

# Michael Wenk

Experienced educator seeking to collaborate on novel approaches to increase student growth & achievement and promote positive school culture.

## EXPERIENCE

### **Bell Middle School, Lakewood, CO**

#### **Reading Specialist**

**AUGUST 2019 - JUNE 2020**

Taught fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension strategies to struggling readers in 6th and 7th grades. Saw students make growth in district benchmark assessments, as well as a variety of formative assessments.

### **Dunstan Middle School, Lakewood, CO**

#### **Assistant Principal & Instructional Coach**

**AUGUST 2015 - JUNE 2019**

Contributed to UIP planning and implementation for three years, which resulted in an increase in our SPF from 56 to 75. Engaged in coaching cycles as well as supportive, growth-oriented evaluation process with teachers. Facilitated Professional Learning Communities for content teams. Supported teachers in writing and implementing Individual Educator Goals. Organized professional development events. Collaborated closely with area coaches. Participated in building MTSS structures and processes to support students. Worked with SCC to produce school mission and vision.

### **University of Colorado School of Education, Boulder, CO**

#### **Graduate Instructor**

**AUGUST 2012 - MAY 2015**

Taught the following courses in the School of Education:

- EDUC 4321 Integrated Reading and Writing Methods
- EDUC 4232/5235 Language and Literacy for Math and Science

Teachers

- EDUC 4318/5318 Nature of English
- EDUC 4222/5222 Language Study for Educators
- EDUC 4342/5345 Composition for Teachers

### **Jeffco Schools, Golden, CO**

#### **ELA Curriculum Specialist**

**AUGUST 2006 - JUNE 2010**

Collaborated on the creation and implementation of district-wide English language arts curriculum (CAP). Worked directly with teachers, coaches, and principals in various formats to foster data-driven instructional decisions, uncover resources, facilitate professional

development, and promote responsive instruction. Developed and implemented the Jeffco Literacy Project, which promoted cross-content literacy in several middle and high schools. Observed teachers and provided feedback about instructional decisions. Co-facilitated meetings of instructional leaders. Provided professional development for teachers.

### **Dunstan Middle & Green Mountain High School, Lakewood, CO**

#### **English Language Arts Teacher**

**OCTOBER 1992 - JUNE 2006**

Developed cutting-edge reading and writing workshops. Collaborated with teammates to plan lessons, units, and activities, as well as interventions for struggling students. Designed and taught innovative courses, such as creative writing/graphic arts; science fiction English elective; literacy remediation; summer English remediation; and summer English enrichment. Supervised 9th grade mentoring program, coached baseball, and served as advisor for yearbook, drama, and ski clubs.

## **EDUCATION**

University of Colorado, Boulder — PhD (2015)

School: Education

Emphasis: Curriculum and Instruction – Literacy Studies

University of Colorado, Denver — MA (2000)

School: Education

Degree Program: Information and Learning Technologies

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor — BA (1990)

School: Literature, Science, and the Arts Major: English and History

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Wenk, M. (2018). Writing conference interruptions: Can they be productive? *Michigan Reading Journal* 50(2), pp. 7-14.

Overmeyer, M. and Wenk, M. (2009). Writing with our students. *Colorado Reading Council Journal* 20(1), pp. 31-33.

Wenk, M. (2008). Poetry as mediator and authority: Connecting poems to *Of Mice and Men*. *Statement* 44(3), pp. 8-11.

VanPelt, G., Sharpe, L., and Wenk, M. (2007, May 6). Another School Choice. The Denver Post, pp. 1E&3E.

Wenk, M. (July 2005). What I did on my summer vacation. English Journal 94(6), 42-49.

## AWARDS

Recipient, Jefferson County Schools Employee Recognition Award. 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2016

Recipient, Outstanding Educator Award, Green Mountain High School. 2005

Recipient, Boettcher Teacher Recognition Award. 2003.

## LEADERSHIP

Participant, Jeffco Schools Pathway to Principalship. 2017-2018.

Webmaster, Colorado Language Arts Society. 2013-2014.

Advisor, National Council Teachers of English Student Affiliate, University of Colorado at Boulder. 2011-2014.

President, Colorado Language Arts Society. 2011-2012.

Moderator, Colorado Literacy Policy Summit. November 11, 2011.

Member, State of Colorado Writing Team for Reading, Writing, and Communicating Content Standards. 2009-2010.

Editor, Statement, the journal of the Colorado Language Arts Society. 2008-2011.

Vice President, Second Wind Suicide Prevention Fund. 2005-2008.

Board Member & Volunteer, Whittier Neighborhood Association. 2001-present.

**LAUREN ELDER, SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER:** *“When struggling to differentiate for advanced learners, Dr. Wenk helped me to take an approach of deepening students’ thinking as opposed to just assigning additional work. Dr. Wenk truly cares about helping teachers to thrive and ensuring the success of all students.”*