Welcome to the Middle School!

My name is Jane Wiorkowski, and I will be one of your child’s teachers this year. For some, I will have for all 5 core subjects, and for others, I will only see once or twice a day.

A little background on myself! This is currently my 8th year teaching the Cross-Categorical Instructional Program at Big Hollow. I used to only teach 5th and 6th grade, but this is now my 2nd year teaching all the grade levels: 5th-8th! It’s been really fun, and exciting to know I get to work with everyone throughout their middle school education.

I went to University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where I majored in Communication Disorders. Afterwards, I took a year off, and decided my true passion was Special Education. Once that was decided, I enrolled at National-Louis University and received my Master in Special Education, and the rest, we like to say, is History!

I also have a 2nd part time job where I work at group home called St. Coletta’s of Wisconsin. This is my 12th year working there. At St. Coletta’s, I work with adults who are intellectually challenged, and work on their daily and functional living skills. It is here where I actually learned that I wanted to go into Special Education.

I am the youngest of 4 girls, and yes, my Dad is a very patient man! My oldest sister is actually a 2nd grade teacher here at Big Hollow, Mrs. Weiskopf! It’s funny when the students recognize me, or tell me I look familiar, and they just can’t put their finger on it. I personally think we do not look alike, but apparently to everyone else we do! ☺

I currently reside in Chicago, I know, I have a quite the commute! I have to say though that I absolutely love where I work, and love where I live, so I can’t complain! Needless to say, I always keep an extra outfit in my car for those unexpected snow falls in the winter. I am lucky I have family and friends close by so I do not have to attempt that long commute home during bad weather!

As for what you can expect from me in regards to your child’s education? My curriculum is student driven. We work at the students’ academic level, as well as go at their own pace. In my classroom, we can really work on those skills that are needed to be successful, that may be difficult in the larger size classroom. Independence is also a big thing that I work on. I try to have the students take on more responsibility, and be more accountable for their education. I do have to say, I think the students do not like it at first, but before they know it, they are on their own and they have grown with them even realizing it! It really is exciting to watch them grow and learn!

I hope this helped you learn more about myself and my teaching style. My main philosophy is to make education fun, and exciting, with students taking charge of their own learning to not only grow academically, but independently as well.

I think it’s going to be a great year!

Ms. Jane Wiorkowski

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