

Welcome Ridgeview Rockstars!

Enjoy finding and reading about your teacher below:



Hello! My name is Mrs. Bender. This is my 15th year teaching. Family is the most precious thing to me. My husband's name is Brian and we have a son named Josh. We also have a dog named Allie who is very much a part of our family and sometimes she can be

mischievous! We are a family who loves to spend time outside fishing, swimming, biking, walking etc. Ridgeview is a wonderful place to teach and learn! The teachers, staff and students are wonderful! It warms my heart to see how involved the community is here at Ridgeview, and how everyone cares for and appreciates one another. Adults and children are all welcomed with open arms and truly loved and cared for. **Fun fact about me:** I am TERRIFIED of roller coasters! Most people laugh and smile while on a roller coaster...I cry!



Hi there! My name is Jenna Dominique and I have been teaching for 6 years. I spent my first 2 years teaching kindergarten, but have taught first grade for the last 4 years. First grade is my favorite! I live in Grand Rapids with my two dogs, Ozzy and Felix. Ozzy is a great dane mastiff, and Felix is a husky akita. I love teaching at Ridgeview

because of all the awesome teachers and staff I get to work with, and because all the kiddos are rockstars! One fun fact about me is that I love to do anything outside, like working in my veggie garden, mountain biking, hiking, and walking my dogs! I'm also a huge Harry Potter fan :)



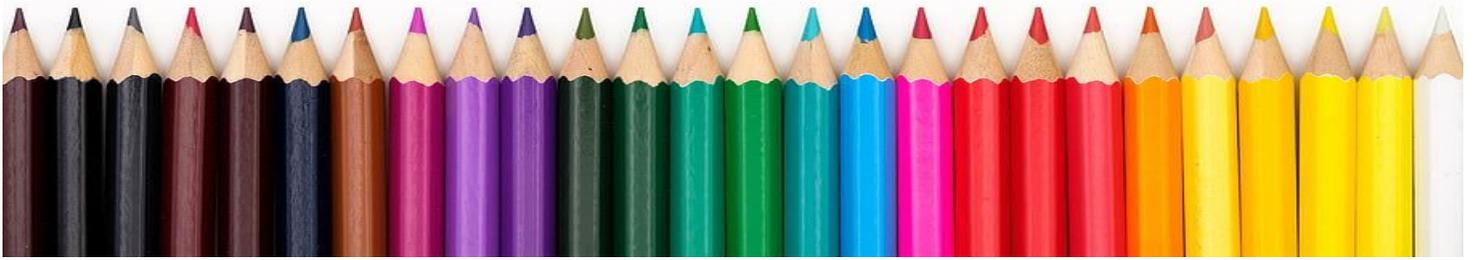
Hello Families!
My name is Alexa Andresen, I am so excited to officially be joining the first grade team as a Spartan this year! I majored in elementary education and minored in language arts, integrated science, and early

childhood education at Ferris State University. My husband and I have been living in Sparta for the past 2 years with our 3 cats. I love to get outside and hike, camp, and explore. Reading is my favorite subject and I love to share that passion with my students. I look forward to all of the amazing things we will do and learn this year.



Hi! I am Marcia Powell and I am a first grade teacher. This will be my 21st year of teaching first grade in Sparta. I absolutely love teaching first grade--especially at Ridgeview

Elementary!! The Sparta community is amazing and so supportive of the school. Each year I love to get to know my new first graders but also the new families. I am married and have two daughters who are also teachers. I also have a new puppy! I'm looking forward to another great year at Ridgeview!



Hello! My name is Mrs. Myers and I am so excited that I get to be your child's teacher this year. I have a son and daughter who are both adults. I also have a granddaughter and a grandson! I love being with my grandchildren because I love

talking and learning with them. That's what I love about being a teacher at Ridgeview. I get to talk with students and learn right along with them. I enjoy learning about what excites students and what they are interested in doing when they are not at school. When I am not at school, I love to read books, write my own music and sing. Here is a fun fact about me; I used to be a music teacher because I love music! I am also a life-long Spartan as I am a graduate of Sparta High School. Sparta is very near and dear to my heart! I am looking forward to meeting you soon!



