

August, 2011

Dear NCSA Sixth Grade Families,

Hello! I hope you are all enjoying a fun summer filled with both relaxation and adventure! In the past, our family has typically spent most, if not all, of the summer traveling, and yet this summer we decided to stay local. We had many days by the pool as we waited for the Yuba to calm, and we took a few short trips visiting friends, camping on the coast, house sitting on a farm, exploring sweet rivers, and backpacking nearby. It also actually turned out to be quite nourishing to clean, pack, move, paint, and unpack the class periodically throughout the summer. It feels like such a sweet, fresh start, and I'm looking forward to watching how the Upper Campus scene reveals itself! So yes, overall, it has been a very slow and rejuvenating summer!

And since we'll be working together for the next three years, let me begin by telling you a bit about myself. I have been teaching for over twenty years in a variety of settings. I earned my BA from UCSD, and received my teaching credential from HSU. I've taught every grade level, K-12, except for second! The vast majority of my experience has been in the middle school, with many years teaching for residential Outdoor Science Schools. I first came to NCSA in 2001, team teaching first grade, and then returned again in 2007 to join the middle school team. I feel SO fortunate to be working at NCSA, and hope to be here for many seasons to come! What a blessing!

Hobby wise, I love to knit, crochet, quilt, sew, make dolls, etc. I also spend a lot of time outdoors in nature, and I love to hike, camp, and backpack. Reading is a passion, as is just relaxing and enjoying time with my family. Speaking of family - my husband, Doug, is a 6th grade teacher at Lyman Gilmore. He is also an avid fly fisherman and a sports fanatic. We have two wonderful daughters, Kacey (11) and Skylar (8), who both attend YRCS. Our family lives in the NC Cohousing Village, and we feel incredibly grateful to have found such a wonderful community of neighbors.

Classroom wise, probably the most important thing to know about me, is that I work from my heart. I am calm yet energetic, and have very high expectations for respect and responsibility. I am positive, fair and consistent. I absolutely love working with middle school students, and take the time to really honor the emotional/social curriculum we offer. I have a passion for learning that's typically contagious, and creating a classroom where all kids can thrive emotionally and academically is my priority. I am confident that this year will be great!

I'm so happy to be the middle school social studies teacher, and I am very much looking forward to working with this amazing group of students!!! While Dave, Francesca and I work equally with all three grade levels, and we will each develop a relationship with you, I will be the lead teacher holding the 6th grade class community, so please feel free to email me with any questions and/or concerns. We understand that this is a big transition, especially this year, and we'll do our very best to make it a clear and successful one!

I hope that gives you a quick glimpse into a part of who I am. I really look forward to getting to know each sixth grader and his/her family too!

Enjoy the last few days of summer vacation, and we'll certainly see each other on the 24th if not before!

Love,

Cathy Harmon
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