



Teacher Feature

Katie Jablonski spends her days teaching second grade, but when she's not at school you are likely to find her on the move in the gym, on the court, or on the field.

Miss Jablonski grew up in Glenview, attending OLPH and Glenbrook South High School. She is the fourth of five children, a group that easily lent itself to a lot of activity. During the summer, they never attended camp and entertained each other with trips to Roosevelt pool which was in their neighborhood, daily visits to the library to participate in the reading program, and outings to the park.

During high school, Miss Jablonski was always a three sport athlete, participating in basketball, soccer, cross country, and track. She particularly enjoyed any victory over New Trier and tying Stevenson in soccer. After graduation, she figured her playing days were over because she didn't want to make the commitment to a college sport. She attended the University of Illinois focused on coaching, but that changed when she realized she could keep playing. So while pursuing her teaching degree, she played co-ed football and basketball. Since then, she has played in multiple softball leagues, volleyball, and even broom ball.

Sports haven't been the only constant in Miss Jablonski's life. Teaching has also always been on her mind. "Growing up, I always wanted to teach the grade I was in," she said. She ultimately thought she would teach high school, but after working as a swim instructor at Apache Day Camp and a counselor at Banner Day Camp, she decided elementary education was the place for her. She started her career as an assistant teacher in Skokie and Glenview and joined Meadowbrook eleven years ago as a first grade teacher. Now in her tenth year in second grade, she says this age group comes with its own unique benefits. "They have an enthusiasm for learning, enjoyment of being at school, and they are good risk takers."

Next year will bring one big change for Miss Jablonski. She's getting married on October 13th, but no worries, she won't be missing any school. She will be right back in her classroom the following week for parent/teacher conferences, although with a different name: Mrs. Schmitt. "It will be a busy time," she said with a smile. Her boyfriend, whom she met through an online dating app, proposed last December after a horse-drawn carriage ride to the Planetarium. The two are hoping for a honeymoon to Italy in the summer of 2019.

Fun Facts about Miss Jablonski

- Attends boot camp several times a week.
- Bought the second wedding dress she tried on at David's Bridal for \$100.
- Lives in the North Center neighborhood of Chicago near Lincoln Square with her fiancé and dog, Zella, a black lab mix.

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