Hello! My name is Jessica Herceg and this will be my second year teaching at Ridgeview, but I have been teaching for 16 years, with the last 12 years being in first grade. I love teaching first grade! I went to Michigan State for my undergraduate teaching degree, with endorsements in Elementary Education, Special Education, and Language Arts. I also received my

masters degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. I love getting to know each of my students as individuals and watching them grow. Teaching is a true passion of mine, but a few other things that I enjoy are reading, gardening, being outside, and spending time with my family (my husband and my twin 8 year olds). My classroom goals are that we will work hard, learn a lot, make mistakes and keep trying, become a classroom family, and have lots of fun along the way!



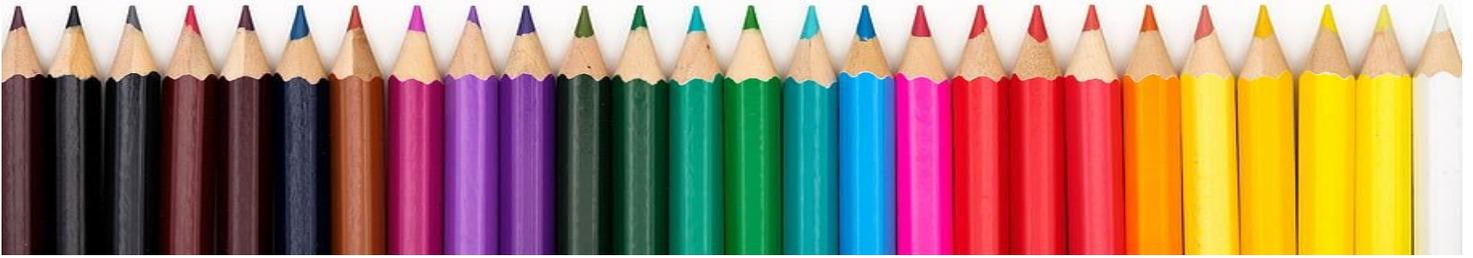
Hi there, my name is Michelle Lehan. This is my second year teaching in Sparta, but I have taught for over 20 years outside of this district. I started out teaching second grade for a few years in Muskegon, and was teaching fourth grade in Grand Rapids for 19 years before moving to first

grade! Teaching younger students, helping them to learn how to read and write and discover new things, has been a huge change from the "bigger kids", but I have been loving it so much! I come from a large family of seven kids, and we love spending time together traveling, playing games and making good food. In my spare time, I love going for nature walks and hikes, spending time at the beach, going to the movie theater, reading, doing puzzles, cooking, decorating, and shopping. You'll often find me well-caffeinated with a coffee or a Coke since my job requires a lot of energy, but I love being a teacher and can't wait to spend this year witnessing the amazing growth that these first graders are going to make!



My name is Megan Taylor and I have had the privilege of teaching at Sparta Area Schools for 23 years, all of which have been some form of 1st grade! I am a graduate of Cornerstone University and earned my Master's Degree from GVSU. I am married to Eric Taylor and we

have two children, Braylon is 13 and Kamryn is 11. I love Ridgeview Elementary and working with such a wonderful group of teachers and staff!



First Grade: What will you learn this year?

Suggested First Grade Supply List 2021-22 School Year

***Please label with student's name. Items will not be shared amongst students.**

First Grade

- 3 boxes of Crayola crayons 24-pack (no larger or smaller amounts)
- 2 boxes #2 HB Dixon Ticonderoga soft lead pencils
- 2 packages pencil cap erasers
- Pencil box
- 1 pair Fiskars scissors - 5" - pointed tip
- 2 boxes of Crayola Washable markers 8-pack, classic colors, wide tip
- 4 plain (no pictures) plastic pocket folders
- 12 Elmer's washable glue sticks large size only (.77 oz) (The small sticks dry out quickly and break off easily)
- 1 box Expo dry erase markers - Black or Colored
- 2 containers of Clorox disinfectant wipes
- 1 Roll of Paper Towel
- 1 box Ziploc bags (variety of sizes)
- Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer (8 oz)

Optional Items: paper plates, band-aids, package of napkins, 1 ream of multipurpose white copy paper