



LAKES INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY

An IB World School

Kathy Griebel
Lakes International Language Academy
Lower School Principal

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! I am thrilled to join the Forest Lake community as the Lower School Principal for Lakes International Language Academy. I am so honored to be joining this vibrant and caring community of learners.

I have been in education for more than 30 years and have loved every minute of my time working in schools. As Margaret Wheatley said, "At some time in your life, your heart leapt out and you had no choice but to work with children." I have served as a teacher and principal and supported schools as a director of education. I find the work of a principal to be challenging and inspiring. My greatest desire is to create a joyful and engaged community. Our children want to learn. Our teachers want to meet students' needs. Our families want to partner with us. It's my responsibility to build trust and create conditions that allow our community at LILA to thrive. As LILA's Lower School Principal I will strive to:

- Communicate and promote the school's vision and mission.
- Stay focused on the learning needs of all students.
- Expect excellence.
- Recognize and celebrate growth and achievement.
- Create a safe, positive, and supportive learning environment.
- Listen and learn from all perspectives.

Why am I here? I'm here because I believe in preparing critical thinkers and global citizens. LILA has been an accredited International Baccalaureate (IB) World School for the Primary Years Programme (K-6) since 2009, and we recently achieved IB candidacy for the Middle Years Programme (grades 6-10). The IB curriculum infuses rigorous inquiry-based academics with international-mindedness and character-building learning.

I'm here because I believe in the benefits of second language acquisition. LILA offers Spanish or Chinese full immersion at the Lower School for grades K-5. We also offer French, Chinese, and Spanish instruction for grades 6-12, in addition to Chinese and Spanish immersion classes at the Upper School. At LILA, our K-5 curriculum is taught in Spanish or Mandarin Chinese. Using many teaching techniques to support students' initially limited understanding of Spanish or Mandarin Chinese, teachers are able to not only teach all elementary content, but by the end of elementary school, also succeed in creating bilingual and bi-literate students!

LOWER SCHOOL • Main Campus
246 11th Ave. S.E., Forest Lake, MN 55025
651-464-0771

UPPER SCHOOL • Headwaters Campus
19850 Fenway Ave. N., Forest Lake, MN 55025
651-464-8989

KINDER PREP • LILA Annex
121 11th Ave. S.E., Forest Lake, MN 55025
651-464-0771



I'm here because I believe in the power of community. LILA parents and students speak with passion and enthusiasm about their educational experience. Parent satisfaction, student retention, and faculty retention are all remarkably high. This doesn't happen by accident. Each of us—as a student, teacher, or family member—makes an important contribution to the success of our school community. We respect all contributions, challenge each other to stretch, expect excellence, and support each other in times of need.

I am here because I believe in public education. LILA is a public school choice offering a language-rich educational experience with the International Baccalaureate program at no tuition. LILA demonstrates the power of educational innovation partnered with strong family and staff involvement. The school also works hard to build and maintain positive connections to the surrounding community.

I am excited for the school year to begin. The building and grounds look wonderful and teachers are ready to welcome students to class. I can say with great confidence that LILA is a special place. Our students approach learning with enthusiasm, curiosity, and respect. We have an extraordinarily caring, dedicated, and professional staff. Families deeply value learning. Soon the doors to LILA will open to smiling, eager children ready to start another year in their educational journey. We are ready to “Think for Ourselves, Think about Others and Think beyond Today”—our school motto. Let the adventure begin!

