Hello!

I would like to welcome you and your child back to school and to the fourth grade! I hope you had a wonderful summer. My name is Carly Swotek, and I am your child's 4th grade teacher. My family moved to Fort Collins three years ago and I'm beyond excited to be teaching here at Dunn! I have been married for twenty one years and have two sons who attend PSD schools.

Before Today:

I'm originally from Omaha, Nebraska, where I received my bachelor's degree in Psychology. After teaching in Phoenix, Arizona for five years, my family went looking for adventure and ended up moving to Beijing, China.



While there, I taught third grade in an American international school. After two and a half years, our time in China came to a halt after getting locked out due to the pandemic. We finished our time in Asia with two and a half years in Thailand, teaching fourth grade at an international school. Our time abroad was an invaluable experience that my family is beyond grateful for.

What I love most about teaching:

I love building connections with my students and watching them grow both academically and personally. Intermediate grades are my favorite to teach because it is the time when students really start taking responsibility and ownership for their own learning. Observing this shift is one of my favorite parts of teaching.

Favorite children's book/author:

Little kids - <u>Stellaluna</u>, by Janell Cannon

Older kids- Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, by Ransom Riggs

Grown-up kids - Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter, by Seth Grahame-Smith

My favorite quote(s):

"Take chances, make mistakes, get messy!" - Ms. Frizzle

"You must be the change you want to see in the world." - Mahatma Gandhi

It is an honor to be entrusted with your children, I take it very seriously. I am more than willing to answer any questions you might have about myself or my teaching style. As a mother, I understand your concerns when leaving your child with someone all day. I thank you in advance for your support. I am looking forward to a wonderful year here at Dunn, an IB World School, in 4th Grade. Please do not hesitate to email questions you might have. Feel free to email me at cswotek@psdschools.org

My Best Regards, Carly Swotek