

~Hello from Mr. Gulka~  
September – 2017

I am very excited for the 2017 - 2018 school year - my thirteenth year at Gilham, and my ninth year teaching 5th grade. I look forward to getting to know you and your child.

Please drop by, call, or e-mail to introduce yourself or just to say hello. Mornings are best for quick conversations; afternoons work best to discuss concerns. Although I am confident that we'll get off to a great start there are always many details that must be worked out in the first few weeks. I appreciate your patience in this regard.

My goal is to work in partnership with you to ensure a successful year. I will continue to keep you informed about what we're doing this year through emails, and phone calls. If you would like to discuss or address an important issue please call and we'll arrange a time. I am available by phone, e-mail, or in person after school.

Your child will work towards developing skills in the following areas:

- 1) Develop written expression skills that facilitate communication in narrative, creative, and expository styles.
- 2) Master all multiplication and division facts and be able to use those facts accurately when doing computations and problem solving.
- 3) Learn to work cooperatively in groups and sometimes take the leadership role.
- 4) Learn to plan long range projects and bring them to completion.
- 5) Learn to speak in front of peers with confidence and style.
- 6) Learn to work independently, stay focused on work, and be responsible for bringing schoolwork to completion.

My Short Personal Bio: My wife, Emily, and I have two kids - Quinn, age 13, and Merra, 11. We adopted a gently used Pug and Boston Terrier mix a few years ago named Buggy.

I grew up outside of Portland, attended the University of Oregon and am a big DUCK fan. I received my Masters in Teaching from Pacific University and then began teaching at the middle school level before teaching 4th grade at Yujin Gakuen for 5 years. I taught 3rd grade here at Gilham before moving to 5th grade, my favorite. My hobbies are Gracie Jiu Jitsu, mountain biking, jogging, photography, kayak fishing, camping, and coaching my daughter's soccer teams. I also love coffee, Cafe Yumm, reading, and trips to Jerry's Home Improvement!

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Sincerely,

Brian Gulka