

Dear parents and students,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! I hope you had a fun and relaxing summer. I am very excited to meet you and begin the school year. There are many emotions with starting a new school and I am confident that we will work together so that you have a successful transition to Highcrest! You will meet many new people, learn interesting new things, and participate in exciting activities this year!

I am really looking forward to spending our days together! Each day you will most likely be in my class for homeroom, social studies, and English Language Arts. For other core subjects like science and math, you will work with other House 2 teachers in their classrooms. As a homeroom class, we will work together to succeed in fifth grade by learning how to stay organized, studying the Characteristics of Successful Learners, and engaging in team-building activities.

Since we will be spending a lot of time together, I wanted to introduce myself before the year begins. I graduated from Western Michigan University, received my master's degree from Concordia University, and went on to become a National Board Certified Teacher. This is my sixteenth year at Highcrest. My first nine years were spent as a sixth-grade teacher, for three years I worked as the fifth-grade Differentiation Support Teacher, and this is my fourth year back in a fifth-grade homeroom. My desire to have the strong homeroom connection with students again brings me to your fifth-grade classroom. I have two daughters, a five-year old named Keara and a two-and-a-half year old named Nora. We spent most of our summer swimming, traveling, gardening, and spending time with family and friends.

This year's Curriculum Night will take place on September 7. Please let me know in advance if you are unable to attend and I will send the information home with you.

I am greatly looking forward to this year. Enjoy the rest of your summer! I can't wait to meet you!

Sincerely,
Brenda Raccuglia
raccuglb@wilmette39.org