

Rachael Cordeiro



Jewish Federation
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Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples

Application deadline: February 2, 2024

Applicant's name: Rachael Cordeiro Applicant's email: corder@collierschools.com

Number of years in education: 15 Grade or subject taught: Assistant Principal

School: Eden Park Elementary School

School Address: 3650 Westclox Street Immokalee, FL 34142

Phone (daytime): 239-377-9213 Phone (evening): 239-324-1852

Principal's name: Christina Anderson Principal's email address: andersch@collierschools.com

Principal's Phone: 239-377-9204

- Describe the precipitating events that motivated you to initiate these lessons or activities
- Describe the lessons or activities; and if adapted from another source please reference
- Explain how the lessons or activities teach students the importance of respecting others no matter what religious, racial, cultural, or other differences exist
- Explain how it helped them counter bigotry and bullying and prepared them to stand up for Justice
- PROVIDE EVIDENCE/PROOF OF EFFECTIVENESS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: A QUESTIONNAIRE, INTERVIEWS, DOCUMENTED ANECDOTAL CONVERSATIONS, AND STUDENT WRITINGS, VIDEO, ETC.

→ All 5 bullet points must be completed or applicant will be advised to submit the following year. Please number each page along with your name at the top of each page.

Submit the completed form in writing, by email, or

video format to: Via email to: Renee at

rbialek@jewishnaples.org

Or mail to: Beth Povlow, Educator Grant Coordinator, C/o JCRC, Jewish Federation of Greater Naples 4720 Pine Ridge Rd., Naples, FL 34119

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Describe the precipitating events that motivated you to initiate these lessons activities:

Eden Park has welcomed a cluster of students who receive deaf or hard of hearing services in Collier County Public Schools. We have three students who are deaf with provided sign-language interpreters and four remaining students who have partial hearing loss and receive services from the district. These students are in various grade levels and new to Eden Park for the 2023-2024 school year. To help our students transition and feel welcome to the EPE school community, a “DHH Lunch Bunch” was started. DHH stands for deaf and hard of hearing.

Describe the activity(s); and if adapted from another source please reference.

As one could imagine, there are many challenges associated with being deaf and hard of hearing in a public school. Administration recognized that our students who are hard of hearing struggled with social skills, communication skills, and appropriate interactions with adults and peers. Once a week, all students and interpreters come together for our “DHH Lunch Bunch” to join in conversation, lunch, and sign language practice.

Lunch bunch activities have included:

- Learning each other's sign names
- Asking each other about favorite foods, color, animals, etc. Using appropriate picture cards to initiate dialogue between peers.
- Interact with a variety of high-interest games that encourage dialogue and learning of new sign language.

Explain how the activity(s) teach students the importance of respecting others no matter what religious, racial, cultural, or other differences exist.

Eden Park’s current enrollment is 640 students. As one could imagine, inclusivity and acceptance, regardless of differences is at the forefront of everything that we do in our school. Our “DHH Lunch Bunch” takes place in the cafeteria weekly. This gives all students the opportunity to watch our DHH community of students interact with one another. Due to the visibility and inclusivity of this Lunch Bunch, two student leadership teams have been initiated by kids who are motivated to learn sign language. One sign language group has started making and posting vocabulary cards in common areas of the school to include the word in English, Spanish, Creole, and the American Sign Language sign. Additionally, our Bobcat Boutique Leadership Team created a number of for sale items that are designed by students to include American Sign Language on their products.

Explain how it helped students counter bigotry and bullying and prepared them to stand up for justice.

Justice is described as a genuine respect for people. It is the responsibility of any school community to teach students and staff the importance of acceptance, equity, and inclusivity. The “DHH Lunch Bunch” has provided our school community with a model for kindness and acceptance. Students have the opportunity to watch interactions, challenges, struggles, and celebrations for meeting personal goals.

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This experience is parlayed in the classroom where the majority of our student community interacts with these students in the classroom. Students are not defined by their disability, but instead they are defined by how they contribute to our society, community, and school. Interactions among peers in the classroom indicate a genuine appreciation for students who have a hearing disability and are often found trying their best to use sign language with our DHH community.

Evidence of Effectiveness:

- “DHH Lunch Bunch” and their Sign Language Interpreters.



- Students playing a game that helps with learning how to ask questions. Communication is an area of struggle for students who are deaf and hard of hearing.



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- Examples of Sign Language vocabulary cards that students have posted around the school so that all stakeholders can learn sign language. These vocabulary cards were created by students in a sign language club. One of their main goals is to ensure the Eden Park Community embraces the students who are deaf and hard of hearing and the way they communicate. This represents standing up for justice by having a genuine respect for this population of students.



- Students who are deaf struggle with communication. For that reason, we asked students in the “DHH Lunch Bunch” to draw or write about what Lunch Bunch means to them. As you can see in the drawings, students feel welcome and happy to be part of the Eden Park school community.



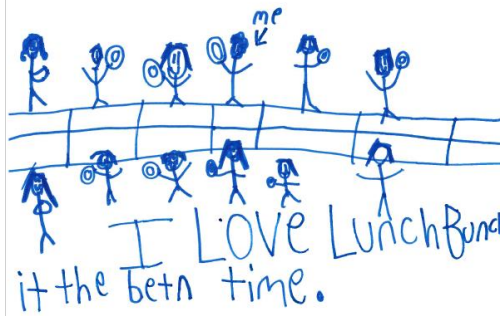
Happy

4

Lunch Bunch

I Feel Happy About Lunch Bunch!

• I'm with my friends
 • It's fun
 Me
 Dylan
 My Hearing aids
 Deliah
 Ms. Maddy (Intro)
 Peter
 Meriah



LUNCH Bunch Voel



Lunch Bunch means alot
 Because everyone is nice
 And we get snacks
 and They make me happy.