



Laressa Colasanti

1375 Round Lake Lane ~ Leonard, Michigan 48367~ (248) 860-0970~ LColasanti@gmail.com

Online Teaching Portfolio: www.laressacolasanti.weebly.com

OBJECTIVE

Securing an elementary level teaching position compatible with my strengths: compassion, organization, creativity, and enthusiasm.

CERTIFICATION

Michigan: Grades 1-8 (emphasis on Elementary and Middle School Language Arts)

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Teaching (December 2010)

Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan

GPA: 3.5 on a 4.0 scale

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2011 **Long Term Guest Teacher (1st Grade)-Cooley Elementary, Waterford, Michigan**
Stepped into a classroom where the teacher had a sudden family medical leave. The class was in desperate need of structure, order, and modeling of how to be caring and kind towards one another. Created a well-organized, warm and caring environment in just a few days with the help of concepts from Dr. Becky Bailey's Conscious Discipline. Created and used a student and parent survey to better understand how I could best support the students' needs. The surveys along with concepts of PLC, created classroom groupings and planned for instruction.
- Spring 2011 **Long Term Guest Teacher (1st / 2nd Grade)- Haviland Elementary, Waterford, Michigan**
Had a positive experience stepping into a classroom where the teacher had a sudden medical leave and is teamed taught with another professional educator. Had experience with adjusting classroom material based on the learning level of the students. The classroom was made up of 54 1st and 2nd graders.
- Winter 2010 **Long Term Guest Teacher (3rd Grade)-Haviland Elementary, Waterford, Michigan**
Had a positive experience stepping into a classroom where the teacher had a sudden medical leave. Established great relationships with the students and parents by creating a survey for each. Used the surveys, concepts of PLC, strategy groups, and pre-assessments to drive instruction. Created a classroom website to communicate with the students and their parents.
- Fall 2010 **Student Teacher (3rd Grade) - Donelson Hills Elementary, Waterford, Michigan**
Had a lot of positive experience with PLC and its help in driving instruction by answering the two significant questions of PLC of "Learn what?" and "How will we know?" Had a lot of experience with reading and writing workshop. Did several DRAs. Prepared and implemented lesson plans for children at different learning levels, including ELL and ASD students. Utilized a variety of instructional methods, including the SMART Board, PowerPoint presentations, games, discussion, discovery, and workshops. Created PowerPoint presentations for all Unit 1 lessons in Social Studies, which in turn was requested by many of the 3rd grade teachers in the Waterford Community School District. Prepared and implemented a math workshop based on the knowledge I got from working with reading and writing workshop. Assessed student learning using both formative and summative assessment and modified lessons accordingly to create a more meaningful and authentic learning experience. Actively participated in school events, including Open House, Family Game Night, Professional Development Days, faculty meetings, Professional Learning Community, and grade level meetings. Worked closely with the school's interventionist, special education teachers, classroom assistants, and school social worker to provide resources meeting the varying needs of a diverse student population. Arranged a classroom field trip for all of the school's 3rd graders and helped coordinate and conduct parent-teacher conferences. Filled out report cards for each student and wrote the narrative comments. Created the weekly homework sheets, prepared bulletin boards and commented on students' reading blogs.

Laressa Colasanti
LColasanti@gmail.com

Fall 2009 **Student Teacher (Kindergarten) – North Hill Elementary, Rochester, Michigan**
Had a lot of experience with MLPPs and DRAs. Prepared and implemented lesson plans for children of varying learning levels. Utilized a variety of instructional methods, including games, discussion, discovery, and learning centers. Created a science learning center on balance and motion, which was incorporated throughout the Rochester Community School District. Assessed student learning using both formative and summative assessment and modified lessons accordingly to create a more meaningful and authentic learning experience. Attended various Oakland Schools seminars to better educate myself on new developments in child education. Actively participated in school events such as Open House, Professional Development Days, faculty meetings, and grade level meetings. Helped coordinate classroom parties, parent teacher conferences, and parent volunteer schedules. Created the kindergarten homework and newsletter each week. Updated the classroom website weekly and prepared bulletin boards. Assisted in parent-teacher conferences.

Fall 2005-Fall 2009 **Manager of Daycare Center - Rochester Athletic Club, Rochester, Michigan**
Responsible for over 100 children, ranging from 3 months to 13 years, and 11 daycare employees. Dealt with both child and employee disciplinary actions. Promoted a safe and fun atmosphere.

