



Patrick Fisher
PRINCIPAL

September 26, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

One of the greatest priorities for your child's education is having well-prepared and highly qualified teachers. The School District of Clayton is dedicated to hiring and developing a strong teaching staff in order to meet the individual needs of our students. We are proud of the quality and caliber of the faculty at Meramec, which is a Title I school. Title I is a federal program providing funds to school districts and schools with high percentages of children who are considered disadvantaged. Its overall purpose is to ensure all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and assessments.

Under the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act*, schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. We are happy to share this information with you at your request. The law requires that all teachers within a Title I school must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach. The law states the teacher must have the following to be considered "highly qualified":

1. Has obtained full State certification as a teacher or passed the State teacher licensing examination and holds a license to teach in the State, and does not have certification or licensure requirements waived on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis;
2. Holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree; and
3. Has demonstrated subject-matter competency in each of the academic subjects in which the teacher teaches.

All of our teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. Every teacher participates in professional learning to enhance his or her pedagogy and content knowledge. Each teacher is also evaluated every year to make sure his or her teaching skills remain at the highest possible quality.

A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach (our curricula), how to teach (pedagogy), and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. Not only are the teachers "highly qualified" according to the standards of the NCLB, they are extremely dedicated to the students of Meramec Elementary. Thank you for your trust, support, and partnership in educating your children. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Patrick Fisher
Principal