several memory palaces and peg list systems, 5 different card systems, 5 number systems and several strategies for memorizing names. I have even developed 5 different methods for learning math facts using mnemonics.

Because I see so many young memory athletes, I understand what works as well as the challenges each one faces. This includes the challenges that teachers and schools face when someone tries to introduce memory skills.

I hope this give you some insight as to why I want to be a part of the IAM organization.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Darren Michalczuk  
Canada