My name is Andrew Murriel and I am currently a computer teacher at an elementary school in Newark. My primary goal and focus is to become a web developer/software engineer. Some of my personal hobbies include attending concerts, listening to music, writing screenplays and stories, and going to the movies. My hobbies speak volumes about the type of personality that I possess. Music expresses an artist’s creativity through song and lyrics. Movies are another medium that displays a screenwriter or director’s vision and put on to the screen for all to witness. I enjoy surrounding myself with that creativity and passion. I enjoy watching a film that has such an amazing plot line and twist or listening to artists with a unique sound, style, or just deciphering lyrics.

My current teaching job has allowed me to discover and realize that after 9 years of work, it is truly a job experience that has non-stop learning, not just for my students but for myself as well. Teaching requires much preparation and most of all patience.

I graduated from Montclair State University and currently hold a B.A. in English. So what’s with the sudden change in career you might ask? I have always been a curious person at heart. After teaching computers for nearly a decade, I have decided I want to do more with it than just teach the basics. At school I mostly taught typing, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, how to properly do research, how to cite sources, and teaching Internet safety practices. My father, a computer engineer, has also been a huge inspiration lately to me in my sudden choice of a career change. I use the word ‘sudden’ lightly here because honestly this career change was not a quick decision for me to make.

During my eight years of experience teaching computers, I have been attending mandated meetings with the Archdiocese of Newark, who provide computer-related lesson plans/curriculum that is necessary to be taught to students. Among these many meetings, I was introduced to Hour of Code, which is statewide learning for students and is under the umbrella of computer science and learning. Hour of Code requires students to think logically and problem solve with ease through constant practice and persistence. I found many students in my classroom found it to be fun and all the while educational. Hour of Code is another stepping stone that set me on my path to becoming a developer. I enjoyed, perhaps more than the students, the coding process.

Now don’t get me wrong, I enjoy teaching students but I truly felt a connection with coding. I regarded it as something I could truly be passionate about and a concept that has sparked my curiosity to further delve deeper into the world of web development. How does a website work? How is it created? What goes in to building these applications and making them work? All of these things fascinate me.

In addition, I welcome challenges. I pride myself as an individual who thirsts for knowledge and possesses a drive to constantly learn more. Web developers are required to learn and understand many languages. I like creating things and those many computer languages are just the tools I need to show my creativity. A developer’s job would be a dream come true for me. I could make things, and write code at the same time. I believe my experience, with a B.A. in writing and teaching computers, have prepared me to excel in this field. I look forward to begin and succeed in this new and exciting field of web development.