

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Hello! My name is Maria Leman and I am grateful to have the opportunity to be your child's 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher! I graduated Illinois State University in May and now am starting my first teaching year. I have interned in the Chicago Public schools (3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades), Jamaica (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Mexico (Kindergarten) and student taught in Pekin (3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade). Knowing that I loved my 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> students I am more than thrilled to be teaching 5<sup>th</sup> graders!

I love spending time with my husband, family, and friends. I also enjoy spending time outside, running, going on bike rides, drinking coffee, and cooking exotic foods.

I am very excited to finally be in the classroom doing something I absolutely love to do, teach. I am thrilled to be with each one of your children and my hope is that each student will look forward to coming to school and learning to their greatest potential. My philosophy is that any child can learn and that I must not only be an educator but also a learner, facilitator, and mentor for students across the academic, social, and physical spectrum.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns. I am looking forward to working with you as well. I am eager to start the new year with your child! We are going to have a great year!

Best Regards,

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5th grade WMS  
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