



Will Carleton Academy

2001 W. Hallett Rd, Hillsdale, MI 49242 • 517-437-2000 • WillCarletonAcademy.com • Tuition-Free K-12

Dear Kindergarten Families,

August, 2018

Greetings! My name is Julie Duncan, and I am happy and excited to be your child's teacher this year at Will Carleton Academy!

I have lived in Hillsdale for about 20 years and have been at our excellent academy since 2001. I previously taught fourth and second grades, and have made my home in kindergarten for the past nine years. My husband, Dave, and I have been married for 30 years. Our two children are grown up and married, and we have four adorable granddaughters.

Like most people, I have a multiplicity of life experiences and a variety of ever-evolving beliefs and interests that spill over into all areas of life. "Everything is connected" is a prevalent buzz-phrase in our culture, but I've found it to be true. I look upon my profession as a sacred trust and a ministry, not to be compartmentalized from other areas of my life, like my faith or personal growth. In other words, it's all sacred.

Having said that, we are going to have fun this year! I have put in many hours this summer to enhance and refine my understanding and application of our kindergarten curriculum, and I'm anticipating a great year of growth for your child (as well as for myself). Using our Core Knowledge Language Arts curriculum, your child will go from drawing squiggles to writing accurate sentences and reading stories. Our Foss science curriculum will find us investigating materials, motion, trees, plants, weather, and an array of animal life. (Please be sure your child has his/her raincoat and boots from day one!) In history we will study Native Americans, Columbus, the Pilgrims, colonial life, and Mount Rushmore. In geography we will "travel" to all seven continents and end up back here in good old Michigan! Of course, let's not forget all the great hands-on math activities!

Interwoven with our regular curriculum, I will also be teaching mindfulness practices, which I have been studying and implementing over the past three years. Mindfulness is more than just another newfangled catchword to me. I've found it to be very valuable in my own life and want to share it with everyone I know, especially my little friends at school. What is mindfulness? Simply put, it is being in the present moment with awareness, building kindness and compassion for oneself and others, and practicing self-regulation. If you are interested in learning more, the text I'll be working from is the *Mind-Up Curriculum (K-2)* by the Hawm Foundation, which dovetails beautifully with our curriculum and Core Virtues program.

I hope to see you at the Open House and Ice Cream Social later this month! Until then, have a terrific summer!

Mrs. Duncan, kindergarten teacher
Will Carleton Academy

Mrs. Duncan

**Will Carleton Academy
Kindergarten Supply List
2018-2019**

- 1 **plain** backpack or book bag – No character bags, please.
- 1 **plain** lunch pail with ice pack – No character lunch pails, please.
- 4 boxes of regular size Crayola® crayons – 24 count
- 4 boxes of large size Crayola® crayons – 8 count (**Please do not send Jumbo-size or poster crayons.** We need the 8 basic colors, size large: red, yellow, blue, green, violet, orange, brown, black. These are for math. Thank you!)
- 1 box colored pencils
- 1 paint shirt (old oversized T-shirt from home)
- 1 pair of **plain**, non-marking shoes for P.E. (no light-up shoes)
- 20 small glue sticks (No large glue sticks, please!)
- 1 pair of scissors
- 4 large boxes of tissues
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer (8 oz.)
- 1 large container of Clorox® wipes (75 count)
- 1 poncho or rain coat & 1 pair of rain boots **that can be left at school** (for outdoor exploration)

Please label the following items with a permanent marker: backpack, lunch pail, paint shirt, rain coat, rain boots and scissors. Please **do not** label the remaining items. Thank you! ☺

If you are able to donate the following items, we can always use them in our classroom. These are not required. Please send in only if you are able: magazines to cut pictures out of and/or a ream of white copy paper. **Thank you!** ☺

Welcome to
Kindergarten!