

2026-2027 Faculty & Staff "Favorite Things" List

Kindergarten

Mrs. Brummel	
Snacks	Chips/mild salsa/guacamole, veggies and hummus
Beverages	**Un**sweet Iced Tea, Black Coffee from Dunkin' or Moka
Restaurants	Chipotle, Harners, Portillos
Stores	Target, Amazon, Loft
Hobbies & Activities	Walking my dogs, strength training
Colors	Orange
Teams	Bears
Bands & Songs	Country Music and Bon Jovi
Books	Children's books—Tom Fletcher, Pigeon, Pete the Cat
Shirt Size	Large

Ms. Mayer	
Snacks	Popcorn, Tootsie Rolls, Cheeze-its
Beverages	Sweet Tea, Coke
Restaurants	Chick fil-A, Portillos, Chipotle
Stores	Target, Amazon
Hobbies & Activities	Crafts, baking, reading
Colors	Blue, Green
Teams	Blackhawks
Movies & TV Shows	Survivor
Bands & Songs	All Country Music!
Books	Fantasy, Mystery
Shirt Size	M

Ms. Miller	
Snacks	M&Ms, Skinny Pop Popcorn, Hershey w/ Almonds
Beverages	Diet Coke
Restaurants	McDonald's, Portillo's Wendy's
Stores	Walmart, Hobby Lobby
Hobbies & Activities	Crafts, Puzzles, Art
Colors	Blue, Purple, Black
Teams	Chicago Bulls
Movies & TV Shows	Realty TV Junkie, Comedy
Bands & Songs	Taylor Swift, Michael Marcagi, P!NK
Books	Children's Picture Books
Shirt Size	3X-4X

First Grade

Mrs. Knowles	
Snacks	Dorito's, Cheez-Its, Pretzels
Beverages	Diet Coke, Dr. Pepper Zero
Restaurants	Hacienda Real, Potbelly, Chipotle
Stores	Amazon, Target
Hobbies & Activities	Baking, Reading
Colors	Light Pink, Sage, Black/White, Gold
Books	Mystery (for me), Anything Mo Willems (for the kids!)
Shirt Size	S

Mrs. Ryan	
Snacks	Nuts
Beverages	Sparkling Water
Restaurants	Panera
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Gardening, Yoga
Colors	Blue
Teams	U of I Illini
Movies & TV Shows	Comedy
Bands & Songs	So many – hard to say!
Books	Non-fiction
Shirt Size	S

Mrs. Talkington	
Snacks	Fruits, nuts, pretzels, Snickers
Beverages	Starbucks, Bai
Restaurants	Panera, Turf Room
Stores	Marshall's, Amazon
Hobbies & Activities	Walking
Colors	Red, Pink
Teams	Cubs, Bears, Bulls
Movies & TV Shows	Dramas, Netflix
Bands & Songs	Country, Eagles
Books	Romance, Pete the Cat
Shirt Size	L

Second Grade

Ms. Burdett	
Snacks	Chomps, Protein Bars, Chips & Salsa, Goldfish, Pretzels
Beverages	Water, Alani Nu, Poppi
Restaurants	Turf Room, Chipotle
Stores	Sephora, Amazon, Target, DICK'S, Lululemon
Hobbies & Activities	Exercise, Shopping, Long Walks, Reading, Beauty
Colors	Neutrals (black, white, nudes), Brights (pink, blue, purple, coral)
Teams	West Aurora Blackhawks
Movies & TV Shows	True Crime, Reality TV
Bands & Songs	Country, Pop/Hip-Hop
Books	Emperyean Series, Colleen Hoover, Freida McFadden
Shirt Size	L
Other	I enjoy classroom décor, and creating the most bright, comfortable, and safe classroom for my students and myself!

Mrs. Laurx	
Snacks	Salty – Dots Pretzels, Peanut M&Ms
Beverages	Water
Restaurants	Starbuck's
Stores	TJ Maxx, Target
Hobbies & Activities	Reading, Travel
Colors	Blue
Teams	Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears, U of I Illini
Movies & TV Shows	Abbott Elementary
Bands & Songs	Grateful Dead, John Prine
Books	Harry Potter
Shirt Size	XL

Ms. Oxie	
Snacks	Trail Mix, Lesser Than Evil Popcorn
Beverages	Black Coffee, Sparkling Water
Restaurants	Turf Room, Chili's, Chick-fil-A, Portillo's
Stores	Target, Amazon
Hobbies & Activities	Reading, Walking, Boating
Colors	All, loves to wear black
Bands & Songs	Morgan Wallen, Country Music
Books	Flip and/or Feel Books for 2-year olds
Shirt Size	M

