

August 23, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Weller Elementary. We are so happy to have you and your child join our Weller family. I'm looking forward to getting to know each one of you.

I grew up in Northwest Indiana, near Chicago. I'm married and I have 3 children , Aaron, Jannah and Benjamin, and two golden retrievers, Boomer and Bentley. My daughter is expecting our first grandchild in September. So, I'm excited to become a granny. Since 1986, I have pursued my passion of teaching. During my career, I have taught kindergarten several times and other elementary grades. From 1994-2003, I had the privilege of teaching at an international school in Brussels, Belgium. I also served as principal there. In 2003, my family and I moved back to The States and that's when I began working for Springfield Public Schools. I've taught at Watkins, Shady Dell and here at Weller.

It's an honor for me to be your child's teacher. Providing a classroom that has a safe environment for students is essential. Our class will be:

- Physically safe for all students.
- Emotionally safe – Children will thrive in a caring community. No putdowns, no sarcasm, and no bullying will be allowed.
- Academically safe—it is OK to make a mistake. All children learn at different levels and we will start right where they are. All children can and will learn.

Your concerns are my concerns, so please don't hesitate to contact me. The office phone number is 523-1900.

With Your child In Mind,

Mrs. Van Gorp

