

Penny Bearden

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ENDURING BELIEF

I believe that all children can learn and have the right to learn in an environment that is safe, caring, and challenging. I believe that I have the ability, creativity, and responsibility to work with teachers, staff, and families to co-create that environment.

EXPERIENCE

TEACHER, NANWALEK ELEMENTARY / HIGH SCHOOL, NANWALEK, ALASKA – 2013-PRESENT

- Secondary (6th-12th) Math / Science/ Electives teacher.
- Created a culturally responsive classroom by collaborating with local members of the Chugach Heritage Preservation to bring local “professors” into the classroom, incorporating local science into curriculum and giving students opportunities to contribute to heritage kits by interviewing elders and building digital artifacts to share with local community and other villages.
- District Blended Learning Cohort team member: Expanded in house course offerings to Nanwalek students by using Canvas, YouTube, screen-casting, and Google Classroom to blend learning to accommodate multi-grade / multi-class classroom.
- Professional Development Facilitator: increased staff usage, comfort, and knowledge of effective technology use in the classroom by planning, organizing, implementing, and assessing staff professional development of Microsoft, Google, and Apple apps for the ConnectEd Grant.
- Planned and assessed implementation of Apple products into classrooms as a member of the ConnectEd Leadership team.
- Professional Development Liaison for Nanwalek, Port Graham, and Seldovia Schools.
- ECET2 Recipient and Colleague: Collaborated on effective teaching practices and opportunities for teachers and students with district and statewide participants.
- Nanwalek Site Council Member: Collaborate on local issues with community and staff members, build calendars, evaluate programs, schedule events, etc.
- Environmental Committee Member: Collaborate on local environmental science issues with local community members.
- Apple Distinguished Educator: Collaborate worldwide with educators on various student-learning issues / create and share lessons and creativity challenges
- Increased community involvement in school by holder regular events: Science Expo, Student Showcase, Tech Expo, and various student presentations.

- Apple Leadership Conference Teacher Panel Participant: I presented on Nanwalek's place based learning and teaching strategies and outcomes to over 500 participants.
- Apple Coding Initiative Collaborator: Promoted new technology and Coding classes in Nanwalek and supported teachers statewide in teaching coding during the Covid-19 pandemic.

NADABURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, WITTMANN, ARIZONA – 2002-2013

- Taught 7th-8th Grade Math / Science at Nadaburg Elementary and Desert Oasis Elementary and 9th Grade Biology, 9th Grade Algebra, and 10th Grade Geometry in Move On When Ready (Excellence for All High School). Taught in 5th and 6th grade elementary classrooms.
- Increased student engagement by incorporating technology (Smartboard, iPads, and graphing calculators), graphic organizers, and hands on labs and activities.
- Incorporated STEAM into the curriculum.
- District testing coordinator
- Led Math Professional Learning Community whose focus was on math vocabulary and problem solving.
- Created (with parents) Early Morning Math so middle school students could take and get credit for high school algebra.
- Jr. High Department chair: organized incentives, parent/teacher conferences, student volunteer opportunities, and after school activities for students.
- District Testing Data Analyst and Professional Development Coordinator.
- Arizona Game and Fish Liaison: created lessons to combine environmental and state academic standards.
- Arizona Public Service Grant Recipient: Created energy lessons that correlated with state standards to be used statewide by teachers and schools. Grant money was used to purchase graphing calculators for school.
- 2010 Walmart Teacher of the Year: Grant monies purchased math manipulatives for department.
- Coached boys and girls volleyball, basketball, and girls softball
- Sponsored Young Engineers Club and established first National Junior Honor Society at this school.

PEORIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT / CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL, PEORIA ARIZONA – 1999-2002

- Taught Algebra I Extended, Topics of Algebra, Geometry
- Successfully modified existing Algebra I curriculum and resources to allow students who had previously been in a self-contained Special resources environment to integrate into the “regular” curriculum / classroom. Worked closely with parents, teachers, and other professionals who specialized in the special needs of my students to create a classroom of highly engaged, successful learners.
- Sponsored Builder’s Club

OTHER EXPERIENCE

United States Army National Guard – 1997-2009

- 91W Combat Medic - provided medical support for various missions (Caribbean Castle, Hurricane Katrina relief, Southern Border Security, Tour of Duty in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula, and various local missions and health fairs).
- Squadron Leader
- Retention NCO
- Successfully completed SERE training, Warrior Leader Course

ALASKA CERTIFICATIONS

- Professional Teaching Certificate
- Type B Administrative Certificate