TEACHING KNOWLEDGE

Experience with Reading, Writing, and Math Workshop
Experience with PLC (Professional Learning Communities)
Experience DRAs
Experience with RTI
Experience with ASD Students
Experience with ELL Students
Certified in MLPP
Certified in Conscious Discipline
Certified in ZooPhonics

VOLUNTEER WORK

Fall 2010-Present **Volunteer-God's Helping Hands, Rochester, Michigan**
Helped prepare package meals. Organized clothes and household goods. Interacted with clients of all ethnic backgrounds.

Summer 2010 **Vacation Bible School Instructor - St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Rochester, Michigan**
Developed the script and scenery for the week's bible stories and instructed a group of 20 children, ranging from preschool to fifth grade.

Spring 2010 **Volunteer Teacher's Aid (4th Grade) - McGregor Elementary, Rochester, Michigan**
Assisted three 4th grade teachers by providing small groups of students with extra help in reading, writing, and math. Also worked in the school's resource room with small groups of students, ranging from kindergarten to 4th grade, with reading, writing, math, and science.

Spring 2010 **MYLead Group Facilitator - Three-Day Conference at Michigan State University**
Group facilitator in charge of 12 Michigan high school sophomores and responsible for overseeing an assortment of student leadership activities, including Habitat for Humanity.

Falls of 2006-2009 **Red Cross Blood Drive**
Oversaw the complete operation of a volunteer blood drive in Rochester, Michigan.

Summer 2007 **School Supply Drive – Rochester, Michigan**
Organized anonymous group of volunteers to provide neighborhood elementary schools with school supplies and clothing needed for the school year.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Summer 2010-Present **PowerPoint Presentation Designer**
Shear Pointe Hair Restoration Center, Birmingham, Michigan

Spring 2004-Fall 2005 **Front Desk Employee**
Rochester Athletic Club, Rochester, Michigan

Laressa Colasanti
LColasanti@gmail.com

Spring 2004-Fall 2005 **Receptionist**
Harris Russo Salon & Spa, Rochester, Michigan

**AWARDS &
MEMBERSHIPS**

Fall 2010 -Present: Member of PCMI (Professional Contract Management Inc.)
Spring 2010-Present: Member of MYLead (Michigan Youth Leadership)
Summer 2009-Present: Member of MEA (Michigan Education Association)
Fall 2009: Talking, Drawing, Writing Certification
Fall 2009: Conscious Discipline Certification
Fall 2009: ZooPhonics Certification
Fall 2008: Project WILD Educator Certification
Fall 2007: Member of SMEA (Student Michigan Education Association)
Fall 2000-2004: Excellence in Serving the Community

**TECHNOLOGY
SKILLS**

Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Spreadsheet, Inspiration, Kidspiration, Print Shop, WebQuests, Weebly, SMART Board, and other child based programs.

PHILOSOPHY

The type of teacher a child has is what makes or breaks a child. If you give a child the thirst for learning they will continue seeking knowledge wherever their path may lead them throughout their lives. Education opens the eyes of a child so that they can view the world around them. Designing an atmosphere that allows a child to feel comfortable and to not be afraid to take risks allowing them to build inner strength, motivation, and the desire to achieve as well as excel that will be embedded in them for a lifetime.

REFERENCES

Mr. Rod Cotter, Oakland University Supervisor: (Home) 248-693-1952 or (Cell) 248-701-5579
Ms. Nancy Foley-Barber, 3rd Grade PLC Team Member at Donelson Hills Elementary in Waterford, Michigan: 248-682-9530
Mrs. Karen Gomez, Principal at Donelson Hills Elementary in Waterford, Michigan: 248-682-9530
Mrs. Jenifer Janczarek, 3rd Grade Cooperating Teacher at Donelson Hills Elementary in Waterford, Michigan: 248-762-3788
Ms. Angela Novotny, Principal at Haviland Elementary in Waterford, Michigan: 248-682-2620
Officer Andy Tarajos, Parent of 3rd Grade Student at Haviland Elementary in Waterford, Michigan: (Work) 248-674-0351 or (Cell) 248-894-2392
Mrs. Sue Walton, Principal at Cooley Elementary in Waterford, Michigan: 248-673-0300