

My name is Cori Wrobel, and I am the 4th grade teacher. Upon graduating from Brainerd High School, I attended Concordia College in Moorhead where I received B.A. degrees in both Elementary Education and Music. This is my 12th year at St. Francis School. I taught Kindergarten for the first four years, and I have been teaching 4th grade since then.

The students in our school are very fortunate to receive a well-rounded education in all academic subjects, including Language Art, Math, Science, and Social Studies. They also receive the specialty subjects of Art, Computer, Music, Physical Education, and Spanish. However, I feel they are most fortunate to receive education in our Catholic faith. Religion is not just a subject; it is tied into everything that we teach. When talking about natural resources in Social Studies, we talk about who gave us those resources: God. When singing songs in Music, we sing songs about our faith. Word problems in Math relate to Jesus. Poems written in Language Arts pertain to the Catholic faith.

Being from the Brainerd area, I was fortunate enough to attend St. Francis School when I was growing up. It's really fun to be on the other side now :) Some things are still the same. We continue to have our annual Marathon and the Danny Hauer Basketball Tournament (of which my team once won!) Others have changed. When I went to school here, we only had one section of each grade level, and we only went up to 7th grade. We only got to eat hot lunch once a week (Tuesdays) in the lunchroom.

Some of my interests include animals, music, arts and crafts (especially stamping and beading), training my dog, Sunni, photography, and being outside. I love to travel, especially to warm places with tropical fish. I am a lector at St. Andrews Church. I am also a church organist and play some Saturdays at St. Andrews. Since joining the Brainerd Jaycees in 2004, I have participated in and chaired numerous projects, and I served as their President in 2007. Currently, I am a board member of the Brainerd Kennel Club and a member of Wild & Free (a wildlife rehabilitation center in Garrison). I am a cofounder of PIE (Partners in Education). Right now, Sunni and I are working toward getting her certified to be a Therapy Dog so we can visit hospitals, nursing homes, and other facilities.

My favorite thing about being a teacher is knowing that I can make a difference in kids' lives. Going beyond academics, I teach a lot of life lessons in my classroom: the importance of manners and saying, "God bless you" when someone sneezes, kindness in helping someone, responsibility in cleaning up after yourself and getting work in on time, perseverance in doing your best and finishing what you start. One of my favorite things to teach is Social Studies. I thoroughly enjoy learning about different places, times, and people.

