

Tisha Cake

Sinagua Middle School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Teacher Finalist

Engaging students

“ In order to keep students engaged, I have to be more than a teacher, I have to become a facilitator of learning. My students explore new concepts by working in groups, using manipulatives and models, and applying the mathematical practices. My questions require students to do the thinking and problem solving. This also allows them to engage in meaningful conversation and construct viable arguments, while critiquing each other's work.

Making data-driven decisions

“ It is imperative that teachers use student achievement data to drive instruction and planning. I use data from benchmark tests which are aligned with the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. I also use formative and summative assessments, daily observations, and feedback from students to monitor and adjust my instruction. This data allows me to determine whether or not students are ready to move forward, or if I need to reteach certain standards and provide necessary intervention.

A tip for parents

“ I tell parents that organization and communication are the keys to success at the middle school level. Helping their child stay organized, supporting the completion of all homework and assignments, and keeping open lines of communication with teachers will help ensure their child's success.



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Sinagua Middle School

Flagstaff Unified District

Sixth grade Math

Experience: Nineteen years in education including five years as a sixth-grade teacher, two years as a second-grade teacher, two years as a third-grade teacher, eight years as a fifth-grade teacher, one year as an Instructional Coach, and one year as an SEI multi-age teacher; currently serving as a member of the A+ School committee and the Common Summative Assessments Committee

Degrees: B.A. Elementary Education from Arizona State University; M.A. Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University; Elementary Certification, K-8; Administrative Certification; Adult Education Certification; Full ESL 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.