

2006 HONOREE

St. Claire Adriaan

KIPP Adelante Preparatory Academy, San Diego, CA
Middle School Math Education • 6th Grade



Years Teaching: 15

Average Class Size: 31

Classes Taught Per Day: 5

School's % of ESL Students: 65%

School Type: Public, Inner City

Type of Class: Inclusion

“As a classroom activist, I take on different roles for different cultural backgrounds. When I teach division with multiples of 10 by multiples of 10, I dress up in traditional Mexican gear, because we use the song ‘Adios Amigos’ to get rid of the zeros. During Black History Month, I highlight the scientific and mathematical milestones of African Americans through research projects. As a South African minority student educated with inferior education under the shackles of apartheid, I vowed to educate myself to the highest level possible. As a teacher, I vowed to teach all kids with a special emphasis on making sure that minority communities get the best possible instruction. My class thus embodies respect, equality, and high expectations within an environment where diversity is celebrated every day. I will do whatever it takes to make the light go on and prepare my students for college and life. Race, social status, economic status and gender do not determine destiny. Hard work, discipline, and dedication, combined with a good education, open the door to a bright future for each and every one of my students.”

“I believe in assessing students both summatively and formatively. I have studied the way the Japanese teach math and borrowed many of their strategies, which are widely acclaimed. The Japanese focus on the process through trial and error, rather than concentrate on correct answers only. For example,



in my class, students are given a problem to collaboratively solve on a subject matter that has not been taught. Through discovery learning they figure out both a procedure and an answer. Wrong answers are used to guide remediation. Students get excited about discovering their own procedures and sharing it with their classmates.”

“At all times, 100 percent of Mr. Adriaan’s students are on task and engaged, a direct result of Mr. Adriaan’s infectious passion for his subject matter, his creative ways of explaining math concepts, and his focus on each student’s success. Mr. Adriaan focuses unrelentingly on the success of ALL of his students. Furthermore, his dedication to his students, not only academically, but also as compassionate young people, is extraordinary. When Mr. Adriaan had a hospitalization last year, as soon as he was discharged, he was back at school, teaching from a wheelchair with an IV.”

— *Kelly Wright, principal*
KIPP Adelante Preparatory Academy

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Teacher Who Made a Difference Award - University of Kentucky (2006) •
Walmart/Sams Club Teacher of the Year - North Carolina (2002) •
Eastern North Carolina Outstanding Cultural Contribution - VIF (2002)