

## Bridgette Ann Fincher

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### EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Educational Technology	Pepperdine University	2006
Summer Program towards MLit.	Middlebury College (Bread Loaf School of English)	1998 (summer)
Master of Arts in Teaching- Montessori	Oklahoma City University	1985
Bachelor of Science in Special Education	Oklahoma State University	1980

### CERTIFICATION

Middle School Language Arts/ Social Studies; Middle School Mathematics/Science; and Special Education (P-4, 4-12) (Arkansas Standard Certification)  
Elementary Grades 1-8, Elementary Reading 1-8, Generic Special Education 1-8 Physically Handicapped (PK-12) and Mentally Retarded (PK-12) (Texas Lifetime Certification)

### EXPERIENCE

#### Elementary School: Fifth, Fourth, and Second Grades

##### Accomplishments:

- Served as a school wide organizational development facilitator for the development of a mission statement, setting strategic planning goals and the generation of a cadre system of leadership.
- Executed the first grade level and whole school web site presence 1995, 2005.
- Piloted and standardized ongoing fourth grade student laptop program which then branched out into other grades.
- Created a myriad of social studies, language arts, and technology simulations based on the geographic theme of *Place* and mathematics.
- Collaborated on cross-site technology initiatives with ninth, eighth, sixth, fifth, second and kindergarten-aged children.
- Presented at various technology and reading conferences internationally and in the United States.
- Taught a class to other teachers for three years on class web site development and mentored them through the process.
- Lead cultural exchange programs, Bunka and Numazu, between American and Japanese schools.
- Lead outdoor education science programs.
- Served as WASC Language Arts Committee Chair and Team Leader.
- Served on the Professional Growth Committee for three years that researched, introduced, and set in place a new evaluation system which was adopted as the standard for the school.
- Served multiple years on various language arts, science and mathematics committees.
- Oriented and settled new faculty to Japan for seven years, with assistance ranging from helping them select housing to acculturation and Japan life skills.
- Received the ISS Innovative Practice Award.
- Teacher of the Year Award
- Member of Phi Beta Kappa
- Trained in the cadre system of leadership.

Old Wire Elementary School	Rogers, Arkansas, USA	2005 - 2006
Taipei American School	Taipei, Taiwan	2004 - 2005
The American School in Japan	Tokyo, Japan	1991 - 2004

#### MS Humanities/History, MS Gifted and Talented Reading, MS Reading, MS and HS Learning Disabilities

##### Accomplishments:

- Served as Humanities-History Middle School Department Chair
- Piloted a new Humanities program.
- Served as the NCAA Facilities Chair.
- Served as Special Needs Team Leader.

- Ran the first integrative gifted and talented full classrooms in a middle school.
- Administered and interpreted academic tests for placement.
- Implemented a strong reading program in the special education departments.
- Facilitated the mainstreaming of special services students into the regular classroom.
- Supervising teacher for special services aides.
- Ran the Young Astronauts and Renaissance Programs.
- Middle School Student Council Chair and the High School Honors Society Chair.
- Reviewed books for the University of Houston Literature Review Board.
- Presented at reading conferences in Texas.
- Trained in *Neuhaus Advanced Dyslexia* and *Here's Looking at You*, 2000 programs.

The Graded School of Sao Paulo	Sao Paulo, Brazil	2006-Present
Seabrook Intermediate School	Seabrook, Texas, USA	1987 – 1991
Davis Middle School	Evanston, Wyoming, USA	1984 – 1987
Clinton High School	Clinton, Oklahoma, USA	1982 – 1983
Marshall Middle School	Marshall, Oklahoma, USA	1980 – 1981

### **Early Childhood**

As an internship for first master's degree, taught students ages three to five using the prescribed Montessori method in an A.M.I. accredited school. Discovery World Montessori Preschool, Woodward, Oklahoma, USA 1981-1982

### **EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY**

Inquiry, change, risk, action, reflection, continued growth and service to others—these are hallmarks of what I do. The world is tremendously interconnected and becoming more so; understanding these connections and interdependence are foundations for learning to live and living to learn. Deep-seated changes occur if students are allowed to grow towards becoming responsible, aware agents of their own learning. Reflection and achieving high personal standards are fundamental to this process. As a judicious mentor and fellow learner, my job is to encourage this through an environment that is challenging, respectful, creative and inviting. Innovating and adapting materials or processes provide for the diversified needs of the students, yet with a focus on students having control through open-ended, integrated, projects-based units. Learning is a social activity and collaboration, within the class or across grades, is vital to their growth as humans. Students work collectively towards a group goal but understand that, as individuals, they are accountable for their own learning. Spontaneity, fun, and laughter are woven through all of this in a way that only “hard fun” can bring. The young people I have had the pleasure to teach know who they are as people, and as learners, and understand the contribution they can make now and in their yet unknown future.

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

International Reading Association, National Council for the Teachers of English, and National Council for Teachers of Social Studies

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations available on request.