

Dear parents,

I am very excited to be part of a teaching faculty that once educated me as a young student. I chose to return to the Orange school system because I was confident that the Orange Board of Education is continuing and striving to improve on the high standards of education that I once received as a young student. I look forward to collaborating with the outstanding teaching staff at Race Brook School.

I returned to teaching in 2007 after a child-rearing sabbatical. Prior to this, I taught in the Milford School System in fourth and fifth grade classrooms. During my five years in the classroom, the school was accredited as a H.O.T school. This meant that I conducted my classroom in the teaching and learning styles of Howard Gardner's Higher Order Thinking philosophies. It was innovative, as well as challenging, but allowed my students to think critically, solve real-world problems, and expand their creativity.

Before teaching, I double majored in Education and Studio Art. I earned a Bachelors Degrees in both areas of study. I later continued my education to obtain a Masters Degree in Education. As a part of my Masters study, I studied *Teaching the Gifted Child* and I wrote my thesis on incorporating the Arts into the Math curriculum.

I am confident that your child and I will have a successful school year because I plan to challenge, strengthen and inspire the talents that he/she possesses. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,
Kellie Martino