

Dear Family:

08/26/11

Life in Room 2 this school year is off to a great start! We have a responsive, thoughtful, engaged group of learners, and we're clearly going to grow tremendously this year. I am writing to introduce myself as your child's teacher, and to provide information about my background.

I have a B.A. from Kalamazoo College and earned my graduate degree from the University of Colorado at Denver. During my undergraduate years, I studied abroad in Costa Rica for six months and traveled around Latin America (including a trip to Cuba!). Three summers ago I was fortunate to spend a month exploring Japan on a study tour sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the Fulbright-Hays Foundation. Together, my colleagues from other schools and I worked to craft a diverse curriculum to teach broad themes through Japan-specific content. I enjoy incorporating such life experiences into our classroom setting.

Outside of Charles Hay World School, I serve as co-chair of the District Accountability Advisory Council, and am involved in the Center for Teaching Quality's New Millennium Initiative, a group of forward-thinking teachers dedicated to sharing best teaching practices and affecting education policy change on the local, state, and national levels.

Away from the classroom, I am currently planning a wedding and honeymoon with my fiancé, Erin, who teaches high school French. We enjoy running and walking our dogs (Wrigley, a Beagle and Bree, a Brittany Spaniel) together. I also enjoy working on home renovations, and could be considered obsessed with baseball and cars in any form.

My passion for education is strong, and I look forward to a great year with your third grader. The third grade was a very formative year for me, and I am excited to share a similar experience with my students in our classroom.

Please feel free to contact me whenever you have a question, concern, or comment. Thank you for sending your learner to Charles Hay, a wonderful community of learners!

Sincerely,

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