



# Preschool Director's Letter

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Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!

Our three preschool classes are gearing up for the new school year. We are excited to get to know the new families and welcome back former families. This year will look different than in the past – wearing masks, social distancing, drop off and pick up outside... BUT we will still be learning all the same core subjects: dramatic play, early reading and writing strategies, block and building/construction play, large motor, art, story/circle time, science, math and of course the kids will grow socially and emotionally. Our school theme this year is "UNITED IN CHRIST", based on the Bible verse Galatians 3:28, "We are all one in Christ." We are in this together and I can't wait to begin this journey with you!

Now to introduce myself and my fabulous preschool team! I am Christina Figgins this year I will be teaching ages 3 and 4. I also direct the Preschool Program and I am the Extended Care Director. Each day I am thankful that God has placed me in a position to be with children. They are so honest and open. They remind me to be silly, to laugh, to truly own my emotions. I have 3 children of my own and they are everything to me. So, I take this into consideration each day you drop off your child to us. Your child and your family are valued and loved!

Tammy Shelver is our half day Preschool 3's and 4's Teacher. This is her third year at Hope. In the past Tammy worked for Child Haven and we are so pleased to have her as part of the Hope Preschool team! Tammy has enriched our Pre-K program with "Music Mondays." She enriches her class with movement and music, and they learn about all kinds of instruments. Tammy has two children attending college.

Our Preschool Aid is Carol Christian. We have worked together on and off for several years. Carol is creative and curious, my favorite two things! She loves to find the answers to tough questions and she can build anything!!! I will be sending pics of all the creative bulletin boards full of the kids artwork Carol puts together throughout the school year. Carol has a daughter who is attending the University of Utah.

Stephanie VanDoren will check in Sea Turtles in the morning and spend the afternoon with the Sea Stars. She joined Hope 3 years ago and brings so much fun to our program!! She motivates the kids to fully engage at school and be a little silly too. Stephanie ran her own in-home preschool for many years and is currently working on an Early Childhood degree.

Our full day Preschool 4's teacher is Mairi Seraile. She has worn many hats at Hope; preschool teacher for the past few years, preschool aide, and Extended Care Director for many years before that. She has 3 girls of her own and works hard to provide a fun environment for learning. Kids are drawn to Mairi's bubbly personality and her exciting circle times!

Hanna Wingate is Mairi's aid in the full day Preschool. Hanna is working on an Early Childhood degree and has worked as a nanny. The kids love her energy and kind personality. She loves getting to know all the kids and families at Hope and put her schooling into practice!

We look forward to learning and growing with each of you. At Hope School we emphasize the importance of love, kindness and empathy: "Fruits of the Spirit" – you'll be hearing more about this throughout the years to come. ☺

So, let's create this new beginning together. Let's step out of our comfort zone and meet new people, try new things. Let's STRETCH, GROW, and LEARN!

Blessings,  
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