

Dear Members of the School Board,

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from my position at Evergreen Elementary, effective June 30, 2026.

This decision has not come easily. My time at Evergreen has been incredibly meaningful to me, both personally and professionally. While I initially returned to be closer to family, I have recently made the decision to relocate to Missouri, where I have accepted a new professional opportunity and will be beginning the next chapter of my life.

Evergreen holds a truly special place in my heart. I have been connected to this school for as long as I can remember—starting as a baby in 2001 visiting the kindergarten wing in a stroller, to becoming a student here in 2006, and now, in 2026, having the privilege of serving as a teacher. To come full circle in this way has been an experience I will always cherish. Being able to work alongside my mom and former teachers who helped shape me is something I will never take for granted.

I am deeply grateful for the leadership and support of Sarah Smith and Allison Agres. Evergreen is truly in great hands with both of them, and I cannot imagine anyone better suited to lead this school. I have shared privately with Mrs. Smith on numerous occasions that this is the first year I have truly felt able to enjoy being a teacher, and that is a direct reflection of the leadership of both Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Agres. They consistently put students first, which is what it should always be about.

I am also so thankful for my incredible teammates—Mercedes Draftz, Taylor Schweizer, and Angelica Steinke. The amount of work they do behind the scenes, often without recognition, is truly remarkable. They are gifted educators who advocate for their students as if they were their own.

As a product of this district, I can say firsthand that the reason students continue to feel such a strong and lasting connection to Evergreen—even years later—is because of the people within it. The staff is what makes this place exceptional. As the district continues to implement ambitious goals and initiatives, I hope there continues to be a strong emphasis on providing schools with the support systems needed to make those goals sustainable. Ensuring that teachers and students are supported by a well-resourced team—including interventionists, social workers, and specialized educators—is essential to achieving the high standards the district has set. When educators are supported, students thrive, and the entire community benefits.

I would also like to acknowledge our teacher aides, whose contributions are invaluable. They consistently go above and beyond what is expected of them, and our classrooms could not function without their support. I hope their dedication continues to be recognized and prioritized in future decisions.

I have always believed in leaving a place better than I found it, and I feel honored to have contributed to Evergreen in that spirit. Being part of the Strategic Planning Committee and MTSS committee has been especially meaningful, and I am proud of the thoughtful work being done to shape the future of this school. I hope that the decisions being made continue to prioritize the well-being of both staff and students.

While I am excited for what lies ahead, I leave Evergreen with an incredibly heavy heart. This school has given me so much, and I can only hope that our paths may cross again in the future. For now, I am deeply grateful for the time, relationships, and growth I have experienced here.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Caroline Orr