



August 9, 2023

Dear Families,

I am delighted to be your child's kindergarten teacher this year!! I was lucky enough to have many older siblings from our new class of students. If I have not met you before, WELCOME! Let me tell you a little bit about myself! I attended Eastern Illinois University and graduated in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education (Early Childhood). I obtained an endorsement in special education from Lewis University. I completed my Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education through Concordia University. I completed my ESL (English as a Second Language) endorsement and my early childhood special education approval through Lewis University. My teaching experience began in Coal City where I taught first grade for four years. At Troy, I have taught first grade, kindergarten, and pre-k. This will be my 18th year at Heritage Trail and my 11th in kindergarten! I believe in using developmentally appropriate practices to make the most growth toward academic goals, providing active learning experiences, and building cooperative skills and confidence in my students. Our classroom will be a busy place where kindness is expected and laughter accompanies learning!

I live in New Lenox, where I also grew up! My husband, Tom, and I have 2 wonderful sons and 2 amazing grown step-children! Samantha is 36, Nick is 34, Tommy is 24, and Johnny is 22. Samantha works downtown in finance and Nick is a manager of a catering company. Tommy is a pilot in Kansas, and Johnny is working on becoming an electrician! We also have two sweet dogs named Molly and Chloe! During my free time I love to spend time with my family and friends. I enjoy playing the piano and volunteering at my church.

As a parent, I understand that you may have concerns or questions regarding your child's kindergarten experience. PLEASE don't hesitate to contact me at any time during your child's learning adventure! Communication is essential to your child's success. I will be making frequent contacts throughout the school year through the Bloomz app, newsletters, e-mails, and phone calls. I am looking forward to a wonderful year together!

Sincerely,

**Mrs. Michelle Buell**

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