

Dear NOVA Community of Learners:

My name is Brooke Bertholét. It is with great honor that I will become one of the new Fourth Grade Homeroom Teachers. Though I am currently concluding work at the Middle School level in mathematics and science in an international school in Saudi Arabia, I have an extensive background in teaching both elementary and upper primary grade students. I have taught Fifth Grade last year in Saudi Arabia, for two years in China, for eight years in Virginia, and for another two years in Spain. It has been a blessing to be able to work with the primary school age students in a variety of contexts and international settings. I will bring all of the gifts of my experience to my new Fourth Grade students at NOVA and I could not be more excited to do so.

I hold an honors Bachelor's degree in English and Comparative Literature from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. In addition, I hold a Masters of Teaching {MAT} from the *Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children* at Montclair State University in New Jersey. My teaching certificate is a permanent one, issued by the State of New Jersey, and covers an endorsement of Grades K through Eight. In recent years, I have developed a real passion for mathematics education and the goal of making mathematics accessible to all primary students. I will certainly bring this passion to my new Fourth Grade Students at NOVA.

My own family is bilingual, bicultural, and international. I met my wife, Alicia, of twenty-four years, while working in Spain. My daughters were both born in Spain. Arantxa, my oldest, studies International Relations at George Mason University and my youngest, Ithiar, is a junior in High School who has a passion for photography. I am equally proud of both. I am sure that many of you have experienced family life that weaves in and out two languages while negotiating whether to have an ethnic or traditional dinner! This kind of experience has enriched my life.

Everyone at NOVA has been ever-so kind to me and I cannot begin to tell you how delighted I am to become a faculty member. I look forward to meeting all of those who comprise my new community and in getting the next academic year off to a fabulous start. In addition, I feel fortunate to be able to have the chance to live and work in Macedonia. Like with all of the other places I have been in the world, and there have been many, I plan to absorb every aspect of its rich culture, language, and heritage. That is what makes being an international educator unique and is a disposition that I can bring to my students as well. I am deeply grateful to all at NOVA for their care and kindness. It has been a real grace for me to be able to join such a marvelous school.

With my warmest of regards,

Brooke Bertholét