

Lauren Delfino-Karl

San Marcos Elementary School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Teacher

Engaging students

“ Keeping students engaged in learning is one of the many arts of teaching. In my classroom, it is important that I involve students in their own learning. Having hands-on activities where students can manipulate materials, hypothesize about a problem, and share their thoughts with others enhances their desire to learn more about a topic. I also help students set goals for themselves because there is no greater motivation than the satisfaction of meeting or exceeding your own high expectations for yourself.

A tip for parents

“ If I could give parents one tip that could help their children be successful in school it would be to lead by example; be the person you want your child to become. I have frustrated parents come to me and say, "I cannot get my child to read. They just won't do it." I ask politely, "Do you read?" Children model what they see. If children see their parents reading, observe them helping others, see them coming to school events and parent-teacher conferences, they will follow in their footsteps. They will see that these things are important and that their education has value.

Learning from a mentor

“ I had a professor who shared the greatest analogy that I have thought of often for over ten years. She said, "Think of students as having poker chips. Some students have an abundance of chips because they have parents who tell them they love them and they get compliments about how smart they are. Then, there are those students who don't have any chips at all. Perhaps no one at home tells them they care or they hear only of the wrong things they do." As a teacher, I want to give my students as many poker chips as I can because every child deserves and needs kind words, encouragement and love.



Lauren Delfino-Karl
San Marcos Elementary School

Chandler Unified District

Second grade

Experience: Eight years in education including six years as a second-grade teacher (the last five years as an ELD teacher) and two years as a third-grade teacher; currently serving as a member of the school leadership team, the school mathematics committee, and as the leader for our grade level PLC

Degrees: B.A. in Elementary Education from Arizona State University; M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from Northern Arizona University; Full SEI Endorsement; Early Childhood Endorsement

The Rodel Exemplary Teacher Initiative honors extraordinary teachers and asks that they each mentor high-potential student teachers.

What sets the program apart from typical student teaching programs is that mentor teachers are selected based on their outstanding student achievement in high-need schools, their ability to mentor new teachers, and the recommendation of their principals and Rodel's observation team. This ensures that student teachers are learning from the best. In addition, Rodel provides further training and support to both mentors and student teachers to assure Promising Student Teacher Graduates start their careers as outstanding educators.

Since 2004, 167 Rodel Exemplary Teachers have been named and more than 650 Rodel Promising Student Teachers have been mentored.