



# MEET THE STAFF!



Monarch Global Academy

## The Basics!

My Name is Mrs. Michelle Ballenger. This is my first year at MGA, after having spent 10 years at Georgetown East Elementary in Annapolis. While there, I taught 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade. I even looped with (mostly) the same class for 4 years! I am married to Tom Ballenger, who is also a teacher. We have three children: Gloria is 6 and is in first grade, Cormac is 4 and is in Pre-K, and Rory is 18 mos. We are big baseball fans and we root for the Nationals. Gloria has started learning Irish Dancing this year, so I am working on learning what all of that entails. ( I, myself, am a terrible dancer, so I don't have a whole lot to offer in this department.) When I get to relax, I enjoy reading, especially historical fiction and biographies. I am also known to be a bit of an Abraham Lincoln fanatic. I am so excited about the year to come.

## My Childhood!

I am a Maryland native, having grown up in Bowie. I played a lot of sports, but spent a lot of time playing volleyball. Some of my most important memories growing up include family camping trips to Gettysburg and other historical places. I am the oldest of 3. Both of my parents come from families of 7 children, so extended family was always a big part of our lives. I am really lucky to still have a grandma living; she is very special to me.

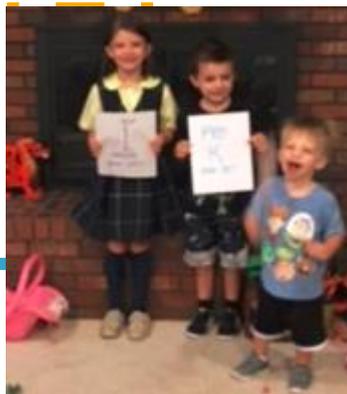


## My Favorites!

- Food:** Steak and Potatoes
- Movie:** Where the Heart Is
- Book:** Sahara Special
- Color:** Green
- Drink:** Coffee
- Season:** Fall
- Sports:** Baseball and anything on the Olympics
- Fast Food:** Chick-fil-A
- Singer:** Sarah Barielles
- Hobby:** Reading
- Subject:** Social Studies
- Store:** Target
- Dessert:** Bread Pudding
- Candy:** Peanut Chews
- Restaurant:** Joss Sushi Cafe
- Flower:** Boxwoods (I love the smell!)

## My Education!

- As an elementary student, I was very shy and quiet.
- In middle school I participated in Odyssey of the Mind, which brought me out of my shell a bit.
- At Elizabeth Seton High School, I really started to learn about who I wanted to be as an adult. I attended the
- College of Notre Dame of Maryland, where I studied Elementary Education. I earned my Master's Degree in Curriculum & Instruction/Administration from McDaniel College. I am excited to study and grow in the PYP curriculum here at MGA!



## Contact Me!

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