

Luke Balmer

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EDUCATION

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Anticipated Graduation: May 2026 | GPA: 3.65/4.0
Bachelor of Science
Four-Year Teacher Licensure Program
Majors in Secondary Education, History
Minor in Computer Science

AWARDS

Dean's List '24, '23, '22
2023 | LEDA Career Fellow
2022 | OASC Gold Council Award
2021 | Questbridge NCM Scholarship
2021 | Questbridge College Prep Scholar

WORK EXPERIENCE

SUMMER RESEARCH INTERN | Vanderbilt University School of Engineering | NASHVILLE, TN

Jun 2024 - Aug 2024

- Full-time research on K-5 Computer Science Education resources, pedagogy, and teacher professional development.
- Worked under Dr. Balasubramanian through the VUSE Summer Research Program to first develop a report on the current K-5 CSed landscape before creating new resources to address student and teacher needs.
- Surveyed over 600 MNPS K-5 teachers on what challenges they face and the resources that might be helpful in overcoming them to inform a literature review and the ideation of CS lesson plans.
- Compiled educational resources for parents and laypeople into a [Github Repository](#) containing sorted, vetted sources.
- Created [website](#) to introduce teaching CS for teachers with little to no prior experience, guiding educators through the process of narrowing down an overwhelming amount of curriculum and lesson options. Used HTML, CSS, and Javascript.

SHIFT LEAD | Ben & Jerry's | NASHVILLE, TN

Aug 2023-Present

- Provide exceptional customer service via proactive positivity, deep knowledge of over 30 flavors and sales prices, and empathetic redirection of aggressive interactions
- Direct the completion of closing tasks by self and coworkers: experience with quality assurance and ensuring food safety throughout shop, managing time and coworkers to efficiently close while serving up to 100 sales per shift, manual labor including mopping, heavy lifting, and dishwashing
- Manage end-of-night register and inventory accounting, handle deposits, document sales report, and calculate shift revenue

CAMP COUNSELOR | Portland Parks & Recreation | PORTLAND, OR

Jun 2021 - Aug 2023

- Full-time employment with Portland Parks & Recreation at their Grout SUN program, summer day camps catering to students on free/reduced lunch in the community
- Led groups of 8-15 children through activities such as sports, games, free play, arts, crafts, and meals/snacks
- Developed lesson plans with coworkers daily, communicating concerns and updates with supervisors and coworkers throughout the day, resolved personal and interpersonal conflicts among campers

RELEVANT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VOLUNTEER SCIENCE EDUCATOR | Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science | Nashville, TN

Oct 2023 - Nov 2023

- Traveled to local middle school classroom of 30 students to teach weekly science lessons over 4 weeks
- Personally led instruction of whole-class lectures on scientific concepts, experiments, and real-world applications
- Recognized students who were struggling and worked one-on-one with them while teammates instructed
- Spoke with classroom teacher after lessons to glean insight on areas for improvement in my teaching

VOLUNTEER COMPUTER PROGRAMMING EDUCATOR | Code Ignite Vanderbilt | NASHVILLE, TN

Sep 2022-Dec 2022

- Collaborated with the Middle Tennessee YMCA to provide basic computer science and programming education to local middle school children in low-income afterschool programs
- Implemented and adapted Scratch curriculum through 6+ weekly virtual lessons, connecting students' interest in games and online content to computer science