

August 12, 2008

Hello families,

I hope that all of you had a wonderful summer and are ready for the great school year ahead. I know that I am looking forward to learning new things with everyone. I am very excited to meet all of you!

I am Rachel Cooper and will be working with Mrs. Moss this semester while doing my student teaching internship at USC. I am very excited to be part of CSI this semester and I look forward to learning new things that will help me in my teaching career. I will graduate in December and I plan on teaching at a school in my hometown.

Currently, I live in Sumter, which is an hour away. It can be a tiring drive but it is well worth it. In my spare time I enjoy taking pictures and scrapbooking. Scrapbooking allows me to relive fun memories through pictures and journaling. One of my biggest passions is Spanish. I know the Spanish language fairly well and I eventually plan on returning to school to obtain my masters in Spanish, so that I can teach in this area. My fiancé is from Mexico and he has helped me with learning Spanish. We have a one year old daughter, Isabella, who keeps us very busy. I enjoy teaching my daughter about the world around her by going to new places.

There is nothing like the joy in a child's eyes when they learn something new. I look forward to seeing this joy many times throughout my journey here at CSI as we all learn together. I believe that in order for a child, or anyone to really understand something, it must be made real to them. This is why I think that teaching needs to involve many hands on experiences. I also believe that as an educator, instead of teaching I should observe and listen to the children because they have so much to teach me and I am often unaware of all that they do know.

I am very excited about being able to work with CSI this semester. I have never had an experience with an inquiry based program before so I know that it will be a new experience, one that I am really looking forward to. I am also looking forward to the community involvement that is valued at CSI, and I am eager to see how this is essential to the students learning. I am excited about joining the CSI family and I am looking forward to being involved in the lives of our young ones.

Sincerely,

Ms. Rachel Cooper