

Lisa Hollenberger

Lisa graduated from the University of Wisconsin Whitewater with a Bachelors in Special Education in May of 1992. In December of 1998 she earned her Masters in Special Education from Whitewater.

As a special education teacher, Lisa believes it is her responsibility to create opportunities for children with special needs to learn to their fullest potential in a manner that builds their self-confidence and fosters their personal growth. Her philosophy starts by creating a safe, positive learning environment that is an enjoyable place to be and allows children to take risks, experience success and failure, and feel good about whatever efforts they have put forth. She believes strongly that she must be an advocate for her students and their families and she works to make sure they know that she will try to understand their needs.

Per learning, it is important to Lisa that her students understand not only what they are expected to learn but also why they are expected to learn it. Within that lens, our learning becomes less teacher directed and more of a partnership. Together they grow learning new skills and attaining knowledge.

Quality instruction begins in the regular classroom where Lisa's students are included and receive high quality Tier I instruction. When asked about raising student achievement, Lisa noted that by embracing and utilizing the Response to Intervention (RtI) tiered model of intervention, she is able to more precisely identify the areas of need for each student and address them effectively and efficiently. The Response to Intervention tiered model supports a "push-in" special education service model that

enables Lisa's students to receive core instruction as well as supplemental instruction within the regular education classroom. This service model requires a close collaborative partnership between regular and special education staff. All students in the classroom benefit from the knowledge and expertise the collaborative teaching model brings to the classroom.

Per innovative teaching methods, Lisa notes "concepts are taught multiple times in different ways for students to stay interested and engaged in learning and make progress toward their individual goals." Through innovative teaching (I-pad or Smart Board interactive lessons, the use of live videos to teach social behaviors, and the use of Snap Camera clips for parent communication), Lisa strives to reach each of her students.

In terms of public service, Lisa has been very involved in the Parent-Teacher Organizations where her children attend school at East Elementary School in Jefferson Wisconsin. She also served as Vice President of the Jefferson Area White Sharks (JAWS) Swim Program and this year she now took on the role of being a youth soccer coach.

If that were not enough, Lisa is also very active in her church St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Jefferson where she is serving her tenth year as the catechist and has been a long-time member of the adult choir.

From Mr. John Peterson, Director of Pupil Services, he notes, "Mrs. Hollenberger is a leader not only in the special education department, but also the entire the elementary level in our learning community. One of the biggest reasons why she is such a tremendous leader for our district is due to her unyielding commitment to the

families she serves and her outstanding people skills. In short, students love working with her, parents respect her, and her colleagues try to emulate her.”

From a parent, “When Lisa came into our situation she brought hope to our family. She offered solutions. She talked about our son’s strengths and gifts while brainstorming ways to maximize these to address challenges. She offered empathetic support for us as parents. She provided our son an oasis in a tumultuous time. She had high expectations for him academically and socially while constructing environments that would assure him success.”

With pleasure, we advance the nomination of Lisa Hollenberger for the Kohl Fellowship Award.