

Sara K. Ahmed

TWITTER: @SARAKAHMED

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Accomplished, charismatic team player with fourteen years of experience in education. Proven ability to develop and implement curriculum, strategic plans for school improvement, athletic programs, and school-community engagement. Dedicated to fostering both a love of reading and compassionate global citizens.

Progressive Instructional Fellow, Harlem Village Academies (New York, Present)

7th & 8th grade Social Studies

- Design and implement curriculum for network middle school social studies curriculum
- Observe and coach teachers to better support instruction

Middle School History Teacher, The Bishop's School (San Diego, 2012-2015)

6th History & 7th grade Social Studies

- Created and applied inquiry-based curriculum for 6th grade history and co-constructed curriculum with 7th grade social studies team, building in *Action & Advocacy* to units
- 6th grade advisor to single gender homeroom, facilitating lessons to help navigate themes of identity, developmentally appropriate adolescent topics, and adjusting to social and academic life
- Fostered a love for reading the world and a sense of obligation towards humanity through literacy
- Designed and implemented Action and Advocacy in 7th grade curriculum, tailoring inquiry to serve the common good, by fundraising, raising awareness, and connecting to global communities
- Built strategies to use public writing in social media as a means to educate, activate, learn, and grow
- Member of Teacher's Book Club, Practice Perfect, reading, discussing, and goal-setting, volunteering classroom for video-taping to be observed and discussed on professional growth days with faculty
- Coach for middle and upper school cross country, middle school tennis, middle school soccer
- Team member of Diversity Leadership committee, hosting scholars, attend professional conferences
- Created and facilitated weeklong iPad Workshop for teachers, taught by kids via *App Speed-Dating*

Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher, Burley Elementary School (Chicago, 2004-2012)

5-8th grade Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop, and Social Studies

- Planned and implemented Reading Workshop based on effective, research-based models of Stephanie Harvey and Harvey Daniels, Writing Workshop based on Lucy Calkins and Nancy Atwell
- Served on Curriculum Committee. Duties included school-wide curriculum mapping; creating and planning professional development days and opportunities for faculty, including *Teachers as Readers*, our professional in-house book club
- Developed and implemented Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Math curricula for 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th grades
- Designed ninety-minute Humanities block integrating Reading Workshop and Social Studies highlighting intertextuality of literature and history
- Authored Language Arts Unit for Chicago Public Schools, *Dreams and Doorways, Unit 3*. Specific focus on the use of book clubs and student choice during reading workshop
- Member of *Literacy Institute at Burley* Team. Serve as a laboratory classroom and teacher for various Chicago Public School teachers. Together with professional authors, Harvey "Smokey" Daniels and Stephanie Harvey, invited 12-14 teachers into classroom for a series of inquiry and collaboration model lessons, and debrief. Served as a mentor to those teachers for the academic year
- Elected to Local School Council as teacher representative. Duties included selection and renewal of principal's contract, approval of the School Improvement (SIPPA), approval of monthly school budget, and informing community of school news

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- Serve on SIPPA Committee. Chosen as part of a reflective team for biannual planning of process and outcome data, refining mission and vision, targeting success and outcomes, and allocating funds
- Co-Founder and head coach of Burley School Athletic Program. Implemented an athletic program consisting of 5/6th, 7/8th grade boys and girls' teams in cross-country, basketball, and track & field. Coached regional qualifiers, city championship qualifiers, and a city champion in cross-country and track
- Founder of Burley All-Star Summer Sports Camp. Created an athletic and enriching summer program for grades Pre-K-8. Focus on different sports each day and a healthy lifestyle
- Finalist for Illinois History Teacher of the year, 2008-2009. Nominated for National History Teacher of the year, 2010-2011
- Head of Social Committee. Organize staff social gatherings and promote positive school culture

Primary Classroom Teacher, All Saints National School: Blackrock (Dublin, Ireland, 2002-2004)

Duties included teaching Pre-K to Sixth Class, ages 4-12, & coaching Physical Education

- Created and taught literacy and science lessons for Pre-kindergarten-6th grade students

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Instructional Conference Presentations:

- National Council of Teachers of English(CEL, Mosaic): *Literacy, Inquiry, Empathy* (2012-2015)
- International Literacy Association: *Literacy, Identity, and Inquiry*(2012-2015)
- Heinemann Publishing: *Middle School Summit*, Keynote speaker panel with Harvey Daniels, Lucy Calkins, Mary Ehrenworth, and Gay Su Pinell & Irene Fountas (July 2014)
- Heinemann Publishing: *Teacher Tour and Open House Workshops* (July 2014, 2015)
- International Reading Association Annual Convention: *Close Reading & the Inquiry Classroom* (May 2014)
- Heinemann Institute: *Bringing Standards to Life: Teaching for Engagement, Inquiry, and Understanding* (January 2014-Present)
- Chicago Public Schools: Medill Professional Training Facility, *Dreams and Doorways: Integration of Book Clubs in the classroom.* (January, February 2011)
- International Reading Association: *Inquiry Circles in Action* (April 2010)

Publications:

- Co-Author with Harvey “Smokey” Daniels of Upstanders: How to Engage Middle School Hearts and Mind Through Inquiry (November 2014)
- Best Practice: Bringing Standards to Life in America’s Classrooms, Book & DVD (March 2012)
- Text and Lessons for Content-Area Reading, (2011)
- Comprehension and Collaboration: Inquiry Circles in Action (2009)
- *Inquiry Circles in Middle and High School Classrooms*, DVD (2009)
- Kaplan: *School as Inquiry*, Vol. 90, No. 02, October, pp.115-122. (2008)

AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

- National Council for Teachers of English, Member & Presenter (2011-Present)
- International Literacy Association of Teachers, Member & Presenter (2010-Present)
- Facing History and Ourselves, Teacher Leadership Team, Chicago, Los Angeles (2007-Present)
- Boundless Readers, Chicago (2005-2008)

CERTIFICATION & EDUCATION

Illinois Teaching Certificate, Type 03 (K-9), Endorsement Middle Grade Literacy/Language Arts, Social Studies **The University of Iowa** B.A. in Elementary Education, 2002 (with honors), Dean’s List 2000-2002