

Kris Holt

L.M. Prince Elementary School

2012 Rodel Exemplary Teacher Finalist

Engaging students

“ I keep my students engaged in learning by first creating a warm, safe environment to take risks, building relationships that are built on mutual respect and having no excuses as to why a child cannot reach his/her full potential. I inspire student learning by differentiating instruction, adjusting lessons everyday based on assessments and by providing varying ways for different types of learners. I engage them by tying the curriculum to real life situations. I also use humor to engage students, but they know when we need to resume a more serious atmosphere.

A tip for new teachers

“ Being a novice teacher can be overwhelming. One tip I would give new teachers is to choose supportive people who will listen and give advice as needed. Their experience will enable them to encourage a new teacher to reflect, adjust and modify lessons. Just know that there will be down days and remember the big picture as to why you chose this profession. Start fresh everyday!

Collaborating for student success

“ Collaboration is essential to student achievement. Every Thursday my team meets to design lessons, plan, and review and adjust assessments. We seek to provide the best experiences for our kids by finding the most effective strategies to help each child. As a whole staff, we also convene on early-out days to study classroom assessments and collaborate as professional learning communities.

Learning from a mentor

“ My mom has always been my mentor. She was a teacher for many years, and she was my inspiration. She especially helped me in the beginning of my career by being supportive and giving advice to help me be successful. One lesson she taught me was to avoid power struggles with kids, because it is not a win-win situation. That advice has molded me into the teacher I am today. As I began to mentor student teachers, I met Dr. Renate Krompasky, a University of Arizona Student Teacher Supervisor. In this new phase of my career, she has mentored me on how to get the best out of student teachers. Her modeling of high expectations, constructive feedback and self analysis has demonstrated a framework for how I can assist my student teachers.



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L.M. Prince Elementary School

Amphitheater Public Schools

Third Grade

Experience: 13 years in education as a third-grade teacher

Degrees: B.A. in Education from the University of Arizona; M.A. in Educational Leadership; Structured English Immersion; Early Childhood Endorsement

The Rodel Exemplary Teacher Initiative honors extraordinary teachers and asks that they each mentor six 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-poverty 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, 119 Rodel Exemplary Teachers have been named and more than 500 Rodel Promising Student Teachers have been mentored.

The 2012 Rodel Exemplary Teachers will be announced on November 27 at www.rodelaz.org.