

My name is Michelle O'Meara. I graduated from Walla Walla College with a Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education, emphasis in History. In 2001, I began my teaching career in a third and fourth grade classroom. Since then I have taught in classrooms ranging from preschool through sixth grade. In 2008, I graduated from Concordia University with a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction as well as became a certified Reading Specialist.

My husband Aaron and I have three active boys that have kept us busy with Taekwondo, soccer and trips to the emergency room for stiches! We take it all in stride since they get their adventurous spirit from us. Weekends and summers consist of fishing, camping and hiking. Some of my other interests include playing the guitar, ukulele and the piano.

### **My Classroom Philosophy:**

I believe that children learn best when they have the freedom to explore the world around them with curiosity and imagination. As Miss Frizzle (from the Magic School Bus series) always says, "Take chances, make mistakes and get messy!" I think childhood is the perfect time to try new things and not be afraid to fail. Mistakes should be celebrated because it shows children are discovering how the world around them operates. "Messy" things like paint, glue, glitter and play dough should be used on a daily basis. At the end of the day, I know I have done well when numerous stories have been read, I have paint under my fingernails and the sound of children singing "Jesus loves me this I know" is still ringing in my ears.



### **Why I choose to work in Christian Education:**

I chose to work in Adventist Education because I knew that I wanted to share my love for Christ with the children and families that surround me on a daily basis. To be able to pray with my students at any moment is a blessing. Whether someone got hurt on the playground, their mom is sick at home or a loved one has passed away I cherish being able to seek our Father in heaven together. In Matthew 18:20 it says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with you." I believe in this text and am honored that we have a Father in heaven that listens to our every cry.