

Crusaders' Teacher Spotlight

Hometown?
Davenport, Iowa

What grades/subjects have you taught in the past?

I have always taught some semblance of Early Childhood, whether it be Pre-K, preschool, or a mix of 3-5 year olds.

What degree(s) did you earn?

I earned a B.A. in Elementary Education w/a specialization in Early Childhood from the University of Iowa. I also attended Wartburg Theological Seminary, where I earned a Master's Degree in Family Ministry.

What is your favorite quote or saying?

"A person's a person, no matter how small." Dr. Seuss

What is your favorite music genre?

Acoustic guitar, Christian, and Broadway ☺

Who was your favorite teacher & why?

My 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Seitz. She was gentle and kind, yet had very high expectations for her students. She believed in each student, and helped them find their strengths. She was an incredible role model and mentor to me, and remains so even to this day.

Where is your favorite place you've traveled?

Namibia in Southern Africa. In my time there, I was able to become integrated with the people and culture there, and the scenery and wildlife was truly incredible. I hope to return again someday.

Worst fear?

MICE!!!! I can't handle the tails and the scritch scratchy little feet! And they are SO sneaky! YIKES!

Why did you become a teacher?

I've known I've wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember. I'm the youngest of three girls, and my sisters and I grew up playing school. I remember longing for the day when I would be the teacher instead of the student! Ha! I have also had MANY incredible teachers and mentors, including my Aunt Jane, who have deeply impacted my passion for teaching.



What is your favorite part of being a teacher?

Watching the children GROW and LEARN! Their little minds are like sponges, and there is a great deal of significant development that happens socially, emotionally, physically, as well as academically in the Pre-K year! It's SO exciting to watch and be a part of!



What is your wish for your students as you see them graduate from ICS?

To hold strong to their faith, believe in the person God created to be, and strive to discover the plan that God has for their lives!

What is your funniest teaching moment?

Uncontrollable laughter! You NEVER know what is going to happen in a Pre-K room and EVERY day is an adventure! Sometimes, it's just impossible to stifle the laughter within... and once the laughter comes, so do the happy tears and uncontrollable JOY!

What have your students taught you as a teacher and a person?

My students have taught me, and the philosophy in my classroom, is that LOVE is the most important thing of all. We build strong relationships based on unconditional love and respect... and once that foundation is built, AMAZING learning takes place!

What is your favorite part of working at ICS?

I LOVE coming to ICS every day, as I know that I am surrounded by such a loving community. ICS is a family, and I feel beyond blessed to be a part of this incredible family made of students, families, and incredible faculty.

How do you build relationships with your students?

I strive to build strong relationships with each and every student by meeting them where they're at, getting to know their interests, as well as their strengths. I look for ways that THEY can teach ME, and I learn new things each and every day.

How do you engage students in their learning experience?

I encourage children to take ownership in their learning. We talk about WHY we are learning and make it meaningful and relevant for their lives. I am very intentional about the learning experiences planned and implemented in Pre-K, as it is my goal that each child will be able to meet the learning objectives according to their own needs and abilities.