



Teacher Feature

Christine Kim arrived in a kindergarten classroom at Meadowbrook last year after a teaching career that has taken her around the world.

Mrs. Kim grew up in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, near the Dells. She says she always loved helping kids and knew when she was in kindergarten that she wanted to be a teacher. She says she was inspired in part by her father who taught high school industrial arts and her grandmother who taught kindergarten for 50 years. While in middle school and high school, Mrs. Kim took advantage of opportunities to work with younger students as a volunteer in the classroom and as a tutor.

After earning a degree in elementary and middle school education from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, Mrs. Kim decided to combine her love for teaching with another passion, traveling. So she looked for a job teaching abroad. "I wanted to go some place different," she said, and turned her attention to central Asia. Some online research led her to an international school in Hong Kong where she taught third grade for four years. During that time, she lived in a flat in a local village with a fellow teacher and explored all of Asia. Her travels took her touring mountainous regions, biking along rice fields, enjoying Vietnamese food, and learning a little Cantonese and a bit of Mandarin. She also traveled to Africa during a summer break when she helped build classrooms in an orphanage in Uganda and trained teachers as well.

Mrs. Kim eventually made her way back to the midwest and took a job teaching at the Sandra Cisneros Charter School in Chicago. When she and her husband decided to move to Wheeling, she jumped at an opening at Meadowbrook.

Now in her second year teaching kindergarten at Meadowbrook, Mrs. Kim says she shares stories of her travels with her students and enjoys pointing out on the map where she's been as a way of helping them learn about the world. She also draws on her experience growing up in Wisconsin to teach her students interpersonal skills. While in high school, Mrs. Kim played volleyball and softball and performed with the show choir, activities that all helped her learn the value of working together. "We talk about teamwork a lot in kindergarten," she says. After traveling the world, Mrs. Kim says she's thrilled to be a part of the team at Meadowbrook school and its community.

Fun Facts about Christine Kim

- Met her husband in Chicago, and together they traveled to South Korea two years ago to visit his extended family. (They are headed back there for Winter Break.)
- Worked as a lifeguard at Family Land Water Park in the Dells during college.
- Traveled to France on a high school trip.

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