

August 26, 2016

Dear Families of Room 209,

My name is Trudy Mower (formerly Manley), and I am excited to be teaching at Bagley again for my 6th year! I look forward to the return of all our wonderful incoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and can't wait to meet our new 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade friends.

A little bit about me: I am a graduate of Western Washington University with a degree in Special Education, and a Masters in Educational Administration. In my spare time I like to read, sing and play guitar, hike, play with my nieces and nephews, and practice yoga. I am a certified yoga instructor, and enjoy the practice as a way to relax, put things into perspective, and stay physically fit. Most of all, I love working with kids.

This summer I studied a lot for my Master's Degree. I love to be challenged and learn about subjects that I am passionate about. And being a good teacher and school leader is something I care about a lot. I know that children also learn best when they are excited about what they are learning. It is also important that students be given choice and variety in how and what they learn about. A few things we are starting the year off with will be:

- A unit on the U.S. election system. Students will actually reenact how political parties are created, and follow the process through primaries, the national convention, and election. We will be paying attention to current events and use information from the news to reinforce our unit. Exciting stuff!
- Creating an art/writing piece that allows students to express themselves, and teach others about their interests and unique personalities and backgrounds.
- Navigating nonfiction texts: reading and synthesizing articles and books about real events and things that fire up our excitement. We will talk about our reading, dig deeper, and teach each other interesting things about what we read.

I cannot wait to start school! We have so much to learn this year. We all get to start the year fresh, and with a clean slate. That means that whatever problems we may have had in our classes last year, this year we start brand new. We can all give each other a chance to show our new and improved selves. Daniel Bagley is a wonderful school. I feel proud to be a part of a community that provides such a safe and nurturing place for students to come every day to learn and share.

Thank you,  
Trudy Mower

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