

Kindergarten Teacher Information, Bryant 2020

Name: Alex Jones, room 102

Years teaching at Bryant: 14 years (all in kindergarten!)

A great thing about working at Bryant is the community - students, parents and staff! I love coming to work each day and it's because of the kids, families, and my colleagues.

A reason I teach kindergarten is the EXCITEMENT and FUN! I love being silly with the kids and making sure they are jazzed about school/learning each day. I love to see how students grow in a year of kindergarten. One year of kindergarten is about 16% of their life and it is so rewarding to see what happens between September and June. They walk in as preschoolers and leave as first graders.

Something I enjoy about kindergarten is the flexibility. I have a plan each day, and sometimes the students, well, have other plans/needs that are more important.

A piece of advice I offer to help students and families adjust to kindergarten is: go to bed early! We're going to have a lot of fun and it's going to be exhausting for a while as everyone adjusts. Ask questions - that's why we're here.

Name: Kevin G. Gallagher, room 103

Years teaching at Bryant: 16

A great thing about working at Bryant is...

Community, community, community - via: Enjoying the company of a top-performing staff who elicit the best from students – in student self-management, social/emotional development, academic achievement and citizenship + + + And I can proudly say I reached the milestone of having taught over 1200 KINDERKIDS!!!! That is like a small town of kindergarteners 😊.

A reason I teach kindergarten is...

I work with people who are honest, direct, make cognitive connections constantly, are easily entertained and enjoy my theatrics and really want to be in class together – those are pretty great co-workers, all of whom are five and six years old. I look forward to my job with great relish and anticipation with days full of wonder, joy, comedy and learning. How many people get to say **THAT** about their jobs – every day.... I know I can!

Knowing I am the first access point for many students and their families into the formal educational system for the next 13 years, I accept that full responsibility with great care and respect. I know how a child describes their day or experience or learning or treatment is heard by families: parents, caring grandparents, relatives and younger siblings (whose impression can be formulated by that recount). I want all those stakeholders to think and respect that their kinder-gem is in a great place.

Something I enjoy about kindergarten is...

I love what kids do and say. I describe my job as 'living in a sitcom' – nobody writes or performs better comedy than the kids in front of me. And then realizing, every moment can last a lifetime in their memory – I hold that idea very thoughtfully and respectfully. And as I've met and heard from adults whom I taught when they were in K, I hear exactly that – "Mr. Gallagher, I remember when...." My heart always swells at that moment... 😊

A piece of advice I offer to help students and families adjust to kindergarten is...

There are NO entrance standards; they just need to be five by August 31. So, everyone can relax on the 'academically, they should know or be able to...' - cuz they don't!"

Name: Katie Sorensen, room 104

Years teaching at Bryant: This will be my third year as a full-time teacher though I had the opportunity to work with the Bryant Kindergarten team during the 2019-2020 school year as Mr. Gallagher's teaching intern (while completing my Master's Degree at University of Washington).

A great thing about working at Bryant is... From the first moment I walked into Bryant's front doors, I was welcomed with big smiles and open arms by staff, students, and parents. I knew right away that, if there was an opportunity to be a teacher this coming fall, I would take it:) I am so excited to officially start out my teaching career in this community!!

A reason I teach kindergarten is... the excitement and wonder I get to see on students' faces as they enter this momentous new step in their lives. I always say that my favorite part about being a teacher is seeing that "light bulb" moment for a student when something clicks. That is happening CONSTANTLY in kindergarten because students are craving that learning and understanding.

Something I enjoy about kindergarten is... everything is new and exciting! No matter what you say or teach, it is met with wonder and curiosity. I also love the constant giggles and comedic moments in the classroom. The stuff those kindergartener's say just cannot be made up!!

A piece of advice I offer to help students and families adjust to kindergarten is... take the time to talk with your child about their daily experiences. See what they are doing in class and build on the excitement they bring home after a fabulous day of LEARNING and FUN.

Name: Jamie Barnes, room 101

Years teaching at Bryant: This is my sixth year teaching at Bryant Elementary!

A great thing about working at Bryant is...

The students, their families, and my wonderful colleagues! This community is tremendously supportive, and welcoming. I am constantly learning new things from my team, and Bryant families.

A reason I teach kindergarten is...

It is a such a special and exciting time in a student's life. Many students are entering school for the first time, and I get to show them how fun and rewarding learning new things among a group of new friends can be! Kindergarteners are constantly developing new skills, and each week can look very different depending what we are ready to learn next. Our classroom and grade community is supportive and full of love by the end of the year, and it is amazing to be a part of that process.

Something I enjoy about kindergarten is...

Our enthusiasm, energy, and curiosity. If students are interested in a topic, we have the time to investigate it with them further, and learn along with them!

A piece of advice I offer to help students and families adjust to kindergarten is...

Communicate with your student's teacher. The more we understand, the more we can support your child and family.