

Hola! I am an Ironwood native and 1997 graduate of Luther L. Wright. Upon graduation, I studied Spanish in Antigua, Guatemala. I attended Gogebic Community College for one year and transferred to the University of Minnesota Duluth, graduating with a BAA in Spanish K-12 teaching and a minor in Communications in the winter of 2001. After spending a semester as a substitute teacher, I was fortunate to be hired by my alma mater in the fall of 2002. During my early years of teaching, I earned a Master's degree in Learning Disabilities from Northern Michigan University. I have always been a one-person department, but have made connections with many world language teachers around the world. For the past few years, I have been gradually changing the way I teach Spanish and how students are able to engage and use the language in real-life situations. It is amazing to see the interest and excitement students have inside and outside of class. I truly love what I do and enjoy being able to share my love of the Spanish language and culture with others. This year I am teaching 5th and 6th grade Spanish, 8th grade Exploratory Spanish, Spanish 1, Spanish 2, and a combination of Advanced Spanish 2, 3, and 4.

Family is extremely important to me and I am fortunate to have my parents and brother living in Ironwood. One of the best days of my life was July 26, 2014 when I married my best friend, Thomas Mott. I am thankful I am able to experience life with my Tommy by my side. I am also fortunate to work with him, as he teaches third grade. We have two furbabies, Stoshie (a miniature Schnauzer) and LaDainian (a long-haired gray cat). We enjoy taking Stosh to his favorite place, Norrie Park, every chance we get. He also loves Ranger rides. LaDainian loves when we play catch with him. I love traveling; both in the states and abroad. I enjoy watching Netflix in Spanish and my favorite channel is Discovery ID.

Engaging with students and getting to know them is extremely important to me. I also want to personalize myself with students and foster a safe environment where students feel comfortable asking questions and making mistakes, without embarrassment. In order to learn the language, students must speak the language. Mistakes will be made and that is ok. We all learn from them. "One language

sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.”  
Frank Smith