

About your teacher and her plans for a productive and motivating school year....

Mrs. Julie Dalen

Family -

Mr. Dalen and I are celebrating 39 years of marriage this September. We raised four children, two of whom are married and added to our family, so we also have 6 grandchildren ranging from 6 months to 18 years old. All four of my children attended Murrieta Schools and my two youngest, Megan and Matthew, attended Buchanan Elementary. Megan is now living in The Netherlands following her dreams as a music teacher after earning her master's degree in Musicology. When she visits, I will invite her in to teach our class some Dutch traditions, songs, and simple phrases. Amy, Blake, and Matthew all live close by and we spend lots of time together camping in the desert riding dirt- bikes. We love to camp at the beach too! We like to camp just about anywhere!

Education/Experience/Hobbies

Growing up I played guitar, wrote songs, and created jingles to help me memorize key details for tests in school. I still sing all day long, and soon your child will be singing too! In high school I participated in choir, madrigals, cheerleading and early dismissal so that I could work as a waitress in the afternoon. I learned very young that to sleep well at night, I

needed checklists to be sure I had finished whatever task I had been assigned in life, before I went to bed. I use this strategy in the classroom as visual checklists so that your child can take ownership of their own learning goals and responsibilities. I use the term "Tag the Wall" to describe finishing the job 100% and soon your child will be able to tell you what that means to them.

After high school, I took my time earning my bachelor's degree. Twenty years' worth of time to be exact. I did not plan it this way, but getting married and raising a family while going to college was not an easy task, especially before the internet! At any rate, I took my first college class in 1979 and tried to take at least one course a semester, earning an Associate of Science degree in Behavioral Sciences, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, an Elementary Teaching Credential with an emphasis in Art Education, and finally a Master of Science degree in Elementary Reading and Math.

I completed my student teaching right here at Buchanan the first year it was open (2001) and then was hired to teach First Grade for the following year (2002/2003) and have been at Buchanan ever since!

My first year at Buchanan, I started the Buchanan Choir program. For many years, we met before school starting in

September and practiced Christmas Carols so that we would be ready to go out caroling in the neighborhood after performing for our parents in the MPR. This was before our district started the VAPA program which now has its own choir program on campus (which is fabulous in my opinion).

Moving on to my experience in various grades: I taught 1st grade for 6 years, then moved to 2nd grade, then to 4th grade, then back to 2nd grade, then to 3rd grade, and now here I am living the dream of teaching a 2/3 combo class. Yes, you read that right, teaching this combo class is/was on my bucket list. I love this age so very much!

Goals, Daily Plans and Purpose for Teaching....

At the start of the school year, my main objective is to get to know your child academically and understand your child's personality. I will learn how your child is doing in school through formal and informal observations and assessments. Informal observations will include playing learning games in class. How your child interacts with other students and how your child handles victories and as well as losses will help me to understand how to keep your child feeling like they are the boss of their own learning, so that they are successful in their responsibility to be their personal best!

Typical Day.....(I have assigned 2nd graders red font, 3rd graders blue font, to help explain what each grade level will be doing while I am working with the other grade level. Each grade level will have a planned lesson for strategic learning at their grade level)

1. 8:30 am - Pledge of Allegiance, Patriotic Song, Song of the Day and a brief run-down of the day's learning objectives. This will be listed on the board and will serve as a checklist for students.
2. 8:40 - 8:50 Sticky Math Fact Fluency Practice
3. 8:50 am - 9:00 - SEL Lesson (Social, Emotional, Learning).

This is taught through the Second-Step Curriculum that covers specific steps/actions/strategies to have a wonderful day. The first lesson we learn is that our brains are particularly important to learning how to play basketball. We learn that one part of our brain tells our eyes where to focus. Another part of our brain tells our body to toss the ball in the direction of the basket.

Another part of our brain remembers what we worked on already and helps us to build our skills with practice, practice, practice! And of course, once we learn how the brain controls so much, we learn why we should always wear a helmet to protect our beautiful brains.

4. 9 - 10 am

Small Group Instruction (2nd grade and 3rd grade)

9 - 9:30 2nd graders will work with the teacher in whole class lessons in Reading Fluency, Reading Comprehension, Writing Fluency, Math Fact Fluency

During this time, 3rd graders will work on their own with two activities:

Go Math online lesson of the day,

Math Fact Fluency Game with friends.

9:30 - 10:00 3rd graders will work with teacher in whole class lessons in Reading Fluency, Reading Comprehension, Writing Fluency, Math Fact Fluency

During this time, 2nd graders will work on their own with two activities:

Go Math online lesson of the day,

Math Fact Fluency Game with friends.

10:00 - 10:10 Prep students for after recess activity.

10:10 - 10:30 Recess (2nd and 3rd)

10:30 - 10:45 Reading Time (This might be a Teacher Read Aloud, a book on video, individual self-selected reading, paired/partner reading)

10:45 -11:45 Small Group Rotations

20-minute small group rotations include:

- Teacher Station (math or reading)
- Notebook Station (iReady Reading or Math, Typing.com, Prodigy Math games, Math Skills games, Starfall learning games)
- SEL Notebook (numerous grow your brain activities through practice that include solve and color by number puzzles, graphing activities, dictionary practice work, etc.)
- Go Math Workbook/Homework (Compliments lesson completed in the morning - not required if student scores 100% on online assignment)
- Choose your own enrichment activity (Students will have 4 selections per week. One for each day, Monday through Thursday.

11:50 - 12:30 2nd Graders go to Lunch

11:50 - 12:10 3rd Graders continue with small group activities.

12:10 - 12:50 3rd graders go to lunch

12:30 - 12:50 2nd graders continue with small group activities

1 - 2:30 Whole Class

- Grammar,
- Writing with Art Project,

- Science Lessons (hands on and more)

2:30 - 2:45 Wrap up and Dismissal

I appreciate your time in reading about me, my expectations, and my plans for your child this year. I look forward to meeting you in person at Back to School Night and sharing our curriculum with you and how I will use this curriculum to address the academic standards your child will master this year.

Take Care and See you Soon,

Mrs. Dalen