

Kristina Angell

Kristina graduated from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay in December of 2007. She began her teaching career at Parker High School and Franklin Middle School in Janesville where she taught during the 2008-2009 school year. In August Fort Atkinson Middle School and Dr. Abbott were fortunate enough to obtain her services. Kristina teaches Exploratory French, French 8 and French I.

Kristina's philosophy is that she believes that student rapport is of the utmost importance and she believes that high standards yield high results. However the belief that learning is, at its heart, something to be enjoyed and sought after is the leading force that drives her teaching.

Kristina believes that we are in school for two reasons: first, the actual content we must learn that is pertinent in our lives beyond the classroom walls and secondly, we must learn how to continue learning after our schooling is done. As teachers we have to connect the two by making the necessary content something that students enjoy learning about and feel inspired to pursue further.

Describing how she works to raise achievement for all students, Kristina notes that she uses many kinesthetic tools to teach and help students retain vocabulary. She also likes to make references to popular music, movies, and fashion in France, and of course, during the course they spend a lot of time speaking, listening to, reading, and writing French.

Another way Kristina has been working to raise achievement is through proficiency based grading and re-assessment opportunities. Student feedback is given

by means of proficiency levels (advanced, proficient, basic, or minimal) instead of percentages and scores. Students who are not proficient can re-assess specific standards of learning. Not entire tests or projects, but isolated skills. Kids stay focused on what is expected of their learning and that gives them the power to achieve.

An innovative program that Kristina has implemented is the pen pal program through a site called ePals. She found an English learning class at a middle school in Marseille, France, with whom her students write emails, hand written letters, and postcards. This last year she was thrilled to add video conferencing to the list. Each student has an assigned French counterpart, and communication between the two begins in October and ends in June.

Outside of school, Kristina has been active with the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Her mother was diagnosed in 1996 with MS and since that time she and her family have been very involved in raising thousands of dollars for this essential cause through events such as the MS Walk and the MS 150 Bike Tour.

In terms of positive aspects Kristina sees in education today she notes the love and dedication she sees from her colleagues day in and day out. She notes, "I am surrounded by individuals that work incredibly hard and they do it not for themselves but for their students." Another aspect of teaching that she finds to be very positive is the fluidity of what we do. Content, assessment policies, teaching strategies, technology- these are all things that are constantly changing education. While change can be difficult, she sees it as positive because the intentions are always to improve learning for kids.

From a former student, "For me it is very easy to differentiate Mrs. Angell from other teachers I've had. She never gave up on us no matter how big the struggle may have been sometimes. She always found an alternative way to teach us if we just weren't getting it the first time. She was an amazing teacher who had a lot of passion for what she did."

From Dr. Abbott, Principal of the Middle School, "Our World Language Department has seen significant change in the years Mrs. Angell has been with us. Adding the high school level course and realigning curriculum 7-12 has been exciting and necessary. "

With pleasure, we advance the nomination of Kristina Angell for the Kohl Fellowship Educational Foundation Award.