

Jeannie Swanson

Madison Camelview Elementary School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Teacher Finalist

A tip for parents

“ A helpful tip that I would provide to parents would be to always support and foster your child's love of learning. I would advise them to talk, listen, and expose their children to as many rich experiences as possible. Get them to wonder, to question, and to explain. Be involved and present when you are with them. You will set your child up for success if you give them this positive modeling and guidance.

Learning from a mentor

“ I had the privilege to work under a Rodel Exemplary Principal for three years and considered him to be my mentor. One of the things that he referenced throughout the years that always resonated with me was his 'Hair on Fire' philosophy. You have to teach with a laser-like focus. If you manage your time well, plan for effectiveness as well as efficiency, you will maximize your instruction. Make every second count.

Collaborating for student success

“ I work very closely with my colleagues in our Professional Learning Community. We meet regularly as a team to plan lessons for all curricular areas. I thrive on the fact that we each bring amazing ideas to the table! After brainstorming, we create rigorous lessons that are engaging and adaptable for all learners. We also discuss data and generate intervention/enhancement programs for all students on a regular basis. All students benefit because they are getting individualized instruction which supports their learning.

Bragging rights

“ One of my greatest sources of pride is our ability to build a safe and supportive classroom community. Through continuous class-building and cooperative learning, my students establish strong bonds and encourage and support one another. They feel safe to take risks and know they will be supported in their endeavors. Each year I have seen tremendous growth and achievement in my students. I feel this is partly due to the fact that my students motivate and push one another to be the best they can be.



Jeannie Swanson
Madison Camelview Elementary School

Madison Elementary District
Kindergarten

Experience: Fifteen years in education including thirteen years as a Kindergarten teacher, one year as a Head Start teacher, and one year as a first-grade teacher; currently serving on the site council committee and the math data committee, assisting with teaching Kagan structures to new teachers, and pursuing Kagan coaching certification

Degrees: B.A. in Education from University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Standard Elementary Education 1-8 certificate; Structured English Immersion, K-12; Early Childhood Endorsement, Birth - Age 8

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.