

Dear Families,

Teaching and learning about science is a passion of mine! Through my education at Grand Valley State University, I went to Hawaii and studied volcanoes and traveled to Rocky Mountain National Park to study the world of science first hand. I was given opportunities to collaborate with my peers and test and fail and test again. I want to share that passion with students by giving them the opportunity of scientific discovery as well as try to solve real world challenges.

I am excited to be your child's STEM teacher! STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. I have taught 6th grade for 12 years at Spring Lake Intermediate School. I have an elementary teaching certificate with a major in science and Masters degree in Educational Leadership. This past school year I was given an incredible opportunity to pilot a classroom with iPads. Although I loved teaching 6th graders, teaching STEM was an opportunity that I could not pass up. Teaching Kindergarten through 4th grade STEM will allow me to share my passion for science with many more students.

How does the curriculum differ from a traditional classroom?

The curriculum is an integrated approach of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Students will be engaged in project-based learning which will require them to work collaboratively to solve challenges in a creative way. Students are given a problem to solve, they are asked to research possible solutions to the problem, decide which materials to use, build a model, test the model, collect data from their tests and redesign, if needed. The design process will be used for all projects.

I am looking forward to fostering critical thinkers and listening to children describe why they believe things happen through exploration and trial and error.

My husband Eric Kipling also works for the Spring Lake school district as an 8th grade History and English teacher in the middle school. This past May our

daughter, Annie, turned 7 and our son, Maddux, is 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old. Our youngest, Chas, just celebrated his 2nd birthday on June 22! Our summer was filled with spending family time with Annie, Maddux and Chas. We spent time traveling to Atlantic Beach, NC, visited the exquisite Columbus Zoo and created wonderful memories at our family cottage on Stony Lake.

I encourage each of you to please visit and **follow** my class website/blog at www.kiplingstem.weebly.com Weekly posts will be my main communication tool with parents. Please feel free to make positive comments on pictures and projects posted throughout the school year. The students and I would love to hear from you!

I wish you a wonderful rest of your summer and I hope to meet all of you at the Jeffers Open House on Wednesday, August 28th from 6:30-7:30 pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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"Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently."

- Henry Ford