

August 3, 2020

Dear Middle School Parents and Guardians,

Please take a moment to read this letter from Mr. Tim Matlak:

Dear Students and Parents of ASA,

After an enormous amount of prayer, conversation, and personal reflection, I've decided to step away from teaching. It was certainly not an issue that I came to lightly, but I know that it's what is best for myself and my family.

When I started teaching thirteen years ago, I knew I had picked the right profession. Teaching is difficult but highly rewarding job. What made it more rewarding was the chance to help ASA, a brand-new school, get on its feet twelve years ago. It was an opportunity that few teachers get, and I was thrilled to be a part of the school and community as it grew and matured through these years.

To the parents, I thank you for years of support. Whether it was talking with you at parent-teacher conferences, Eaglefest, or just catching up at the grocery store, I always appreciated the kind words you sent my way or even just letting me know how your kid – a former student of mine – was doing in high school or beyond. This teaching experience has allowed me to form connections with you that will keep us all connected to ASA for years to come.

To the students, you're the reason I love teaching. Your unique personalities made every year, every class, every lesson different. You would sometimes ask me if I ever got bored teaching the same things year after year. It never got old because each class brought its own unique take on every activity, debate, and current events discussion. But school with you was more than just the typical schoolwork. I had a blast playing board games, being informed about recent Tik Tok dances (which I still don't get but appreciated your attempt at teaching them to me nonetheless), arguing over sports, or just talking about the most oddball things. It made me laugh, think, and shake my head. You, the students, are what I'll miss the most.

I don't know what the future holds for me, but I can say that my last thirteen years of teaching have been memorable and so meaningful. I'll always be part of the ASA community.

Love you all,

Tim Matlak

Miss Abby Giroux
Assistant Principal
616-363-7725, ext. 1105
agiroux@asagr.org

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