

September 20, 2007

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the part-time Enrichment teacher for all three elementary schools, I am at West End Memorial School's Back to School Night tonight. I am sorry that I could not personally meet with you face to face this evening.

My responsibilities include pulling out gifted and talented students in Grades 4 & 5 for Opportunities Enrichment, as well as coordinating school-wide enrichment activities for all elementary students. I am very excited about my new job with Woodbury Public Schools.

Let me share a little about my educational background. I received my B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Connecticut (UConn), home of the renowned National Research Center on the Gifted & Talented, where I took classes conducted by experts Sally Reis, Joseph Renzulli, and Del Siegle. I also received my M.A. in Education at UConn, where I had a year-long internship as a Language Arts teacher in four third grade classes and formed a creative writing club for students.

Professionally, I taught English as a Second Language (ESL) to adults for the past six years. I also served as an ESL Campus Manager at a local community college, taught GED and ABE classes, operated my own private ESL tutoring business (teaching over 100 children and adults), worked as a Project Facilitator for a community education agency, taught summer school, and taught an after-school Spanish enrichment program.

Creative writing and language arts are real passions of mine; however, being married to a chemist who is gifted in math and science, you can be sure that I will not neglect these areas. In fact, science will be a special focus this year. Students will be able to participate in higher level thinking activities in different subject areas, but their individual, unique talents and preferences will also be recognized and developed.

This year, the 4th and 5th graders will begin with some introductory "getting to know you" activities that draw on their creative writing abilities. Students will also be filling out interest inventories for me, so that I learn more about where their special talents lie and tailor future units accordingly. After that, I plan to move on to the concepts of "entrepreneurship" with the 5th graders and New Jersey scientists, inventors, and inventions with the 4th graders. I will be sending periodic letters home and making a monthly newsletter to keep you updated about our latest units and activities. We have a challenging and fun-filled year ahead!

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at sforan@woodburysch.com or (856) 853-0124, x 550.

Sincerely,



Ms. Stephanie Foran