

# Danielle L. Johnson

## Paul Lawrence Dunbar Elementary School

*2016 Rodel Exemplary Teacher Finalist*

### **Learning from a mentor**

“ Being organized and prepared is essential to a great lesson. The most important lesson that I learned was to never be afraid to start over. Meaning, if you see that the lesson is not reaching your students, throw it out and try something different. Assess and adjust your instruction to ensure maximum learning.

### **Collaborating for student success**

“ I co-teach with an awesome and amazing Special Education teacher who brings another perspective to the classroom. Students are able to learn the same objective from different points of view and using different methods. This is very beneficial to our students.

### **A tip for new teachers**

“ Build a strong, fair, and caring community in your classroom to foster an environment conducive to learning.

### **A tip for parents**

“ Parents should use daily inquiry, asking "What did you learn today?" Being involved and holding students accountable by asking questions and having their student explain and show examples of what they have learned in school daily helps students become and continue to be successful in school.



**Danielle L. Johnson**  
Paul Lawrence Dunbar Elementary School

Phoenix Elementary District

Sixth grade

**Experience:** Eight years in education including two years as a sixth-grade teacher, one year as a fourth-grade teacher, two years as a fifth-grade teacher, one year as a fourth- through eighth-grade combo teacher, and one year working with the ACE program

**Degrees:** B.A. in Sociology from Langston University; M.A. in Criminal Justice Management and Administration from the University of Central Oklahoma; Teacher Certification from Rio Salado College

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**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](http://www.rodelaz.org).**