



Matanzas School 4-6
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October 8, 2019

Dear Members of the RVUSD Governing Board:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter recognizing Susan Brantley as the RVUSD Certificated Employee of the Month for October, 2019. Susan has been a valuable member of the Matanzas family since joining Rincon Valley School District nine years ago as a 6th grade teacher.

Susan brings innovative lessons and activities to her students, and lends her expertise to colleagues. She has presented professional development and conducted action research to improve her practice and meet the needs of all students. Susan's artistry, creativity, and abundant energy brings hands-on learning to all of her students, as is evidenced by art installations, STEM maker spaces, dance/physical education activities, and many other extracurricular activities on campus.

Susan's commitment to her own professional learning is clear in her attendance of workshops and classes and through the professional reading that informs her teaching and professional goals. She maintains a balance of positivity, fun, and rigor across all she does, while holding herself and her students to the highest behavioral and academic expectations. Students meet those expectations in large part due to their respect for and trust in Susan.

Of special note is Susan's commitment to ensuring that each student demonstrates growth, not only academically, but personally and in their character. This is especially true for students with challenging and diverse backgrounds and hardships. Susan is the first to seek input as how to do the absolute best for children. A tireless advocate for her students, through her own sense of right and wrong, honor, and integrity, Susan helps students navigate the tricky world of making decisions, recognizing their own potential, and finding the strength and fortitude within to realize that potential. Susan will not give up on a student, and she reminds us all that every student, no matter how challenging the obstacles they face, deserves the opportunity to thrive.

Susan actively involves students in reflective learning. Students are aware of their purpose for learning, and take responsibility for their own learning seriously under Susan's nurturing guidance. Her respect for her students' intellect and capacity for learning is matched by her confidence in and support of their learning.

Susan is an exceptional educator who embodies the motto former students gave her when she taught middle school in years past: Small, but mighty. Susan Brantley is an extremely valuable member of the Rincon Valley Union School District educational team, and it is my privilege to recognize her as Certificated Employee of the Month for October, 2019.

Kate Westrich, Principal, Matanzas Elementary School