

## About Erica Zerr

Officially, I am an educator. I joined the team at Saint Edwards Montessori School in Eau Claire in 2015 where I have served as a special program leader, classroom assistant and teacher in a small classroom serving students aged three to six. I hold a degree in History and Political Science from my hometown alma mater, Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Additionally, I hold a Montessori Assistant's Certificate from the Association Montessori International and a Montessori Primary Teaching Certificate through the North American Montessori Center.

I have been involved in the Eau Claire public schools since my first child entered 4k in 2012, serving as a representative on the Family Advisory Council, a classroom volunteer and member of Parent Group for eight years. In 2016, I began work on efforts to expand innovative education opportunities within our district and helped found the non-profit Initiatives for New Directions in Education (INDE). In my time as a member and coordinator for INDE, I was proud to work on behalf of educator and community-led projects to expand diverse learning options for kids in our district and beyond.

The synthesis between my professional life and my advocacy rests in community organizing. I have twice received training through the Wisconsin Leadership Development program, participated in the Every Teacher a Leader Summit in 2018 and 2019 and facilitated community and teacher discussions on public education topics within our community and beyond.

Unofficially, I am a mom. A gardener. A wife. A resident of the Eastside Hill in Eau Claire by way of Northeast South Dakota and Lawrence, Kansas. I love to cook, eat local food, read books, hike and lift weights. I consider myself a novice at most things and an expert in nothing. You are most likely to find me chatting with neighbors, playing with my kids, weeding the garden, trail running, listening to Bruce Springsteen or reading a book on the porch. My husband, Gabe, is a UPS driver and my children attend South Middle School and Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School.

I am excited to contribute to the governance of our amazing school district. I hope to lead with dedication, passion and accessibility to our community.