



Sandra Stone

Sandra Stone earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She later earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in German from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. And she has a Bachelor's degree in piano.

When asked what her personal educational philosophy is and how she demonstrates it in her teaching style Sandra notes, "My teaching philosophy can be summarized in one word: respect. A good teacher should always respect his/her students and their time. She contends that even students who find school challenging want to learn and not have their time wasted.

Respect is manifested when the teacher is organized, clear, and engaging. Sandra notes that she clearly articulates a specific skill we are learning; provides guided practice, activities, assessments. She tries to create long-term respect for learning through memorable experiences such as immersion activities and preparation for foreign language contest – events that might inspire reminiscence at class reunions. It is Sandra's hope that successful, engaging experiences create life-long learners.

When asked how she works to raise achievement for all students, Sandra states that raising achievement for all students is her favorite challenge in teaching! Brain-friendly learning, which is meaningful instruction in a non-hostile environment, involves music, movement, novelty, and creative rehearsal, and benefits all students. She employs various forms of formative assessments to measure student progress, including monitoring student responses during exercises where students use individual dry-erase boards; whole-class responses; and use of a daily password at the door, where students individually respond to a prompt from her. Sandra further states that differentiated instruction is used to give choices, challenge students, and accommodate various learning styles. She uses readiness differentiation both formally and informally, so that it is always accessible to any student who feels up to the challenge.

When asked what innovative projects/programs she has developed for and with students Sandra notes that a comprehensive German contest creates stars out of students who might not have ever prepared and participated in competitive situations. Of course, it is a great outlet for a student who needs more challenge, and encourages students to try something outside of their comfort

zone (e.g., football player reciting a German love poem). She supports school initiatives, such as senior portfolios, by having her students develop their own German portfolios.

When asked about her commitment to the community through service-oriented activities, Sandra regularly contributes her music and organizational skills to her church. She has served on the Music and Worship Committee for many years, actively participating in fund raising for the organ and building addition, arranged worship music, rehearsed with musicians, and played piano and trumpet.

When asked about unrealized goals she has for her classroom/professional development Sandra notes, I have come to appreciate how technology has created new opportunities for student learning. Students can take a virtual tour of Berlin, conduct research on class-relevant topics, and create multi-media projects. My goal is to learn more about how to judiciously use technology to achieve learning outcomes in and out of the classroom – including becoming more familiar with Smart Board technology.”

From Lori Warren, “I know Ms. Stone through her work as my world language colleague at Fort Atkinson High School. Ms. Stone brings tenacity, creativity and heartfelt compassion to our learning community on a daily basis. Her ingenuity and attention to detail is reflected in everything she does. Ms. Stone does not settle for mediocrity and pushes students to challenge not only themselves, but each other.

From a former student, “Frau Stone is incredibly enthusiastic and passionate about whatever she teaches. German is not an easy language to learn, but she has created an interactive and fun way to learn complicated subjects. Frau Stone is by far the most original teacher I have ever had. What makes her stand out is her creative and energetic teaching style. For example, she creates different games and songs to incorporate in her lessons, which help her students remember information. In my case, she bent over backwards to create a study packet so I could study the German II over the summer as an independent study, in order to be in German III the following school year. She also devoted one of her prep hours to re-teach the German III material to other students and myself who could not fit the class into our schedule. Frau Stone makes the effort to make connections with her students better than any teacher I have had. She earns the respect of her students, and I know all of her students respect her in return. Mrs. Stone is truly an extraordinary teacher, and is an ideal candidate for the Herb Kohl Educational Fellowship Award.

It is with great pleasure that we recommend Sandra Stone for the Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship Award.