

Welcome Room 217 Families!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2016-17 school year. I am excited to be teaching a multi-age second and third grade classroom this year and I am looking forward to having many returning students and families once again after teaching a straight second grade for two consecutive years.

My teaching philosophy includes a strong working belief in high expectations for all students. I believe in creating a positive and nurturing classroom community where all children experience success and where culture and diversity is celebrated. I see myself as an educator and leader who guides, encourages, as well as teaches children to explore and investigate, ask questions and make discoveries, and ultimately to develop the skills to become lifelong learners.

My management philosophy is centered on building relationships with students and families based in harmony and mutual respect. I believe in providing a safe, risk-taking environment where cooperative problem solving is practiced by holding weekly classroom meetings to resolve conflict. I use a positive approach in my classroom that includes positive reinforcement, reward, and recognition of desired behaviors. I have a weekly student star and leaders and weekly assigned jobs so that students develop a shared responsibility and investment in the classroom. I believe these practices enable children to learn and grow socially both as individuals and as a group.

Lastly, I have a passion for art, science, and the natural world and my love for these subjects is clearly evident and infused into my teaching style. I have a Bachelor of Art in English Literature, a minor in History, and a Master of Art in Teaching, both from the University of Washington. I received National Board Certification as an Early Childhood Generalist in December 2015. This will be my tenth year teaching at Daniel Bagley.

Sincerely,

Ms. Liz Filep