



Dear Parents and Kindergarten Students,

My name is Shalei Harwood. I am thrilled to be here at Arches Academy. We are going to have an exciting year of growth, discovery, and friendship.

I grew up in a small town called Parowan in southern Utah, which I loved! I have 4 siblings, 4 nieces, and 3 nephews. I enjoy hiking, volleyball, singing, spending time with my family (especially my nieces and nephews), reading, and teaching.

I look forward to learning with you and bringing my experience here to Arches Academy. While attending Southern Utah University, I studied elementary education and early childhood education. I have had opportunities to work with children with special needs, to teach students of varying grades, and to learn from many wonderful teachers.

I am passionate about teaching and was so grateful to find Arches Academy, as I'm sure you parents were! My philosophy of education is that the purpose of education is to help students not only become contributing citizens in a society, but to develop a lifelong love for learning, to become well-rounded, and to become the best they can be. The role of a teacher is to be a guide, to encourage, and to believe in students. A teacher is to inspire students: to inspire compassion, curiosity, creativity, persistence, passion. A teacher is to understand how learning takes place for each individual and to create an environment in which that is possible. In order to be effective, a teacher is loving, patient, persistent, kind, firm, and organized. An effective teacher has high expectations and great love for each student. Though each student learns in a unique way and individual pace, every student has the capacity to learn.

You know a little bit about me and I can not wait to get to know each of you! I am confident that we will have a fantastic year together!

Please email me if you have any questions: [shalei.harwood@archesacademy.com](mailto:shalei.harwood@archesacademy.com)

Sincerely,  
Shalei Harwood