

Ms. Eileen Johnson

Eileen Johnson is currently a fourth grade teacher at Indian Paintbrush Elementary in Laramie, Wyoming.

She received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Northwest Missouri University in 1980 and has also earned graduate hours at the University of Wyoming. Armed with the "knowledge that all children deserve an education that meets their need and enables them to experience personal success," as a special education teacher for twenty five years, Eileen taught children who are "differently-abled." Since 2005, she has been in the fourth grade classroom.

Each and every day Eileen recognizes that she is never alone in the work of education. She states, "There have always been concerned parents, devoted paraprofessionals, supportive principals, and collaborative partner teacher who contribute to the success of all students. I feel that I have been privileged to contribute to the field of education by respecting, valuing, and providing a challenging education to each student entrusted to my care; whether his/her personal challenge is behavior, motor skill development, communication, meeting district and state standards, or a desire to change the world."

Community involvement for Eileen has included volunteering with the Special Olympics; seven years as a summer camp director; host family and parent baseball volunteer; and mentoring for teachers, interns and practicum students. Service and a commitment to others continue to be guiding forces in her family.

With her personal education toolbox, which includes academics, socialization, independence, collaboration, research, data, and personal knowledge of each student, Eileen feels she is entrusted with the dreams of children and asks, "Can there be any better place to be?"

The Wyoming Department of Education is proud to name Ms. Eileen Johnson as the 2008 Wyoming Teacher of the Year.