

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the new school year! I'm very excited to have the opportunity to work with both you and your student this year. This is my 14th year teaching, my 12th year teaching 5th grade, and my 8th year here at WillaG! I thought you should know a few things about me and why I chose to teach as well as hear about my philosophy as a teacher.

I've grown up in Eugene and love it here. I love it because you can get just about all kinds of weather, all kinds of people, and do numerous things without traveling very far. I've got a wife and two kids of my own. My son is in 8th grade now and my daughter is in 6th. My wife teaches too, but she teaches 4th graders. I'm a total family guy and like to be at home, out camping, out on the boat wake boarding, and just spending time with my family and friends. Wake-boarding and wake-surfing are my two favorite things to do at the moment outside school. So fun! A lot of the way in which I run my classroom as well as the atmosphere I try to create stems from the word family. I had a teacher in 4th and 6th grade who was my inspiration to teach.

He was pretty great. Watching the way he taught and interacted with myself and my peers made me want to do the same thing when I got older. It always felt like a home away from home and everyone was comfortable and able to share their ideas, thoughts and experiences in class; much like the family atmosphere that I grew up in. I strive each year to create this feeling of a home away from home. We will be right together, wrong together, learn together, and celebrate each of these things together daily.

Academic success, fun, and learning is difficult to achieve unless the students want to be at school. As I said before, this is going to be a home away from home and I want them to feel the way I did so that they can come to school feeling safe to share their thoughts, ideas, and take chances. They will make plenty of mistakes and we'll celebrate those as we learn from them.

Each year is a brand new year and a blank canvas waiting to be painted by those who come through the door. I can't wait to see what all their lives, minds, and actions will bring this year. My hope is that each student will teach and learn from each other throughout the day and throughout the year.

With your support at home as well as in the classroom, I'm confident this can be a fantastic year. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas as the year progresses. I'm super excited to get to work with each of your kiddos this year. My contact information is below. So, without ado, let the year begin!

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Mr. Kyle

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