



August 1, 2018

Hola familias,

Welcome to another school year at LILA! My name is Melissa Cuddy, and I will be your child's second-grade teacher. Students call me Seño Melissa, which is a shortening of Señorita, comparable to "Ms." in English. Because the ñ can be tricky to type, you may also spell it Senyo. ☺

A little about me: I graduated from the College of Saint Benedict with a degree in Elementary Education and Spanish. In college, I studied abroad in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, which really sparked my desire to learn more about the Spanish language. I started out at LILA in 2005, teaching second grade. From 2007-2009 I served in the Peace Corps as a school health program facilitator in the western highlands of Guatemala. (Fun fact: I brought my sweet Guatemalan kitty, Luna, home with me!) Throughout my teaching career, I have taught middle school Spanish, kindergarten, and at LILA, second and third grades. I have also served two terms on LILA's board of directors and have been on our administrative leadership team as a team leader/ teacher coach.

Outside of school, I enjoy reading, movies, musical theatre, and spending time with friends and family. This summer, I participated in an IB training in New Orleans and coordinated and taught a summer class at LILA. Also, I frequented the neighborhood library, spent time at my local pool, and went to a couple of local theatre productions!

I'm excited to get going with another school year at LILA! Truly, I am continually amazed by the commitment and heart of the LILA community. I look forward to meeting all of you at pre-school *Bienvenidos* conferences, which will be a time for me to learn a little about your child and to touch base about the year to come. Please feel free to bring along any supplies you have for the year at this time. See you soon!

Seño Melissa

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