



Mrs. Monroe's Welcome Letter

I am so excited to be one of your child's teachers next school year! I want to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Caitlin Monroe and I graduated from Appalachian State University. I married my college sweetheart, Paul. We have a son and daughter, who also attend Brassfield. Not only do I enjoy teaching and spending time with my family, but I also enjoy staying active, cooking/entertaining and learning new things. This will be my thirteen year of teaching and I will be teaching your child EL (reading and writing). I have taught first, second and fourth grade.

I have a passion for teaching with purpose-driven learning and gamification. Purpose-driven learning is the core of my classroom. The purpose of school is not simply to get good grades. The goal is to promote every student's ownership of their learning and their development as lifelong learners. Purpose-driven learning includes: confidence, creativity, enthusiasm, effort, focus, resilience, initiative, curiosity, dependability, and empathy. These qualities can be encouraged at home as well as in the classroom. By utilizing the keys of purpose-driven learning, we can help students understand the qualities needed to be successful in any classroom and in the world beyond school.

Gamification is the idea of applying the most motivational aspects of games to the classroom setting. I have found that gaming concepts, like intrinsic motivation, self-taught exploration, and learning through failure, have transferred to the classroom with great success. However, a key part of this success is that the learning is student-driven.

Learning to take the initiative in their schoolwork, attacking each assignment with enthusiasm, creativity, and effort, and overcoming challenges with their own curiosity and resilience builds independent learners. With parents' support of the gamification system and the encouragement of their child's ability to put the keys of purpose-driven learning into action, we can work as a team to help these young learners reach their full potential.

Let the games begin...





Mr. Danahy's Welcome Letter



All about Mr. Danahy...

I am thrilled to be one of your child's 4th grade teachers next year! Please read below to learn a little more about me:

- ❖ Prior to coming to Raleigh, NC in 2007, I worked as a behavioral therapist through Lifespan (Bradley Hospital in East Providence, RI). During this time, I worked in direct care with children between the ages of 5 and 12. I was also provided a terrific leadership opportunity to work with therapists within our treatment program to improve overall quality of patient care within the milieu.
- ❖ Before coming to Brassfield Elementary in 2011, I had the privilege of teaching 5th grade (1 year) and 3rd grade (3 years) at Wilburn Elementary. As a Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) school in 2010-11, I accepted the opportunity to serve as a mentor teacher working collaboratively to develop, field test and model lessons/units based on predetermined school-wide areas of need. I also observed and formally evaluated peers based on the TAP rubric.
- ❖ I am now entering my tenth year at Brassfield and am switching back to teaching 4th grade after a 1 year hiatus in 5th grade. I appreciate the opportunity to once again work with a terrific community of learners and families! This will be the 3rd time having the pleasure of teaming with Mrs. Monroe! Mrs. Monroe will teach all of the language arts, and I will teach math, science and social studies. This partnership will allow us to be experts in specific areas of learning. As a 4th grade team, we will collaborate efforts in order to ensure that your child has the best instruction possible. I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to work with your child this coming year and to support him/her into becoming responsible, life-long learners as we head deeper into the 21st century!

