

**Arlington Science Focus School**  
**Celebrating 10 Years of Science Exploration and Diversity**

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August 27, 2004

Dear (parent name)

I am very much looking forward to meeting (child's name) and being his/her kindergarten teacher at Arlington Science Focus School. I received his/her picture today, and it was a total thrill. Around this time of year I am ready to **close summer and open school!**

I don't want to spend a lot of time writing about myself because I know we'll have many opportunities to talk soon. Briefly, I just recently moved here from Seattle to support my partner, who accepted a director position with Independence Air, a new airline in Dulles, Virginia. With that big change, I decided to make another one, and that was to teach kindergarten, a very new step for me on a 13-year journey in education.

I have huge passions for learning, reading, and supporting kids in being the best they can be. I look at all children differently, understanding that each one has unique needs, attitudes and behaviors. I will work hard supporting your child at being successful as a reader, writer, problem solver, artist and most of all a respectful citizen, who **LOVES** school!

I have worked with many talented educators who I continue to call on for support. This past week I welcomed two colleagues, my past principal and a teaching partner of seven years to Virginia, who flew out from Seattle to begin working with me to create a learning environment that will welcome your child as a place to explore and have fun! I think the classroom is looking great!

I graduated from the University of Central Florida with a BA in Elementary Education and a Masters in Technology Education from City University in Seattle. I have a Reading Specialist endorsement and I strive on attending at least one national conference a year that focuses on reading and technology.

Having a relationship with you will ultimately increase my success. I hope to be able to communicate with you on a regular basis: celebrating all the achievements in our classroom, brainstorming an idea, or asking for support. Please read the attached sheet. The most important is my request for your email address. Thanks in advance for those who can help out in any way.

What a great year we are going to have. The fact that I will be (child's name) first teacher makes me one very lucky person! Hope to see you on Thursday.

Warmly,

Jeffrey Riley  
Kindergarten Teacher