

Dianna Bartles

Madeira Middle School, Madeira, OH
Middle School Humanities Education
5th Grade Language Arts



2005 Honorees



“Our days are full of routine and work. However, being accountable certainly does not stifle creative teaching. I sometimes think of an analogy I once heard about instruction.

When you talk ‘at’ a

group of students, it’s like pouring a pitcher of water over their head. A little of it soaks in, but a lot of it just falls away. Being a creative teacher means you do more than ‘pour’ out the curriculum. I am always trying to find ways to get the students involved in an interesting project and match it to curriculum, and when that happens learning takes place. Organization and planning are crucial to a teacher and paramount to student success. However, there are many times when the opportunity for a great lesson will just jump out at you without warning. Recently the science teacher had the students shoot off bottle rockets. Later, when those students walked into my room they were full of enthusiasm for those rockets. So I changed the assignment to writing about the rocket experience, and the students enthusiastically wrote and shared their responses. Later, when I shared these great writings with the science teacher, he said, ‘Thank you for TAKING TIME OUT of your class to do this.’ You have to love this job!” – *Dianna Bartles*

“Mrs. Bartles was my fourth-grade Language Arts teacher; on the first day of school, we were all thrown off-guard by our teacher’s infectious laughter, never-ending grin, and no-strings-attached offerings of candy. *Doesn’t she know she’s our teacher?* Mrs. Bartles, however, was quick to disintegrate our preconceptions of normal student-teacher interaction. Disrespect, bullying, and disobedience were extremely off-limits – but rarely addressed. Instead, Mrs. Bartles became each student’s ally in academic discover. Always learning *with* the class, her enthusiasm sparked that of her own students.”



“Mrs. Bartles’ classroom is the undisputable root of my love for writing. She was the first teacher who stressed – on a daily basis – the importance of writing and expressing one’s *own* story... We learned how to construct a proper book report, and received our first exposure to true research projects. ‘Explore, explore, explore!’ she would always chant. ‘Soak it all up!’ – *former student*

Other Highlights:

Valley Council PTA Teacher of the Year (2000)

Worked with school team to initiate the award-winning 30 Day Enrichment Program; has spoken at state and national conferences regarding this program

Written numerous successful grants including a grant to work with community residents to record stories of the history of the community

Began the Madeira Preschool (Bright Eyes), including curriculum development, staffing and funding

Began before and after school programs, as well as a summer camp program

Years Teaching: 28

Average Class Size: 24

Classes Taught Per Day: 2

School’s Percent of ESL Students: 4

School Type: Public, Suburban

Type of Class: Teams