Third Grade

Ms. Grometer	
Snacks	Salty, Chocolate
Beverages	Coffee
Restaurants	Chipotle, Portillo's
Stores	Target, Amazon
Hobbies & Activities	Yoga, Gardening
Colors	Green, Black
Teams	Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears, Chicago Bulls
Movies & TV Shows	The Greatest Showman
Books	Historical Fiction
Shirt Size	S

Mr. Van Slyke	
Snacks	Anything Pickle or Honey Mustard Flavored
Beverages	McDonald's Coke
Restaurants	McDonald's, Jersey Mike's
Stores	Goodwill, Woodman's
Hobbies & Activities	Thrifting, Reselling
Colors	Purple, Orange
Teams	Chicago Bears
Bands & Songs	Christian Music
Shirt Size	XL

Mr. Zima	
Snacks	Tic Tacs (mint)
Beverages	Coffee
Restaurants	Local (non-chains)
Stores	Woodman's
Hobbies & Activities	Guitar, Reading
Colors	Red, Black
Bands & Songs	Elvis, Jazz from the 1940's-1950s's
Books	History
Shirt Size	L

Fourth Grade

Mr. Beetham	
Snacks	Reece's Peanut Butter Cups
Beverages	Coffee
Restaurants	Potbelly
Stores	Dick's Sporting Goods
Hobbies & Activities	Golf
Colors	Blue
Teams	Chicago Bulls
Shirt Size	L

Ms. Sterr	
Snacks	Anything Healthy and Gluten Free
Beverages	Zero Sugar Cherry Dr. Pepper or Diet Coke
Restaurants	Chipotle, Jimmy John's
Stores	Amazon, Target
Hobbies & Activities	Walking, Reading
Colors	Blue, Yellow
Teams	Chicago White Sox
Bands & Songs	Bruno Mars
Books	Where the Red Fern Grows
Shirt Size	S

Fifth Grade

Ms. Duncan	
Snacks	Fruit, Very Dark Chocolate, Sugar-Free Gum
Beverages	Coffee, Water
Restaurants	Turf Room, Starbucks
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Running
Colors	Pink, Purple, Baby Blue
Teams	Girls on the Run, Chicago Cubs
Movies & TV Shows	Survivor
Bands & Songs	Foo Fighters, Pink Floyd, P!NK
Books	Fish in a Tree
Shirt Size	L

Ms. Jurkowski	
Snacks	Protein Puffs, Carrots & Hummus
Beverages	**Un**sweetened Tea
Restaurants	Riverside Pizza
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Time with Family
Colors	Pink
Teams	Chicago Blackhawks
Movies & TV Shows	Miracle, Madam Secretary
Bands & Songs	Elvis
Books	Alan Gratz, Save Me a Seat
Shirt Size	L

Ms. Paver	
Snacks	Chips & Dip
Beverages	Tea
Restaurants	Any
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Anything Outside
Colors	Blue
Teams	Chicago Bears
Bands & Songs	Country
Books	Suspense, Mystery
Shirt Size	M

Self-Contained Teachers/Staff

Ms. Hunger—Paraprofessional (2/3 Self-Contained)	
Snacks	Skinny Pop Popcorn
Beverages	Diet Coke, Diet Pepsi, Iced Coffee
Restaurants	Buffalo Wild Wings, Chili's
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Baking
Colors	The Rainbow
Teams	Green Bay Packers, Chicago Cubs
Movies & TV Shows	Comedy
Bands & Songs	Coldplay, Taylor Swift
Shirt Size	M
Other	I love being with my family

Ms. K (Kohlhoff)—Special Education (K/1 Self-Contained)	
Snacks	Chester's Hot Fries
Beverages	Coffee, Peach Tea, Boba Tea
Restaurants	Raising Cane's, Riverside Pizza
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Plants, Crochet, Music
Colors	Purple, Black
Teams	Chicago White Sox
Movies & TV Shows	Napolean Dynamite, Role Models
Books	Biographies, Historical Fiction, Mystery Thriller
Shirt Size	L

