Celebrating 20 Years of Heather Phillips at Epiphany Preschool!



For 20 years, Heather Phillips has been helping some of Epiphany's youngest learners grow, discover, and experience the joy of learning. As Director of Epiphany Lutheran Preschool, Heather has welcomed hundreds of children and families through our doors, creating a place where children feel loved, supported, and excited to learn. This year, we are delighted to celebrate her 20th anniversary and the incredible impact she has made on our community.

Heather's journey at Epiphany began with a little help from her parents. While visiting Epiphany for worship, they noticed an announcement in the bulletin advertising an opening for a preschool director. They encouraged Heather to apply, and the rest is history! At the time, her daughter Grace was just a year and a half old, and the part-time schedule was a perfect fit for their family. A year later, Heather started the preschool's toddler program, allowing Grace to attend alongside her. Her son, Sam, would eventually follow.

Over the past two decades, plenty has changed at Epiphany Preschool, but Heather is quick to point out that the things that matter most have remained the same: small class sizes, a faith-based foundation, and a commitment to helping every child feel valued and loved.

When asked what she's most proud of, Heather talks about the positive environment they've created for teachers and students alike. "I like to have fun and I want my teachers and students to feel and see that preschool is fun!" she says. "There is a lot of time in the children's futures for seriousness and work, so making preschool a fun, playful and loving environment is important."

That joy is something her fellow teachers recognize and appreciate. As one preschool teacher shared, "Heather is such a joyful person and a pleasure to work with. It’s inspiring to see her passion for her job and also her love for children. I’ve been very blessed to work with her!"

And after 20 years, Heather's enthusiasm hasn't faded. "I genuinely love my job!" she says. The children's smiling faces, their funny comments, and the relationships she builds with families continue to make each day rewarding. Another teacher shared, "I think the thing about Heather is that after all of these years she still has the same passion for her job as she did the first day. She still loves to play the guitar and sing with the children. She still loves to dress up for Halloween and lead the parade. She loves to interact with the children and that is what makes her a great leader."

Of course, there's more to Heather than her work at the preschool! She and her husband, Ben, have been married for 23 years and have two children. Grace is a senior at the University of Cincinnati, and Sam is a senior at Springboro High School. With both children graduating this spring, the Phillips family has an exciting year ahead. Their household also includes two dogs, Bob and Luna.

Outside of work, Heather loves cooking, playing guitar, and tending to what she describes as a "serious houseplant addiction." Her favorite place on Earth is her family's longtime lake house in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. And here's a fun fact you might not know: Heather eats celery and ranch dressing for lunch every single day!

Looking ahead, Heather's vision for Epiphany Preschool remains wonderfully simple. "My goal was never to be the biggest preschool but the best we could be," she explains. Her hope is to continue providing a loving, positive place where children and families in our community feel supported and cared for.

Thank you, Heather, for 20 wonderful years of love, laughter, leadership, and dedication! We are grateful for the many ways you have helped Epiphany live out Christ's love in our community, and we look forward to all the lives you will continue to touch in the years ahead.