

Dear Parents,

Hello! I am looking forward to the new school year!! I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself.

I was born and raised here in Des Moines. I attended Iowa State and graduated in 2002 with a Sociology degree and a Criminology minor (important note to add here-I am a Hawkeye fan!!) One week after receiving my diploma, I got married and started working at a real estate law firm. I was employed there for almost four years when I decided my life was not as fulfilling as I would have liked it to be. This is when I made the decision to go back to school at Upper Iowa University to receive my teaching degree. I come from a family of teachers; my father is the Vice Principal at Dowling Catholic, my younger sister teaches second grade at Sacred Heart School and my older sister taught Kindergarten here at St. Francis before becoming a stay at home mother for the last seven years. She was just hired this year at SFA as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. I knew that I too was destined to be a teacher; it just took me a little extra time to figure this out!! I was very fortunate to be hired on here at St. Francis after finishing my student teaching at Waukee and Sacred Heart Schools.

I have been married for almost nine wonderful years and currently reside in Urbandale where we finished building our new home in August of 2011. We had our first child on December 12, 2008. Her name is Alexandria (Alex) and she is the light of my life! I can now say parents that I get it; your child is the most important thing to you and you want nothing but the best for them!! She is such a busy girl and always making my husband and I laugh at the things she says and does. She keeps us on our toes but we love every minute of it!

On July 28, we were blessed to have our second child named Hudson William. He is such a good boy, eats a ton and is already teaching me the differences between boys and girls!! My daughter is enjoying being an older sister and helping mom take care of a "real" baby!!

I am really looking forward to getting to know each of you and to be a part of your child's success here at St. Francis. It is so important to always remember that you are your child's first teachers. My goals are the same as yours and working together I am quite certain that your child will have a successful school year. Be sure to talk with them about his/her days at school and ask them questions about what they are learning. Staying involved in your child's education is the key to a successful year.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at [mcurtin@saintfrancisschool.org](mailto:mcurtin@saintfrancisschool.org). It is going to be an exciting year in the first grade!

I look forward to getting to know each of you more as the year goes on.

Thank you for all you do and God Bless!

Mrs. Curtin