



## Welcome to Young Fives!

### Meet your Teacher:

### Miss Tidey

I am a graduate of Aquinas College. I graduated with a Physical Education and Health major and an Early Childhood minor. I went back to Aquinas and received my Master's Degree in Elementary Education. About 3 years after that, I also finished the Educational Leadership program at Grand Valley.

This will be my 16<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. I spent one year in Rochester, NY, and then transferred back to Vista and have taught the last 15 years in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Kindergarten, and now Young Fives. I believe I have found the perfect grade to teach. Being able to provide many of my students' first experience in a full day school setting, while seeing how much progress they make in one year, and how much each child loves to learn is priceless!

I have a wonderful family and much of my free time is spent with them. I have 2 older brothers that have kids that are very active in sports. One brother and his wife are teachers and live in Sparta and the other brother lives in Caledonia and is the Head Baseball Coach at Davenport University. My nieces and nephews range in age from triplet 10 year olds to a 23 year old. We love hanging out together watching my niece and nephews play sports, playing yard games, or playing card or board games on rainy days. They also keep me busy traveling from baseball field to baseball field in the summer as they all play baseball.

## Supply list:

Please *write your name* on these items:

**Complete change of clothes in a gallon size zip-lock bag.**

Art shirt                      Gym shoes                      Backpack (no wheels, please)

**DO NOT** write your name on these items:

2 boxes of Kleenex	1 pack of 10 Crayola markers (labeled Art)
2 rolls of paper towel	2 containers of Clorox wipes
3 boxes of 24 count <b>Crayola</b> crayons	1 plastic or strong 3 prong folder
4 glue sticks	1 box gallon/quart size Ziploc slide bags
1 package plain white cheap paper plates	

Throughout the year, you will also have the opportunity to donate supplies for special celebrations, snacks, or crafts. Please check the newsletter for those opportunities.

## Young Fives “Highlights”

Young Fives is the best! We will be exploring many different themes this year using hands-on manipulatives, real life experiences, and learning how to make things all while incorporating rich literature into our everyday lives. For the letter Aa, we will explore all things apples. We will paint with apples, make homemade applesauce in the class (each student will peel and core their apple), taste different apples and graph our favorites, and read many books about apples. Students will master their letters, sounds, numbers to 20, and begin to read. One of the best parts of our day is when we split up into groups and truly differentiate our small group time in order to meet everyone's needs.

## Exciting Opportunities

With school of choice, parents have an opportunity to choose a school for their child. With that in mind, parents have to look at many different aspects of a school and decide which would be the best fit for their child and allow their child to develop academically.

Vista Academy has the best of both of these: a perfect fit for any child, and exceptional academics. Vista teachers greet students at their doors with a warm welcome and handshake making students feel appreciated and cared for as soon as they enter the classroom. With that mindset, students feel more comfortable to express themselves, and try their best in class.

Students also participate in activities where they get to know each other, respect differences, and learn from each other's strengths.

## A Standard of Excellence

The Young Fives/Kindergarten team is very focused on making sure your child meets all of their educational objectives. We take pride in giving every student the best educational experience and we do this by teaching the students at their own individual level. We work closely with one another to plan strategies and resources that will best meet the state objectives as well as the needs of our students.

*Vista Academy*  
*A Tuition-Free, Public School*  
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