

Samantha Goetz

Learning Support Teacher

Special Education

Stephen Girard School

Grades 3 and 4

School Phone: 215-400-8180

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August 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! My name is Samantha Goetz and I am a special education teacher at Girard. I work with students in 3rd and 4th grade who receive specially designed instruction in reading, math, and/or behavior through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Your child will work with me for part of each day in a small group setting for reading and/or math, according to their IEP. Attendance is very important to me, because I want to ensure that your child gets their special education services each and every day.

I have been teaching for over eight years, in both regular education and special education settings, and I began working here at Girard in March of 2023. I am originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and I have been living here in Philadelphia with my husband for over two years. I have also lived and worked in Louisville, Kentucky. I have a cat named Daphne but I love dogs as well! I like to read, garden, hike, camp, bake, and cook.

You can expect regular communication from me by phone call, text, note home, or email, whatever you prefer. You will also be invited to participate in your child's IEP meeting during the school year, and you will be given any relevant information regarding the re-evaluation process if your child is due this year. I value open lines of communication and your input because you are truly the expert on your child! I look forward to your feedback throughout the school year. Additionally, if you have questions about your child's progress on their IEP goals or questions about the IEP or re-evaluation process, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can reach me using the Google Voice phone number listed to the left, as well as my email. If I am unable to answer my Google Voice number, please leave a message or send me a text with a good time for me to return the call.

I will be sending a homework packet home each Monday that will be due Friday. Homework participation is important and contributes to your child's participation grade. Please look over the packet with your child on Monday night. There will be detailed directions on the front page of the packet for each worksheet, so always check there first if you or your child have questions. If your student still has questions after reading the front page, make sure they bring the packet to school and ask me any questions before Friday.

I am looking forward to working with your child this school year and seeing them learn and grow!

Sincerely,

Samantha Goetz

