

I am Valerie Ann Turner and I teach 6th, 7th and 8th grade Language Arts, 6 grade math, and K – 8 computers.

I was born in Waukegan, IL, but grew up in Racine, Wisconsin. I attended Washington Park High School in Racine, WI, then University of Wisconsin – La Crosse and earned a B.A. in K – 8 education with a special education minor. I have teaching licenses for elementary and middle level education in Wisconsin, California, Iowa, and Minnesota. I have taught 7th grade English for 4 years in Wisconsin, 6th, 7th and 8th grade language arts and computers for 3 years in California, special education for 1 year in Iowa, and 4th grade one year in Minnesota. I also subbed in all grades and subjects for 1 year.

This is my first year at St. Francis (2008-09) and I really enjoy the smaller class sizes because it's easier to meet the needs of all my students. I feel that St. Francis students excel academically when they put forth their best effort. When I started, I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of parental support I received from the beginning of my first year here. I also really enjoy working with a cohesive, supportive staff that really care and look out for one another.

I am definitely an animal lover and have 2 dogs: Madison, a 5 year old black lab, and Butter, a 3 year old yellow lab. I was a dancer (ballet, tap, and jazz) from age 4 – 18 and I used to play the violin. I love to read, watch movies, camp and hike.

I married my college sweetheart in Kauai on August 1, 2004. We are expecting our first child, a boy, near April 5, 2009.

Teaching middle school language arts is my favorite thing to teach so far. I really enjoy teaching students how to be successful writers and public speakers. I enjoy discussing novels with students to encourage them to think beyond the basic comprehension of the book and look deeper into the lessons and morals often hidden within the plot. My goal is to have a positive impact on a variety of students. I hold the quote close to my heart and strive for this everyday: "The object of teaching a child is to enable the child to get along without the teacher." Author unknown