

# Margarita Tellez

E A R L Y  
C H I L D H O O D U N I T  
P K A N D K



## Where are you from?

I was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States when I was 6 years old.

## Education experience:

I have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I also have a MA in Early Childhood Education, an English as a Second Language (ESL) Endorsement and a Spanish Bilingual Certification from Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois.

## Who influenced your decision to become an educator?

My true calling in teaching began in 1988 when I taught English as a Second Language to adults at Daley College. My faith, two sons and a passion for being around young children led me to teach in a Catholic school.

## What else would you like to share about being a teacher?

In 1998, I began teaching preschool at St. Procopius in the Pilsen community. I have taught at St. Bruno since 2004. In my spare time, I love spending time with my family, swimming and dancing.

## How do you motivate your students to go above-and-beyond?

I believe in empowering my students to reach their fullest potential academically and socially. I motivate them by celebrating their accomplishments and guiding them to persevere and to believe in themselves as successful learners.

## What is your motto as an educator?

"Do unto others as you would like them to do unto you."

## What is your favorite song?

"You Raise Me Up."

## What is your favorite quote?

"Miracles happen to those who believe in them."

## What is your favorite book or movie?

One of my favorite books is, The Five People You Meet In Heaven by Mitch Albom.

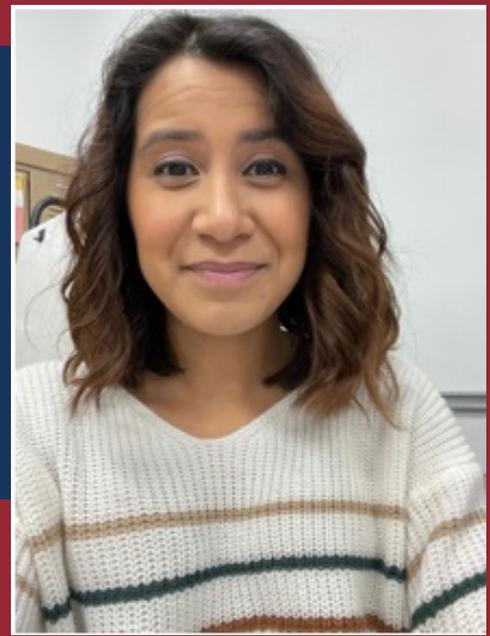
## What are you most looking forward to for next year?

I am looking forward to building new relationships with new families, students and faculty in the upcoming school year.



# Anissa Martinez

E A R L Y  
C H I L D H O O D U N I T  
P K A N D K



## **Where are you from?**

I am from Chicago, IL.

## **Education experience:**

I started my career at a child care center on the North Side of Chicago working with infants to preschool aged children. After I received my Bachelors in Early Childhood I came to St. Richard School in 2019.

## **Who influenced your decision to become an educator?**

My third grade teacher influenced my decision to become a teacher. She made everything fun. She was supportive and caring. I wanted to be just like her.

## **What else would you like to share about being a teacher?**

I love being a teacher, I love being creative with the children and having a fun time learning. I love the stories and laughter coming from the children.

## **How do you motivate your students to go above-and-beyond?**

I will develop an environment where the students feel special and feel comfortable talking to me. I will establish clear expectations.

## **What is your motto as an educator?**

"Be the best you can."

## **What is your favorite song?**

I don't have a favorite song.

## **What is your favorite quote?**

"Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else." -Margaret Mead

## **What is your favorite book or movie?**

Movie: Harry Potter Series

## **What are you most looking forward to for next year?**

I am looking forward to our schools coming together. I am excited to meet my new students. I know next year will be different but it's going to be a great year!



# Laura Shortino

PRIMARY UNIT  
1ST - 3RD



## Where are you from?

I am from Chicago.

## Education experience:

I have been in education for 21 years.

## Who influenced your decision to become an educator?

My mother influenced my decision to become a teacher, she was a teacher too.

## What else would you like to share about being a teacher?

I love working with children and seeing their eyes light up when they learn something new.

## How do you motivate your students to go above-and-beyond?

I motivate my students to go above and beyond by telling them that the sky's the limit! Reach for the stars!

## What is your motto as an educator?

"Mistakes are proof that you are trying."

## What is your favorite song?

"Livin' on a Prayer."

## What is your favorite book or movie?

Harry Potter

## What are you most looking forward to for next year?

I am looking forward to working with my new students and coworkers. I have some new ideas to help make learning more fun!



# Lori Finn

PRIMARY UNIT  
1ST - 3RD



## **Where are you from?**

I was born and raised in Chicago. I am a proud South Side girl!

## **Education experience:**

I have a Bachelors in Education from St. Mary's University and a Masters in School Counseling from Concordia University. I have taught for the Archdiocese, Chicago Public Schools, and a suburban district.

## **Who influenced your decision to become an educator?**

My mother was a teacher and I saw how much she loved teaching. I wanted to be like her.

## **What else would you like to share about being a teacher?**

I absolutely love being a teacher! It is the only thing I've ever wanted to be.

## **How do you motivate your students to go above-and-beyond?**

I tell my students that everyday is a new adventure. My students can achieve their goals as long as they try, believe in themselves, and never give up.

## **What is your motto as an educator?**

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind."

## **What is your favorite song?**

"Sister" by The Dave Matthews Band

## **What is your favorite quote?**

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference. You just have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."-

Jane Goodall

## **What is your favorite book or movie?**

I have too many favorite books! My favorite movie is The Sound of Music.