Ms. N. Rodriguez—Paraprofessional (4/5 Self-Contained)	
Snacks	Chips Ahoy, Hot Spicy Funyuns, Gushers, Snickers, Popcorn
Beverages	Fruit Punch or Grape Juice, Dr. Pepper, Dunkin' Caramel Iced Latte
Restaurants	Panda Express, McDonald's
Stores	American Eagle, Target, Walmart, TJ Maxx
Hobbies & Activities	Listen to music, go to the gym, spend time with family
Colors	Baby Pink
Teams	Chicago Cubs
Movies & TV Shows	Lion King, Last Song, Notebook, Zootopia
Bands & Songs	SZA, Summer Walker, Justin Bieber
Shirt Size	Women's L or XL

Ms. A. Robertson—Paraprofessional (K/1 Self-Contained)	
Snacks	Gardetto's
Beverages	Diet Coke
Restaurants	Chick-fil-A
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Working Out
Colors	Pink
Teams	Green Bay Packers
Movies & TV Shows	The Real Housewives of Orange County
Bands & Songs	Morgan Wallen, Taylor Swift
Books	Emily Griffin
Shirt Size	M

Ms. L. Ruiz— Paraprofessional (K/1/2 Self-Contained)	
Snacks	Fruits, Cheese Crackers
Beverages	Iced Coffee, Matcha
Restaurants	Chili's
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Go for Nature Walk, Zumba Workouts
Colors	Purple, Pink
Teams	Cubs Baseball
Movies & TV Shows	Nature Shows
Bands & Songs	Love all Kinds of Music
Books	Anything that has positive quotes and better in life
Shirt Size	Large

Mrs. Zhinin—Self-Contained Primary Teacher	
Snacks	Kettle Popcorn, Anything w/ Peanut Butter, Twix, Snickers
Beverages	Coke Zero, Diet Dr. Pepper, Bubly
Restaurants	Currito, Chick fil-A, Chipotle
Stores	Target, Amazon
Hobbies & Activities	Walking, Reading
Colors	Blue
Movies & TV Shows	Golden Girl, Gilmore Girls
Books	Jane Austen, Classics
Shirt Size	M

Special's Teachers

Mr. Aguirre—PE	
Snacks	Twizzlers, Movie Snacks
Beverages	Coffee, Coca-Cola
Restaurants	Domino's, Popeye's, McDonald's
Stores	Target, Walmart
Hobbies & Activities	Sports, Hiking, Outdoors
Colors	Black and Fearn colors
Teams	Blackhawks, Bears
Movies & TV Shows	Lanterns, Star Wars
Bands & Songs	Metallica, Zeppelin, Rolling Stones, Beattles
Books	Nonfiction only
Shirt Size	2XL

Ms. Hardy—PE	
Snacks	Jalapeño Cheetos, Cheetos Puffs
Beverages	Bloom Sparkling Energy (Apple Crisp)
Restaurants	Culvers, Portillos, Potbelly Sandwich Shop
Stores	ALDI, Target
Hobbies & Activities	Being outside and volleyball
Colors	Orange, Green
Teams	Bears, Cubs
Movies & TV Shows	Widows Bay, Below Deck
Bands & Songs	Hip Hop
Books	Variety (any book by Colleen Hover)
Shirt Size	Large

Mrs. Jordan – Music	
Snacks	Pay Day, Popcorn
Beverages	Dr. Pepper
Restaurants	Raising Cane's, Jimmy John's, Panera
Stores	Target, Barnes & Noble
Hobbies & Activities	Playing Piano, Puzzles, Bike Rides, D&D
Colors	Pink, Purple, Blue
Movies & TV Shows	Spirited Away, Practical Magic
Bands & Songs	Paramore, Coldplay, Twenty One Pilots, Billy Joel
Books	Jane Eyre, Coraline
Shirt Size	L

Ms. LeSure—Art	
Snacks	Butter Fingers, Trail Mix
Beverages	**Un**sweet Tea, Sugar-free Red Bull, Celsius
Restaurants	Aba, Cava, Panera, Potbelly
Stores	H&M, Target, Nordstrom's Rack
Hobbies & Activities	Coloring, Journaling, Walking, Painting
Colors	Green, Blue
Movies & TV Shows	Broad City, Insecure, Chowder
Bands & Songs	Title Fight, Sade-Lovers Rock
Shirt Size	M

Ms. Shue—Social Science	
Snacks	Popcorn
Beverages	Vitamin Water
Restaurants	Starbucks
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Hiking, Kayaking, Anything Outdoors
Colors	Lavendar, Peach
Teams	Yorkville Foxes
Bands & Songs	Country
Shirt Size	Medium

