



St. Celestine School

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YEAR 2023-2024

Giovanna Gianfortone – 4th Grade – Room 103

My name is Giovanna Gianfortone and I am happy to be working for the Catholic schools where I began my career. This year I will be teaching 4th and 5th grade Language Arts at Saint Celestine School. I have taught English, Language Arts and Italian for many years at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree at Dominican University with a double major in English and Italian. My Master of Science in Education degree is from Chicago State University. I am licensed in English, Language Arts, Bilingual Italian and Guidance and Counseling.

I am a native Italian speaker and I was born in Pisa, Italy. My family and I came to Chicago as immigrants when I was 8 years old not knowing one word of English. During that time there were no special programs like we have now. I was in total culture shock! Part of the reason I became a teacher was the lack of instruction for the non-English speaking students.

My family consists of 4 adult children and my 2 dogs Coco and Puppy. I am very proud of all my children. I also consider all of my past and future students as my “kids”. In my spare time I enjoy cooking, reading, and listening to Italian music, especially Andrea Bocelli. I have attended 2 of his concerts and I probably own all of his music.

I believe that teaching is not just a job but a calling, and every child is a child of God. There is an Italian proverb that says, “Chi rispetta sara` rispettato,” which means he who respects will be respected....This has always been my one rule in my classroom. I look forward to meeting my new “kids.”

Be kind,

Giovanna Gianfortone