

August Letter

August 4, 2018

Dear Parents,

Hello! My name is Ann Williams and I will be your child's fourth grade teacher this year. I am very excited to start a new year and to get to know you and your child! My husband Don and I have a twenty one year old daughter named Livinia (Livi, or Liv for short) who will be a Senior this fall at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in Troy, NY. In addition, we have a son, Luke, who is eighteen, and will be a freshman at Xavier University this fall. Our summer has been busy. We have taken a European tour with trips to England, Scotland and Ireland and have spent time at the Jersey Shore. I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer as well.

I would like to give you a brief synopsis of my teaching career thus far, and I am willing to answer any questions that you may have regarding my credentials. This is my **twenty ninth year** teaching in public schools, and I LOVE being a public school teacher. I feel very blessed to be in a job that I love with my whole heart, as I know many people are not as fortunate as I have been with their career choices. I hold a **BS in Communication Disorders from The College of Saint Rose, and a MS in Special Education from The University at Albany**. In addition, I have completed more than 75 credits beyond my Master's in a variety of courses related to education and child development. I have successfully completed the National Teachers Exam (now known as the PRAXIS) for Lifetime Certification in the State of New York. I have an updated Massachusetts Teaching Certificate (2014) and have completed over 600 hours of professional development for recertification in 2019. I have taught children in grades K-12 in a variety of settings in New York State and Massachusetts, and this is the start of my twenty fifth year at JFK. In the past, I have been a Lab Classroom Teacher at JFK in order to initiate the Reader's Workshop model of reading instruction. Although my time as a LAB teacher is done, I have learned a great deal and will continue to promote the literacy initiatives set forth by the district. Most recently I have served as a Peer Coach in Franklin and have been a presenter at the Massachusetts Reading Association Annual Conference with my friend and colleague, Kate Merten. We will be presenting at the Masscue Technology conference in October regarding Google Expeditions in the classroom. If you have any questions, please feel free to drop me a note at JFK, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. If you have a moment, check out [my blog](#). It is the best way to keep up to date with classroom happenings and my literature reviews. I have many followers and am hoping to increase my followers this year. In addition, you can find me on Twitter @shinyredapple23. Sign up to be a follower there too.

In addition to my teaching credentials, I am a **Level 3 Radiant Child Yoga Instructor**, and I run a morning yoga club at JFK through the Lifelong Learning Program. I also incorporate many yoga strategies into my teaching practice to create a positive and peaceful classroom

environment. At the JFK Curriculum night on Thursday, September 20th I will explain the curriculum, homework policy, my grading system, and answer any questions you have regarding my classroom policies and procedures. Feel free to attend either the 6:30-6:55 presentation or the 7:05-7:30 presentation. **Please note that curriculum night is for parents only.**

I will be providing each student with an assignment notebook, 5 folders, a box of crayons, a three subject notebook, two marble notebooks, one glue stick, one Sharpie, one Expo marker, one package of Post-It notes and one pencil (per month) for school supplies. If your child has their own supplies, please clearly mark them with his/her name, particularly scissors, so that they can be easily identified. Keep in mind that fourth graders have many materials in their desks, and soft pencil cases fit best in the center of each desk. A gallon size Ziploc bag works very well! Thank you in advance for your cooperation regarding this matter.

During the third week of school, please have your child bring in a large glass jar with or without the lid for a science experiment. However, a plastic container (like a clear 2-liter bottle with the neck cut off) works well also. It should be at least twelve inches tall, and have a wide mouth. It does not need a lid, but if it has one, that is fine. These will be used for terrariums.

If there is anything that you feel I should know about your child, in order to more fully understand him/her, please drop me a note at JFK. All information will be kept strictly confidential. Otherwise, we will operate on a need-to-know basis. I look forward to working with you and your child this year. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sincerely,

Ann Williams

P.S. Visit [my blog](#) and sign up to be a follower!