Ms. Thomas—Social Science	
Snacks	Popcorn, Goldfish, Gummy candy
Beverages	Red Bull, Coffee
Restaurants	Taco Bell, Popeyes, Red Lobster, Dunkin'
Stores	Target, Dick's Sporting Goods
Hobbies & Activities	Music, Legos, Coloring/Painting
Colors	Blue, Purple
Teams	Chicago Bears, Chicago Cubs
Movies & TV Shows	Interstellar, Inside Out, Spiderman
Bands & Songs	Justin Bieber
Books	No preference
Shirt Size	Adult Large

Front Office

Mr. Lawson — Principal	
Snacks	Doritos, Takis
Beverages	Iced Tea
Restaurants	Chipotle, Portillo's
Stores	Bass Pro Shop
Hobbies & Activities	Fishing
Colors	Green
Teams	White Sox, Bears
Movies & TV Shows	Star Wars
Bands & Songs	Beatles
Books	Lord of the Rings
Shirt Size	L

Ms. Santiago — Office Professional	
Snacks	Nuts, Chocolates, Chips, Popcorn, Dried Mango
Beverages	Sweet Iced Tea
Restaurants	Texas Roadhouse, Chili's
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Adult Coloring
Colors	Red, Black
Teams	Chicago White Sox, Chicago Bears
Movies & TV Shows	Date
Shirt Size	S

Mr. Linden — Assistant Principal	
Snacks	Cheez-Its
Beverages	McDonald's Coke
Restaurants	Wendy's
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Cycling, Video Games
Colors	Red, Blue
Teams	Green Bay Packers, Chicago Cubs
Movies & TV Shows	Star Wars
Bands & Songs	Anything but Country
Shirt Size	XXL

Ms. Corrigan — School Nurse	
Snacks	Pretzels, Fruit, Granola Bars, Heath Bars
Beverages	Hint Water
Restaurants	Jimmy John's, Starbucks
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Gardening, Travel
Colors	Green
Teams	Green Bay Packers
Movies & TV Shows	All Creatures Great & Small (PBS)
Books	Reading to my Grandchildren – picture books!
Shirt Size	XL

Ms. Behrens — Office Professional	
Snacks	Caramels, Snickers, Cashews, Almonds, Raspberries
Beverages	Bubbl'R Triple Berry, Starbucks
Restaurants	Chipotle
Stores	Target, Amazon
Hobbies & Activities	Gnomes, Spending Time with Family
Colors	Teal, Blue
Teams	Iowa State Cyclones, Chicago Cubs
Movies & TV Shows	Friends, HGTV

Ms. Mercado — Health Assistant	
Snacks	Dried Mangos
Beverages	Coconut Water
Restaurants	Chipotle, East China Inn
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Traveling
Colors	Green
Teams	Chicago Teams
Movies & TV Shows	Super Heroes
Shirt Size	M

Support Staff

Ms. Buell— Library Information Specialist	
Snacks	Cheetos
Restaurants	Taco Madre, Chili's
Stores	Maurice's, Target, Walmart
Hobbies & Activities	Reading, Drawing, Gardening, Crafting
Colors	Green
Movies & TV Shows	Only Murders in the Building
Shirt Size	XL

Ms. De La Torre— Paraprofessional (K)	
Snacks	Snickers
Beverages	Coffee
Restaurants	El Jefe, Cracker Barrel
Stores	Marshall's
Hobbies & Activities	Gym, Dance, Hike
Colors	Black, Pink, Red
Teams	Chicago Bears
Bands & Songs	Backstreet Boys
Books	Bible
Shirt Size	M
Other	Enjoy time w/ my family

Ms. De Volt—Restorative Practice Coach	
Snacks	Trail Mix, Carmel/Cheese Popcorn, Cantaloupe, Grapes, BBQ Kettle Chips
Beverages	Herbal Tea, Spring Water
Restaurants	Sushi, Steakhouses, The Cheesecake Factory
Stores	Electronics Stores
Hobbies & Activities	Travel Abroad, Live Music (jazz, R&B, orchestra), Reading, Art & Photography Viewings
Colors	Blue, Green, Pink
Movies & TV Shows	Fraiser, Cheers, Abbott Elementary
Bands & Songs	Frankie Beverly & Maze, Aretha Franklin
Books	African History, Leadership
Shirt Size	XL

Ms. Elbel—Learning Behavior Specialist	
Snacks	72% Dark Chocolate
Beverages	Water, Berry Smoothies
Restaurants	Thai, Indian
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Biking, Dancing
Colors	Forest Green
Shirt Size	M
Other	Big Cats (lions, cheetahs, leopards)

