

Dear Parent/Guardian,



My name is Justin Harding, and I am very pleased to begin student teaching at Parkside Elementary. I am currently attending Ferris State University and working towards completing my teaching certification and a Bachelor's Degree in (Elementary/Secondary) Education with (minors or major and minors) in math and science. I will be student teaching with Mrs. Helsen in your student's classroom for 15 weeks. I am thrilled to have the opportunity get to know each student and his or her family.

I have lived in Cedar Springs my whole life, from where I went to school and graduated. I was very active in sports, hunting, and fishing. When I was younger, I always wanted to work in construction, but things changed when I got a chance to spend some time in the classroom where I fell in love with helping others. I knew my passion was teaching. I am the first one in my family to graduate from college and I owe a big thanks to my parents for pushing me to follow my dreams and inspirations. I have one older sister that teaches at Milestones Childcare Center. I work my summers painting houses and serving tables at Downtown Trini's and Margarita Joe's in Sparta. I am ready for my next chapter in life and to start teaching every day in the classroom.

I will be taking photographs during my tenure in the classroom, of bulletin boards, projects, etc., to be included in my professional teaching portfolio. I would also like to include photographs of me working with "my" students as well as some examples of student work. The portfolio will be a collection displaying what I have accomplished during my student teaching and will be shared with interview panels as I seek a permanent teaching position. (Please sign and return the permission slip below.)

I am eager to meet and work with your student, as well as meet and work with you, throughout the next fifteen weeks. I encourage you to contact me, at your convenience, with any concerns, questions, or thoughts regarding your child's education. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Justin Harding

I, _____, the parent/guardian of _____ agree to allow _____, a student teacher in my child's room to take his/her picture for use in _____ professional teaching portfolio as well as some of _____ work.

Signed: _____