

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This letter is written so that you can know a little bit about your child's social studies teacher. I was born and raised in Fall River, Massachusetts. My father was a printer, as was my grandfather, so my early work experiences as a teenager involved proofing galleys that were about to go to press, working addressographs, and stacking newspapers as they came off the presses.

During my undergraduate years I worked for a family services agency and developed activity groups for children residing in public housing projects. After graduation, I joined the VISTA program and coordinated programs for youth and families who lived in public housing. I continued to take education classes and became certified to teach K-12 in Massachusetts. After working as a house parent in a residential home for adolescent girls, and then as a counselor with young people who had become involved with the juvenile court system, I moved to Ann Arbor to pursue a masters in social work at the University of Michigan. I worked for Monroe County Intermediate School District as a school social worker, and then at Mott Children's Hospital as a medical social worker. I was next employed at the Lakewood Day Treatment Center as a school social worker, until the program was moved to the Ypsilanti School District. At that time, I was offered a teaching position at Tappan Middle School. Subsequently, the principals at Slauson offered me the opportunity to teach at my neighborhood middle school, where I have taught language arts and social studies.

Examples of School Related Activities during Summer Break

- Traveled to North Carolina to critique and recommend revisions to a CD ROM (ARG World) that was being developed by the Association of American Geographers to teach world geography to middle school students.
- Selected to be one of two teachers from Michigan to work with GENIP and NASA at Texas A & M University, helping to polish K-12 lessons using NASA satellite remote sensing imagery to teach world geography. Worked with MGA at CMU to develop educational materials related to rivers.
- Returned to fine tune the ARGWorld lessons with the American Association of American Geographers. This CD ROM and print material was published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston.
- Selected as one of twenty teachers chosen from throughout the U.S. to be trained as a teacher consultant for GEOEarthKAM, a program that teaches hands on geography and enables students to request specific photos from the International Space Station which will "beamed" back down to them within hours of when they were taken.
- Traveled to U of M (yes- there is ANOTHER U of M) in Missoula, Montana to learn how to use GPSs, computer mapping programs, census data and aerial photos to create thematic maps of a community. I worked with the state of Michigan Department of Education to draft Social Studies Grade Level Content Expectations and presented teacher workshops for the Michigan Geographic Alliance.
- Population Connection Teacher Consultant Training in Washington, D.C.
- Developed combined geography and history lessons, (funded by National Geographic) with the state geographic alliances from Michigan, Texas, New York and Louisiana.
- Served on AAPS's social studies committee formed to revise middle school social studies curriculum and district common assessments.
- Developed curriculum for AAPS'S 6th grade unit on Islam

I have made numerous presentations at teacher workshops and conferences regarding integrating technology and teaching methods that align with Michigan's social studies standards, reviewed NASA educational geographic materials prior to their release, drafted Michigan's K-2 geography benchmarks and a related list of children's trade books. In March 2004, I was honored to be selected as "Outstanding Educator of the Year" by the Michigan Council for the Social Studies. I have been a board member for Michigan Council For the Social Studies, representing six counties. I share a position as Slauson's social studies curriculum leader, work with Slauson's Magic Card Club, and hope to sponsor a Social Studies Olympiad team this year to compete in Michigan Council for the Social Studies Olympiad. My goal, as a social studies teacher, is to ensure that our students will become thoughtful, involved, and informed citizens.

Both of my children attended Slauson. My son just graduated from Michigan Tech, (chemical engineering), and my daughter is in the midst of an anesthesia residency at University of Texas- Dallas. I am committed to being a strong link in the AAPS K-12 chain for your child.

Our school community is at its best when staff, students and parents volunteer their time. Please join our Slauson community in whatever capacities you can.

Sincerely,

Jill McGinn