



August 1, 2016

Hola families,

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. ☺

In addition to teaching my own class, I have another role at LILA, as a Team Leader for our Chinese immersion program. This involves coaching teachers one letter day per six-day rotation. That means your child will have TWO fabulous second-grade teachers this year! Profe Juan (Juan Tabanero, who was the 2nd-grade language ambassador last school year) will be teaching our class on the letter day that I observe and work with other LILA teachers. I'm really excited about team-teaching with Profe Juan this year. He is an energetic and engaging teacher. I know that your child will benefit from our collaboration!

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.

Outside of school, I enjoy reading, movies, music, and theatre, and spending time with friends and family. This summer, I worked at a theatre camp in Illinois, coordinated and taught a summer class at LILA, and taught Spanish at a camp for children who were adopted from Latin American countries. Also, I frequented the neighborhood library, spent time at my local pool, and volunteered with a Twin Cities theatre festival.

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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