

*Working together
to support education*



February 2009

Teacher Feature

1. Your full name

•Charlene Kuppe

2. What do you teach and where?

•Fifth grade at Parsons Elementary

3. How long have you been at that school?

•I have been teaching at this school for nine years

4. Where did you grow up and where were you educated?

•I grew up in Westland and graduated from John Glenn High School. I received a BS in Economics from U of M-Dearborn, my teaching certification through Eastern Michigan University, a masters degree from Marygrove College, and a Specialists in Administration from Wayne State University.

5. Who was your greatest inspiration when you were a child and why?

•My parents were my greatest inspirations growing up. They set high standards for me and then gave me the support and encouragement necessary to achievement them.

6. Best thing about your job?

•The best thing about my job is the kids in my class. I enjoy getting to know them each year.

7. Worst thing about your job?

•The worst thing about my job is when I am told to do something in my classroom that does not make sense to me and is not in the best interest of student learning.

8. Best recent development in education?

•I have recently had the opportunity to participate in the Math Recovery training of Add+Vantage Math. This program focuses on strategies to cement basic math concepts for students.



CHARLENE KUPPE

9. Worst recent development in education?

•The worst development is the thought that all students can be on the same page at the same time. All children develop at different rates, education needs to remember that we meet our students where they are and work to move them forward at their developmental pace.

10. If you had a magic wand, what would you provide for your students?

•Self-confidence, being a kid is a hard job. They are always trying to figure out where and how they "fit in." To be secure in themselves would be a great gift for all children.

11. Finish this statement: Kids today need to...

•...be allowed to learn from their mistakes. Realizing a consequence from a poor choice can be a powerful learning tool.

12. If you had to choose another profession, what would it be and why?

•I would own a bookstore. I love to read and this would give me the perfect opportunity to be surrounded by all of the new options that come on to the market.

13. What are your hobbies and interests outside of school?

•I enjoy being outside during the summer gardening and spending time with my husband on our boat.

14. Best advice to pass along to beginning teachers?

•Keep your lines of communication open with your students, parents, and co-workers. Also, you do not need to invent everything. When you find a good idea from another teacher, adapt it to fit your classroom.

15. Best advice to pass along to parents of kids in school?

•Enjoy the moment. Your children will grow up and be gone before you know it.

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