

August 23, 2021
AESM Middle School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As your child’s Special EducationTeacher, I am looking forward to getting to know you and working with you, which surely promises to bring with it, many new experiences and challenges. In order to make the year a successful one, teamwork and cooperation will be required by all. As your son or daughter’s teacher, it is my goal to help him/her become a confident learner and I will do my best to help make this year a positive experience for your child.

I started teaching for St. Louis Public Schools in 1996 and have been here ever since! Prior to this, I studied at Fontbonne College where I earned my degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. After completing my B.A. in 1991, I pursed my Masters in the Art of Teaching from Ashford University. I teach part-time at St. Charles Community College.

Just to give you a sense of what both you and your child can expect from me this year, I’d like to tell you a bit about our classroom. During the first few weeks of school, I plan on setting aside some time so that I can get to know your child and his/or her classmates better. Every student is unique and has different interests and learning styles. I want to ensure that I spend an adequate amount of time learning about all of my students and having them learn about me. My goal is for our classroom to be a community of learners based on mutual respect for all individual differences. I want both you and your child to know that *our* classroom is a safe environment where students are encouraged to share, learn from one another, and learn from me—just as I will learn from them. My philosophy for learning is that each child is unique, and each child learns in a different way. One of my jobs as a teacher is to help your child discover his or her individuality and work alongside with them to maximize it. I believe in hands-on experiences, and learning creatively. It is my goal to create a community of learners who are committed to working hard and having fun. I want students to leave my classroom feeling confident that they can apply what they’ve learned in school to real-life situations. I want my students to feel challenged and to have an enhanced passion for learning.

As the Special Education Resource Teacher, I will work cooperatively and collaboratively to plan and modify lessons, and build a strong connection between the Special Education program and regular classroom teachers. We will work together to write IEPs, evaluations, reinforce behavior, and modify curriculum.

I also want to let you know that you are welcome to schedule an appointment with me during my planning period or at any time during the year**.** To arrange a meeting, all you have to do is contact me and we’ll set something up!

Collaboration, cooperation, and open communication between home and school are keys to building a strong foundation for a successful school year. I look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the coming year and I am confident that together we can provide the support and encouragement needed to help your child excel. If you have any questions now or at any time in the future, don’t hesitate to contact me at the school at 314-932-1464.

If you have questions, please contact me in one of the following ways:

* **Email:** Christine.lato@slps.og
* **Phone:** 314-932-1464
* **Cell:** 636-725-8105

Respectfully,

Christine Lato

**Student Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parents’ Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Below you’ll find a series of questions to include in your student questionnaire:**

* What are your child’s interests?
* What would you like me to know about your child?
* What are your concerns, if any?
* What is your child’s attitude towards school?
* What has been helpful for your child in the past?
* How does your child learn best?
* What additional help might your child need this year? How might I best offer this additional support?
* What is your child passionate about?
* What are some of his/her favorite things to do outside of school?
* Would you like to schedule an informal conference to meet and/or discuss your child? If so, please indicate times that are best for you.