

My name is Grace Hoppe and I am currently a sophomore at Illinois State University. I am majoring in middle level education with endorsements in math and ELA (English language arts). I grew up in District 186 schools in Springfield, Illinois. After I graduate from Illinois State, I plan on returning to District 186 so that I can give back to the school district that provided me with so many opportunities as a student and as a person.

I have wanted to be a teacher since first grade. I had a teacher that took extra time to work with me, on a one-on-one basis, to help me become a more fluent reader with better comprehension skills (which I was sorely lacking when I started her class). It was an experience that I carry with me throughout my education because I will never forget the kindness, love, and compassion that my teacher showed me. I hold that experience with me because I want to make my future students feel that same way. I want all of my students to feel loved every time they enter my classroom.

At the middle school age, many give students the responsibility of elementary school students but expect them to act like high school students. This can lead to students feeling like they lack support or that their teacher does not understand them. I want my students to feel supported in my classroom and that they can do anything that they set their mind to. Students in middle school are trying to figure out who they are, and if they are in an environment that fosters growth, they will grow with the mindset that they can do anything. The students in my classroom are going to be the future doctors, lawmakers, police, and even teachers. By having a classroom that encourages students to figure out who they are and what they value, I can foster the idea within my students that they can do anything that they set their mind to.

I am passionate about education and making a difference in the lives of my students. I am so excited to get into my first classroom and meet my students and get to know them. I want to be an active presence in their lives and provide them with another support system that can help them to reach their goals.