Dear Holy Trinity Families,

Thank you for this chance to introduce myself. You might already know me as the mom of Simon (5th grade), Stanley (1st grade), and Eliza (preK). In addition, I am thrilled to be accepting the position of Modern Language teacher for 5th-8th graders, starting Feb 5.

I taught at Jesuit High School for 6 years (French and English) before moving to China in 2008, where we lived for 8.5 years, and where I learned Mandarin. Our family came back to Portland in 2016, and we have loved being a part of the Holy Trinity community. I am honored to have the opportunity to work with your children in the classroom.

As you know, Mrs. Sheridan has made the exciting decision to change our language curriculum, and 5th-8th graders will be working with Rosetta Stone Foundations. This program is new to me, and I have spent the last couple weeks familiarizing myself with it, both in Chinese and French. I am really impressed with how it works, and the preliminary feedback from families who have tried it out is also promising. I feel confident that this new approach will give our students an engaging and effective experience of learning another language.

For Monday, Feb 5, all 5th-8th graders will need their own headset with a microphone. Rosetta Stone strongly suggests a USB-connected headset. I have tried a couple different options, and I recommend the Mpow 071, available on Amazon for 22.99 (or 2 for 40.99). Please talk to Mrs. Sheridan if this requirement is a financial burden for your family.

We are in for an adventure! I look forward to being on this journey with all of you.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [lthiebes@htsch.org](mailto:lthiebes@htsch.org).

Cheers,

Laura Thiebes