



## Lauren Hagedorn

**Major:** Elementary education

**Minor:** Theatre arts

**Activities:** Jenny Lind Vocal Ensemble, Augustana theatrical productions (plays and musicals)

**Internships:** I was a student teacher in a second-grade classroom during fall term of my senior year.

**Post-grad plans:** Applying/interviewing for elementary teaching positions in Illinois

“Wow, I’ve been working with Lauren for four years...from her first weekend on campus all the way through her student-teaching experience and applying for jobs! When I think of Lauren during those four years, what comes to mind is compassionate, organized, dedicated, enthusiastic and collaborative. She displayed all of those characteristics during a very successful student-teaching experience. Those same characteristics helped foster her engagement in a variety of opportunities on campus: voice lessons, Jenny Lind Vocal Ensemble, theatre minor, and earning a “best of” recognition for her submission to Saga. Keep in touch, Lauren, and thank you for coming to Augie!”

— Dr. Randy Hengst, professor and director, elementary education

## MORE THAN I IMAGINED 2018

SENIORS REFLECT ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LOOK AHEAD

### Why Augustana?

When I started my college search, I knew I wanted to go to a small school with a good education program where I could be involved in theater and music. Augustana fit my criteria; the school has a great education program as well as a variety of theatrical and musical opportunities.

### Are you where you thought you’d be when you first came to campus?

When I arrived, I had no idea what to expect, but even then, I could never have imagined all the amazing experiences that I have had here. I would not have believed that so much could happen in four years, but it really is possible. Augustana opened so many unique opportunities that I have been very lucky to take part in.

### Who helped you get to where you are now?

The professors here have truly helped me get where I am today. They have really helped me out by offering flexible meeting times outside of class. The professors have so much knowledge to share and are incredibly supportive.

### Peak experience?

My peak experience was my student-teaching experience in a second-grade classroom. Going in, I was nervous, but once I met my cooperating teacher and students, the nerves melted away. My education classes prepared me so well for real classroom experiences, so I was able to step up and take on many teaching responsibilities. While student teaching, I had opportunities to create and teach my own lessons for both large and small groups of students. I was also able to work with my cooperating teacher and other teachers within our Professional Learning Community to formulate long-term plans for the classroom. The student-teaching experience solidified my desire to become a teacher, and I know Augustana has prepared me well.

### What surprised you?

I learned that I am incredibly determined and capable of doing anything I set my mind to.

### How did you use Augie Choice?

While I was never able to study abroad, I used Augie Choice during my student-teaching experience. While student teaching, I was not able to work much (only on weekends), so I used Augie Choice as a stipend to help me pay for my rent, utilities and food.

### What will you miss the most?

The people! I have built so many wonderful relationships both with my peers and with the faculty and staff. I have met and worked with many amazing people in my classes, at work and in extracurricular activities.

### Advice for the Class of 2022?

Don’t let anyone place limits on you! Try new things and get the most out of your college experience!