After a job recently opened up for an ESL teacher at Holyoke JR/SR High, Allie Billings was thrilled to get the chance to step into that position.

Billings, who has been a second-grade teacher at Holyoke Elementary for a year, is taking over for ESL teacher Desiree Mosenteen. After a few days of shadowing Mosenteen, Billings will take the reins next week.

“It was meant to be,” said Billings, who is excited to pursue her passion of ESL work. She and fiancé Nic Balog, who is also a teacher, love Holyoke, but Billings really wanted to get into the ESL field after studying it in college. It was only by chance that this opening popped up, a job perfect for Billings’ interests.

A Greeley native, Billings earned her degree in interdisciplinary studies from UNC. She knew she loved ESL and working with older kids after a practicum at Greeley Central High School, where she worked in an ESL classroom with a wide range of languages.

She also completed an ESL practicum at Madison Elementary in Greeley in addition to her five years of Spanish classes. Billings is planning to work on her Spanish this year, hoping to become fluent by the end of the summer.

After completing her student teaching in fifth grade at Holyoke Elementary, Billings graduated in December 2011. She took an open position in the second grade soon after in January 2012. Now she’s excited to make the move to the JR/SR high and begin her career as an ESL teacher.

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