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*Every child deserves a champion—an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.*

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- Rita Pierson

This quote, by Rita Pierson, has guided me through my schooling so I can meet my end goal of becoming the best educator that I can be.

Hello everyone, my name is Kristen Laky, and I want to tell you a little bit about myself. I was born in Illinois and that is where I lived until I was 13. Then my family and I moved to Arkansas to be closer to my grandfather. I have three sisters: Jamie, Melody, and Anna. My mom's name is Tammy and my recently deceased dad's name is Bret. My oldest sister, Anna, has 3 kids, Spencer who is 10, Josslyn who is 7, and baby Bret who is almost 2 and was named after our dad. I now live in Ravenden with my own two children Carter who is 5, Lilah who is 2 and their dad, Brandon.

I graduated from Sloan Hendrix High School and that is where Brandon went to school at all of his life, where one of my children currently attend, and where my youngest will attend in the fall. This is also where my sister, Melody, teaches 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and where I sub teach as well.

My children are my life and all of my hopes and dreams revolve around them. They are the reason that I want to be an educator. I want to help shape the lives of as many children that I can. So, what better way can I do that other than by being their teacher.

They say winners are made, not born. But who makes them? The instructors, the trainers, and the teachers—the ones who are there at the beginning, during failures, and after successes. The reason champions don't give up is because their teachers didn't give up on them.

My personal philosophy for education is that all children are unique and that they deserve to have an atmosphere that can adequately promote a positive learning environment. I will enforce a firm set of rules within my classroom to ensure that we maintain our positive learning environment. They will be clear and easy to follow. I am a very organized person and I plan to use this skill to my advantage in my classroom. Diversity will be support throughout our lessons.

I plan to use any technology tools that I can to help me and my students get the most out of our lessons. This can involve educational videos, microphones, E-readers and much more. The options are endless when it comes to ways, we can help our students and it is my job as their teacher to utilize the tools necessary to teach when needs to be taught.

In closing, I would like to share a quote, by Scott Hayden, that I will follow as a teacher:

Personal VPOD  
Kristen Laky

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*Teachers have three loves: love of learning, love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two loves together.*

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–Scott Hayden