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Teacher  
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Leah grew up in East Aurora. After graduating high school, she began studying education at John Carroll University. In May 2016, Leah graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Middle Childhood Education and specialties in mathematics and science. She received the Rev. Joseph O.Schell Ignation Award for Excellence in Education and Magna Cum Laude distinction.

While studying at JCU, Leah did field work in public, private, and charter classrooms throughout the Cleveland area. During her summer vacations, Leah worked for the BOCES summer school program as a teaching assistant in special needs classrooms.

After her college graduation, Leah traveled to Thailand to teach English. She then worked as a substitute teacher in Ohio. Leah started teaching at Mandala in fall 2018. She has taught students in grades K - 8 in all subject areas.

### Teaching Philosophy

I believe that education should be seen as an opportunity to instill valuable and authentic foundations with which students can explore themselves and their environment. In order for students to view education as a positive experience, that encompasses the world and reality, I believe a learning environment needs to promote student-centered and heuristic learning.

Diversity within the classroom, whether academic, cultural, or experiential, must be encouraged and seen as an opportunity to empower students to think differently. In my opinion, the ideal student feels not only comfortable, but compelled to be an individual and embrace differences among their peers.

Individualized learning offers students the proper pathways for achievement. As a teacher I must offer a wide variety of outlets with which students may demonstrate their knowledge. In acknowledging the interests of the students and encouraging personal development and conquest, I hope to secure a stronger and more rounded education for each student.

Climates in which students are encouraged to explore, investigate, and challenge, reveal endless possibilities for engaging and purposeful lessons. Project-based learning, focused on application of knowledge in realistic settings, offers students the proper skills for success in a vast range of situations. Providing meaningful connections will motivate students and provide significant milestones in their education.