

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2017/2018 school year! Although many would say I am biased after 19 years of middle school teaching, sixth grade truly is the best. After seventeen years of teaching at Highcrest Middle School, I too can honestly say Highcrest is a very special place where academics are strong and experiences are rich. With that said, I am thrilled to begin another year in this place I call home.

While you will soon be getting to know me quite well, here is a glimpse at my "beginnings": I graduated from the University of Dayton with a degree in English. After a few years in the Chicago advertising industry, I went on to earn my Masters of Science in Secondary Education at Duquesne University. Prior to teaching in Wilmette District 39, I taught 8th grade writing for two years in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Teaching high school writing in Ireland and studying creative writing in Italy are just two of the countless experiences that have strengthened my love for my profession.

This summer I busied myself playing with my son, Lucas, who just turned seven on August 16th. Our summer was full of a lot of "adventures": museum visits, long leisurely beach days, tubing in Tennessee, rollercoaster riding at Six Flags, extended bike rides, and much more. There is nothing better than watching him experience the excitement and joy of being young and learning so very much each and every day!

I am so excited to meet my new students and their parents as well! Please know I welcome hearing from you and look forward to working together to ensure a successful and happy 6^{th} grade year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Meghan Flanigan

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6th Grade Language Arts, Reading, and Social Studies