## **What are you most looking forward to for next year?**

Everything! I am looking forward to meeting new students, new families, and new colleagues.



# Morgan Stewart

PRIMARY UNIT  
1ST - 3RD



## Where are you from?

I was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago in the Canaryville neighborhood.

## Education experience:

I attended Albion College in Albion, Michigan where I received my Bachelor's degree in Integrated Science with a minor in Geology and a concentration in Elementary Education.

## Who influenced your decision to become an educator?

The people that played a big role influencing my decision to be an educator were some of the wonderful elementary teachers I had.

## What else would you like to share about being a teacher?

Being a teacher, you are always thinking outside the box, finding new ways to do things, and learning about yourself. You also get the opportunity to watch your students grow and succeed each and everyday.

## How do you motivate your students to go above-and-beyond?

In my classroom I motivate my students by helping them build up their confidence. When students begin to believe in themselves is when you see them put their best effort into things.

## What is your motto as an educator?

"My motto as a teacher is that relationship building with students is one of the most important things. I believe that once you have that relationship it helps you connect with that student both academically and personally."

## What is your favorite song?

"Don't Stop Believing" - Journey

## What is your favorite quote?

"Some of your greatest pains become your greatest strengths"

## What is your favorite book or movie?

I have too many to name.

## What are you most looking forward to for next year?

I am looking forward to both of our communities coming together and all the new students and families I will be able to meet. I am excited to see all the new things and events that we will be able to do. Next year will be very different, but it will be a great year.



# Karen Kenny

I N T E R M E D I A T E  
U N I T  
4 T H - 5 T H



## **Where are you from?**

I was born and raised in Chicago and currently live in Tinley Park.

## **Education experience:**

I attended Catholic schools throughout my education and graduated from St. Xavier University with a Bachelors in Education.

## **Who influenced your decision to become an educator?**

I grew up with several educators in my family. I would help my aunt set up her classroom each fall. My interest in teaching began at that time when I was in second grade and stayed with me through high school.

## **What else would you like to share about being a teacher?**

One of the best parts of teaching for me is when I am able to help a student that is struggling and then see their joy when they are successful!

## **How do you motivate your students to go above-and-beyond?**

I try to motivate my students by offering them the opportunity to improve upon what they did and challenge themselves to do better. I let them know that their mistakes are just the necessary steps on their way to success.

## **What is your motto as an educator?**

"Believe in yourself!"

## **What is your favorite song?**

"Float On"

## **What is your favorite quote?**

"If it was easy, everyone would do it!"

## **What is your favorite book or movie?**

I love the Harry Potter series!

## **What are you most looking forward to for next year?**

Meeting all the new students and staff when the schools combine into one.



# Savannah Tankersley

JUNIOR HIGH  
UNIT  
6TH - 8TH



## **Where are you from?**

I am from Hazard, Kentucky.

## **Education experience:**

I have taught all ages from preschool to university, with a focus in the subjects of literacy, English Language Arts, and English as a New Language. I have been teaching junior high ELA at St. Richard for 5 years.

## **Who influenced your decision to become an educator?**

My grandma and my great grandma were both teachers. My grandpa was a teacher, basketball coach, athletic director, and superintendent. I see teaching as a family legacy, and I am honored to follow in their footsteps.

## **What else would you like to share about being a teacher?**

I love helping students find texts they connect with and guiding them to find their unique voices. Every student in my classroom has something very important to say, and I love helping them discover how to share their ideas effectively.

## **How do you motivate your students to go above-and-beyond?**

I try to give my students assignments that are relevant to their real lives and to share readings with them that mirror their experiences.

## **What is your motto as an educator?**

"Work hard and be kind."

## **What is your favorite song?**

"The Lakes" by Taylor Swift

## **What is your favorite quote?**

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." --Maya Angelou

## **What is your favorite book or movie?**

My favorite book to read is Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte. My favorite book to teach is The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton. My favorite movie is The Princess Diaries.

## **What are you most looking forward to for next year?**

I'm looking forward to meeting all of my new students.



# Anne Kielbasa

JUNIOR HIGH  
UNIT  
6TH - 8TH



## **Where are you from?**

I am from Chicago and have lived in the Archer Heights neighborhood for 40 years

## **Education experience:**

I received my Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Northern Illinois University in 1981.

## **Who influenced your decision to become an educator?**

My mother

## **What else would you like to share about being a teacher?**

I don't teach for the paycheck; the rewards I get from teaching can't be quantified by money.

## **How do you motivate your students to go above-and-beyond?**

Students in my class know that I won't accept less than their best. I constantly encourage them to take pride in their accomplishments and learn from their mistakes. To motivate my students, I try to find real-world connections to what they learn and provide them opportunities to apply problem-solving and critical thinking skills

## **What is your motto as an educator?**

"The best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book."

## **What is your favorite song?**

"What a Wonderful World" by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole

## **What is your favorite quote?**

"Children must be taught HOW to think, not WHAT to think." -Margaret Mead

## **What is your favorite book or movie?**

The Harry Potter Series both the books and movies.

## **What are you most looking forward to for next year?**

Meeting new people and starting a new chapter in my life.



# More teachers to come...



We are currently at 261 students enrolled for next year and that number grows every week! New families are calling or touring our campuses each day!

In the coming weeks both principals will begin interviewing candidates to fill our open positions and will announce who they are shortly after.

Go Eagles!

