

Kris England

Kris England, a second grade teacher at Barrie Elementary School, earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. In 1988 she earned her Masters of Arts Degree in Teaching from Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois.

Kris believes that education and learning is a journey. She sees all her students as unique individuals and recognizes the value in knowing each child's abilities and personalities. She becomes familiar with all students' learning styles, interests, strengths, and areas of weakness so that she is able to make learning meaningful and motivating.

When asked how she works to raise achievement for all students Kris states, "I want my students to challenge themselves as learners, to ask questions, and to seek answers." She believes it is necessary to foster relationships, and engage parents in the educational process through regular communication, so that together they are teaching their children to think, create ideas, and become respectful individuals.

Kris is seen by our learning community as an innovator who is receptive to new ideas and ways to effect school and curriculum

improvement. She has served on numerous curriculum committees including: Science, Social Studies, Math and Handwriting.

Kris has been an active in community service. She serves on PTO'S and parent advisories at Purdy, the middle school and the high school. She is also a volunteer Board Member for the Fort Atkinson Youth Soccer Association where anyone in this town who knows anything about Youth Soccer, knows Kris England, and how she has selflessly given to this organization in promoting youth soccer in our community. Somehow she has also found the time to teach Vacation Bible School, lead a Girl Scout Troop, and served on a Boys and Girls Club Parent Advisory Board.

When asked what unrealized goals she has for her classroom and professional development Kris states, "I am learning about Responding to Intervention (RTI) as a method of academic intervention and seeking to find the best ways to reach all learners. Kris is currently piloting a Science curriculum which utilizes kits for laboratories so that children are actively questioning and being involved in hands-on learning.

Regarding the future of education, Kris would like to see more communities taking control to help strengthen and improve teaching. She feels schools and teachers need to be supported and encouraged.

Kaaren Adams, a colleague writes, "I came to Barrie eight years ago as a new teacher out of college, the same year Kris came. Kris quickly became my mentor. She was always available to give advice, provide support, or share ideas, and selflessly dedicated time and energy to making sure I was comfortable and successful in my own classroom. One of the most impressive qualities about Kris is her contagious enthusiasm for teaching. She is always looking for ways to enhance her lessons and make them fun and motivating for her students."

Susan Bradley, another colleague writes, "I have had the opportunity to share the responsibility with Kris for many students that were assigned to her second grade classroom. Kris is very compassionate with students and parents who are experiencing academic and emotional difficulties, and encourages them to keep trying new ideas to help their child with school work and learning while praising them for any efforts they make on behalf of their child at school. With pleasure, the School District of Fort Atkinson submits the nomination of Kris England for the Kohl Fellowship Award.