Ms. Flynn—Learning Behavior Specialist	
Snacks	Skinny Pop, Dot Pretzels, Chips & Dip
Beverages	Diet Coke
Restaurants	Turf Room, Chick-fil-A, Starbucks, 7 Brew
Stores	Target, Bath and Body Works, Home Goods
Hobbies & Activities	Shopping, Traveling, Reading
Colors	Pink
Teams	Anything Chicago (Bears, White Sox, Blackhawks, Bulls)
Movies & TV Shows	Netflix, Emily in Paris, Bridgerton, Selling Sunset, Young Sheldon
Bands & Songs	Country
Books	Danielle Steel

Ms. Galles—Implementation & Instructional Coach	
Beverages	Sparkling Water
Restaurants	Portillo's
Stores	Target, Goodwill
Hobbies & Activities	Watching my son play hockey
Colors	Purple
Teams	Chicago Blackhawks
Movies & TV Shows	True Crime, Crime Documentaries
Bands & Songs	Mariah Carey
Books	James Patterson
Shirt Size	M

Ms. Kanive—Reading Specialist	
Snacks	Snacks, Berries, Sunflower Seeds
Beverages	Watermelon Water, Waterloo
Restaurants	Craft Urban, Altiro
Stores	Amazon, Wyckwood Place, Mod Stitch
Hobbies & Activities	Gardening, Going to the Beach
Colors	Green
Teams	Chicago Cubs
Movies & TV Shows	Comedies
Books	Mystery Romance
Shirt Size	M

Support Staff (continued)

Ms. Meyers—Speech Language Pathologist	
Beverages	Coke, Coffee
Restaurants	Starbucks, Chipotle, Jimmy John's, Wildfire
Stores	Target, Athleta, Amazon
Hobbies & Activities	Reading, Running
Colors	Green, Yellow, Pink
Teams	Chicago Sky, Chicago Cubs
Movies & TV Shows	Schitt's Creek, The Office, Ted Lasso

Ms. Plascencia—Instructional Coach	
Snacks	Chocolate
Beverages	Coke, Cherry Coke
Restaurants	McDonald's
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Cruiting
Colors	Blue, Black
Movies & TV Shows	Friends
Books	Mystery
Shirt Size	L

Ms. B. Robertson—Speech Pathologist	
Snacks	Goldfish
Beverages	Bubbly Water
Restaurants	Panera
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Reading
Colors	Purple, Blue, Green
Teams	Chicago Cubs
Movies & TV Shows	Mysteries
Bands & Songs	Pop
Books	Mysteries
Shirt Size	M

Ms. Salguero—Social Worker	
Snacks	Gardetto's, Chocolate Covered Almonds, Trail Mix
Beverages	Dr. Pepper Zero, Blackberry Chai
Restaurants	Panera, Noodles & Company, Jimmy John's
Stores	Target, Old Navy, Marshall's, Ulta, Five Below
Hobbies & Activities	Theater, Softball, Diamond Painting
Colors	Teal
Teams	Chicago White Sox, Chicago Bears, Chicago Bulls
Movies & TV Shows	Friends, Wicked
Bands & Songs	All
Books	Anything applicable to my job
Shirt Size	L
Other	I love musical theater and try to see any show that I can. Wicked, The Music Man, Rent, and Hamilton are my favorites.

Ms. Vahl—Learning Behavior Specialist	
Snacks	Trail Mix
Beverages	Coffee
Restaurants	Jimmy John's
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Taking Walks, Reading
Colors	Green
Teams	Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears
Bands & Songs	Country
Books	Historical Fiction
Shirt Size	M

Ms. Wilke—Math Interventionist	
Snacks	Dried Mango, Any Fruit/Nut Mix
Beverages	Coffee (Dunkin', K-cups)
Restaurants	Any
Stores	Target, Amazon
Hobbies & Activities	Working Out
Colors	Purple
Teams	Cubs, Bears
Movies & TV Shows	Netflix
Bands & Songs	Any
Books	Any
Shirt Size	M

Miss Tracy (Zahorsky)—Paraprofessional	
Snacks	Chex Mix, Tropical Skittles, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
Beverages	Water, Tea
Restaurants	Krema, Potbelly
Stores	Target
Hobbies & Activities	Reading, Walking, Word Search
Colors	Blue
Teams	Chicago Bears
Books	Fiction
Shirt Size	M
Other	