

Dear International School Staff, Students, and Families,

I am thrilled to join the International School in the role of Assistant Principal. Over the past decade, I have worked with many IS staff members and visited on several occasions to observe students and teachers in a powerful, nurturing learning environment. It is truly my privilege to join this very special community. While I've had the opportunity to get to know some of you over the past two months, I'd like to share a bit about myself with all of you.

My 15-year career in education has allowed me to live and work in many incredible communities across the country. Originally, I hail from the great Southwest. I was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico—ever appreciative of the blazing sun and dry heat. When I was 18, I ventured across the country to attend college at Cornell University. Upon completing my BA in Spanish at Cornell, I shed the long underwear and wool coat to make my way to California. I completed my student teaching in kindergarten and then served my first year teaching third grade general education in the racially and linguistically diverse community of East Palo Alto through Teach for America. After my adventure in California, I made my way back to the east coast and taught middle and high school Spanish at a private girls' boarding school outside of Baltimore, MD. These two very different experiences taught me great lessons about student engagement, classroom management, and high expectations for student learning—each important components of my educator's toolkit. They also cemented my belief that within each child is an innate curiosity, a desire to learn, and an ability to succeed.

During these early years of my career as I worked with students in grades K-12 across a diverse set of communities, I came to understand the incredible value, importance, and power of both literacy and high quality instruction. These experiences compelled me to pursue an MA in Reading Instruction at Columbia University Teacher's College in New York City. As I studied, I explored Manhattan and the Bronx as a consultant for a non-profit, after-school reading program in NYC Public Schools.

Shortly after finishing my masters, my husband and I traded New York City for the Pacific Northwest. (What a fantastic trade it has been!) I was fortunate to join the Bellevue School District in the fall of 2006. I have served our community as a middle school Spanish teacher, a 6th-12th grade reading teacher, a 9th-11th grade AVID teacher, a high school volleyball coach, our district's K-12 Literacy Curriculum Developer, Sammamish High School's Literacy Coach, and a member of the Sammamish High School Problem-Based Learning Implementation Team. Upon completing my principal internship at Sammamish, I joined Lake Hills Elementary as an Assistant Principal where I have served in this capacity for the past year and half. Alongside this rewarding work in education, my husband and I have been busy raising twin sons—Oliver and Finn—two exuberant, energetic seven-year-olds who attend elementary school here in the Bellevue School District.

I am looking forward to working with each of you in this community that so enthusiastically embraces deep learning experiences coupled with global awareness, community engagement, and social-emotional well-being for each student. I'm looking forward to meeting each and every one of you this spring.

Sincerely,

Robin Moore

