

Sarah Hendricks

John Q. Thomas Elementary School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Teacher Finalist

Engaging students

“ I incorporate plenty of 'up and move' activities in my lessons. We jump syllables, slide when blending words, walk around to find rhyming matches, and do jumping jacks or boxing with counting. I also present my lessons in a variety of ways, so students with different learning styles will meet the daily lesson objective. Since I run an active classroom, I make sure all students understand the rules completely.

Learning from a mentor

“ One lesson I learned from a mentor is to listen and learn all you can from principal evaluations. My mentor allowed me to read her first evaluation report and asked me what changes I would make if it were mine. We worked through it and made modifications. Her second evaluation went very well, and I use it to this day. I do not take evaluations personally. Rather, I see them as an opportunity for me to grow as an educator.

A tip for parents

“ The one tip I would give to parents is that they should encourage their child to take responsibility for what he or she does, both at school and at home. This is best accomplished by modeling the kind of responsible behavior their child should adopt. A responsible child is a successful student because he or she comes to school and is committed to doing well.



Sarah Hendricks

John Q. Thomas Elementary School

Flagstaff Unified District

Kindergarten

Experience: Fourteen years in education including twelve years as a kindergarten teacher and two years as a Bilingual Resource teacher; currently serving as a PBIS committee member, Site Liaison for Girls on the Run, and serving on the FOCUS school leadership team

Degrees: B.S. in Physical Education/ Health Education from Northern Arizona University; M.A. in Bilingual and Multicultural Education from Northern Arizona University; Sheltered English Instruction 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.

The 2016 Rodel Exemplary Teachers will be announced on November 29 at www.rodelaz.org.