



Inspiring Tomorrows™

When Andrew wasn't attending the Bemus Point Central School District he spent most of his time at Allen Park Ice Rink where he played, coached, officiated and did a lot of PA announcing for youth hockey. That's where he fell in love with the idea of using his voice as a career. Andrew was recruited to work at the radio stations on the weekends and while attending Jamestown Community College he accepted a full-time on-air position and has spent the last 20 years at Media One Radio Group in various positions. His day to day responsibilities include programming, marketing, operations and continuing to be an on-air personality. Andrew also provide professional voice over services to his clients across the area through [www.OurVoiceGuy.com](http://www.OurVoiceGuy.com).

**Q: How did you become involved with JA?**

A: I was the "go to" person at the radio station when it came to volunteer opportunities so when Falconer School reached out looking for someone to spend a day with 8th graders I was the first to raise my hand.

**Q: Why did you decide to get involved? Stay involved with JA?**

A: Before J.A. I volunteered with other area schools for "Career Day"; read to groups of children when I had the opportunity; and promoted radio within the community in any way I could. I looked forward to working with kids and help them to begin thinking about careers. If I am able to make a difference in any student's future it's worth spending a few hours with them. I didn't get the chance to experience this program when I was in school and even though I was lucky in knowing 100% what I wanted to do as a career when I was their age, I always tell them how lucky they are to have this program available to them.

**Q: What are you nervous about before teaching? How do you overcome it?**

A: Working in radio and being in the public eye since I was young gave me plenty of experience and practice talking in front of people - still - anytime you are speaking to children is different than speaking to adults. You have to keep their attention and know how to quickly adjust the way you are presenting thoughts or ideas so you can get them involved. Coming out with a cartoon voice or being animated with my hands tends to help keep us all interested in the topic we're discussing.

**Q: Do you have a JA memory that stands out?**

A: After seven years of volunteering this was the year I finally had my own son in class. He was pretty excited to announce to his class that I would be coming in to teach. He was literally counting down the days. His classmates were pretty impressed by his dad's visit.

**Q: What advice would you give to a new JA volunteer?**

A: Make sure you go through all of the material, more than a few times, so you are knowledgeable about the lesson. From my experience in broadcasting we learned throughout our careers to practice speaking out loud to yourself as much as you can. In the car, in front of a mirror, in the basement and yes to your pets! You'll find it much easier if you feel you've done it a hundred times before.

**Q: Why do you think it's important for students to have JA?**

A: The world is at our fingertips! This program allows the students to think about things they probably have never considered. If JA can peak their interest at career, continued education, skill development, etc. on their own time they may find themselves going down a "rabbit hole" of information online.

**Q: What are any "side benefits" of participation in JA that you might see- either for yourself as a volunteer, or the students or teachers that you have worked with (ie. Student confidence)**

A: I love pumping up the student's confidence when they participate in class. If they share a career idea with me I tell them to go for it! If they aren't sure what they want to do but enjoy doing something for fun - I love seeing the wheels in their head turn when I tell them they can make a career, and make money, doing something they don't see as "work".