

Mrs. Michelle Barone
Third Grade Teacher



My name is Mrs. (Michelle) Barone, and I am honored that God chose me to teach your son or daughter for the 2010-2011 school year. God is so good! I have six children, five boys and one princess. The picture above is of my two youngest ones and me. My children's age ranges are from twenty-four to six. My husband and I are happily married and attend Open Door Baptist Church, where we live in Chili. Here is a little history about me.

I grew up in the teeny-tiny town of Columbia Falls, Montana, and came to Rochester, New York after graduating high school in 1985. I asked Christ into my heart in August of that year when I was 17 years old. I considered Law and Fashion Design and/or Merchandising while in high school, then Architecture later. However, God had other plans for me.

I had been teaching Sunday school at my church for about 6 months when my pastor told me that I should think about going into teaching as a career. After observing me several times, he thought I had a gift to teach.

After a series of events unfolded, it was clear to me that my pastor was right, and God gave me the desire in my heart to pursue this purpose. I graduated from Robert's Wesleyan College first with a B.A. in Elementary Education (K-6), then with my Master's degree in Special Education (K-12). Each was prayed about and led by God's direction. With this way of living, I know I am always walking in God's will. It's how I live every aspect of my life.

My first year teaching was 3rd grade at Northstar Christian Academy. It was an incredible year, and one that will forever be etched into my memories. My students were gifted in many areas, and some also in need of extra support. Because I teach to the individual, I found ways to challenge those in their area of talent, and at the same time differentiate the curriculum for those in need, while still keeping them at par with the rest of the class. I made many friends there (parents, grandparents, staff), and many students also keep in contact with me even today, whether for advice or to just say hello. I am privileged and honored to continue to serve God in this way. I am also humbled that God has given me the place to continue teaching these precious children as they grow even though I am no longer in front of their classroom.

After NCA, God called my husband and I to Las Vegas for two years. I taught Special Education in an inclusive setting the first year (students with MR and Autism grades 2-5), and 6th grade Reading the second year. I learned a lot the first year about collaboration and working as a team for the good of the student, although I believe this came naturally; I was just able to put it into practice. I modified curriculum again, and also learned about behavior management and rewarding for little accomplishments. The second year I had a high ELL (English Lang. Learner) student population. I was able to again modify the curriculum to meet the needs of the individual children. I taught them our English language basics, and had a classroom ambassador translate what I was saying. It was a great year. It was God's Holy Spirit that led us there, led us to transition while we were there, and then led us back home again two years later.

This godly way of living is so fantastic and rewarding that God has also led me to write about our family's experiences in the form of an autobiography. It is not finished yet, but hopefully will be shortly. It is my testimony of how God works in and through our lives. It is all the beauty of life as a Christian with all the trials and tribulations that refine us for our good and God's glory.

After God called us back home to New York, He gave me a job teaching through BOCES. I traveled between three schools in Fairport the first year, and for the second He called me back to BOCES to teach at McQuaid Jesuit, Allendale-Columbia, and Destiny Christian (grades 5-11). Each year He has given me more knowledge, as well as the ability to touch lives, help people, and stand for His righteousness. It is an amazing adventure walking the narrow path, and running the good race God has given me. Now, this next year, God wants me at Destiny for you and your child.

I pray that as the school year gets under way that we can work together to "Equip the Saints" (Eph. 4:11-12), so that our precious children can learn and blossom into who God wants them to be.

I have an open invitation to my classroom. You are welcome at any time and for as long as you would like. You can stay for a few minutes just to give your child a hug, or you can stay all day and follow us through our subjects being learned.

Third grade is a transitional year in many areas. The biggest are: reading to learn, rather than learning to read as in K-2. Some students still need support on into the school year in this area. God has given us all different abilities and strengths, and with my background and knowledge, your child will become a better reader day by day.

Another big transition is learning cursive. Because I am a writer at heart, we will work at cursive within the context of our writing as well as in our workbooks.

I do believe in homework. It reinforces what we learn in the classroom, and allows your child to practice in a different setting. This is important for carry over and application which helps the information transfer to long-term memory. It also allows them to show you what we are doing daily and from week to week. Please allow a quiet study place for daily homework with all tools ready to go. Please assist your child only when needed. Let them work through what they learned, but always be there in view. I RARELY give homework on a Friday. I believe families need time together to play and relax. Every once in a while there might be a project needing to be finished at home on a weekend, but it will not be weekly.

I am open to parent feedback; I'm a big communicator. We are partners in God's calling, and together we will make this a wonderfully positive year for these sweet babies God has given to us for His season. They will learn as the focus, and we will learn too as God guides us in His mercy, grace, and love.

Let's pray for and support each other in our quests for the Holy Kingdom. It is going to be a GREAT year, and I can hardly wait to meet all of you!

Your sister in Christ,
Michelle Barone

Praise the Lord!