



MEET



Title I Reading Teacher
at Dover Intermediate School

Samantha Lahoud

Why did you choose to work with Westlake City Schools?

I live in North Olmsted, which is very close to Westlake. I have always been familiar with the district and have known many people who went to school here and speak very highly of it. When I walked into the building, I knew right away I belonged here. I love the atmosphere and how family oriented the district is, as well as the diversity of the students.

What are you most looking forward to in working with Westlake City Schools?

I am most looking forward to making great relationships with the staff, students, and families. I already live close, but I want to be a part of the community as much as I can.

Tell us a little bit about yourself: Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school? What were your favorite subjects growing up? Did you play sports or do activities? Did you have a favorite pet?

I grew up in North Olmsted and went to school there my whole life. I graduated college from Cleveland State University and got licensed to teach Math and English Language Arts, grades 4-9. Those were my favorite subjects and I LOVE to read! It is my favorite activity and I will always encourage my students to pick up a book. I am also a sports fanatic. The Cleveland Browns have my heart, but I also love to watch soccer, basketball, and baseball.

What are some of the ways you'll push Westlake students to be good citizens?

I strongly believe in teaching students to be good citizens not only in the school, but outside the classroom as well. I will emphasize the importance of being respectful and kind to everyone, including those they encounter in the community. I will also highlight the different cultures and backgrounds in the district because Westlake is very diverse. This will give students respect for one another and

comfortable with each other.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? (Hobbies, sports, favorite teams, games, etc.)

As I mentioned before, I enjoy reading and do that the most during my free time. I do have a kindle to make it convenient, but nothing will feel as good as a hard copy book! During the fall, my main focus is football and hopefully watching the Browns win. You can also catch me at any game nights, especially if it's UNO. I have also tutored ELL students when I had time, which enhanced my love for teaching.

If you could have any meal right now, what would be included?

If I could have any meal right now, it would definitely include potatoes made in any way. I love french fries, mashed potatoes, tater tots, etc. It is a must in my meals.

If you could visit any place on the planet, where would you like to go? What would you like to do there?

If I could visit any place on the planet, it would be a tie between Syria and Greece. Syria because that is where my parents came from and I have been there once and absolutely loved it. I hope I get the opportunity to go again! I would also love to go to Greece because of their amazing food and climate.

If you're comfortable doing so, could you share some info about your life? (ie: marriage, kids, pets, etc.)

I am not married and have no kids, so I find myself keeping busy in other ways. My mind is in teacher mode a lot, so I am constantly looking up different ideas and strategies to use in a classroom. When I am not teaching, I do have another job at a jewelry store and work there on the weekends at times. I am very excited to add this new position to my life!!