

It is with great pleasure that we introduce Dan Hetzer as Rincon Valley's Certificated Employee of the Month for November. Dan started working in Rincon Valley on October 16, 2012 as a music teacher. He currently teaches at multiple sites, including Madrone, Whited, Austin Creek and Binkley, which is why we are all here presenting his award tonight.

Dan is a passionate music educator. He is enthusiastic about helping kids learn to play instruments and understand music. His enthusiasm rubs off on the kids and they are motivated to learn new concepts and try out new instruments because of him. Something I have seen in Mr. Hetzer is his desire to connect with systems in place at the various school sites to support students. He has utilized the Refocus system and Eagle awards at Whited to help motivate and encourage students and always has positive recognition in mind as a first priority.

Dan is a reflective, responsive and collaborative leader. He provides a stable, historical district perspective along with an optimistic outlook for the possibilities yet to come. Dan promotes a vested interest and passion for making Music For All work for all stakeholders. He has acted as a positive voice for the music department and proactively reaches out to teachers and parents to build important partnerships, all in the best interest of student success. He is confident in his abilities, but never hesitates to ask for support from others and is always willing to try new strategies and share successful suggestions with his colleagues. Especially important is that Dan holds the mindset that all students can learn and should enjoy music.

I had the privilege of being in Dan's class on the day his trumpet students received their instruments. The excitement in the room was palpable and he made it such a special experience for them. From unsnapping the case, to feeling the soft fleece protective covering, the kids were abuzz before they even picked up their trumpets! He played a few notes for them and then let them give it a try. While the sound that came out of that space was indescribable, you would have thought it was a symphony if you looked at the students. They couldn't believe they were playing the trumpet! It also gave me a great sense of respect for all the music teachers. What an incredibly gratifying experience it must be to teach beginning band students; from their first note to their first song.

Please join us in congratulating Dan Hetzer as the Rincon Valley Certificated Employee of the Month for November.