



Fun Facts about Smithfield's Teachers!

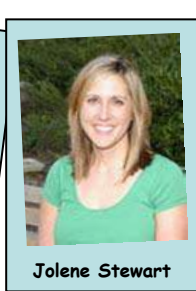
The 3rd Grade Team



Deborah Comeau



Heather Curtis-Sowell



Jolene Stewart



Wanda Shah



Sandra Garner

Ms. Comeau

- Her favorite thing about teaching is seeing how much the children grow in their quest for knowledge over a year, and when students from previous years come back and say "I remember when you said...."
- On Spring Break, I look forward to doing some pleasure reading and spending quality time with my family, especially my grandchildren.
- She became a teacher after enjoying being a Room Parent and volunteer at her children's school. "I worked with students that needed extra help. I decided that I would like to work with students on a regular basis and help them be successful."
- "Miracle on 34th Street" and "Savannah Smiles" are her favorite movies.

Ms. Curtis-Sowell

- Has lived in 5 states: born in Charleston, SC; high school in Florida; college years in Indiana; post-college in Georgia; now North Carolina!
- Her favorite moment is when students "get it" and realize they have learned something new and can find answers or solve problems without any help. "The look on their faces is priceless!"
- Liza Lou and the Yellow Belly Swamp by Mercer Mayer is her favorite book - she loved listening to it as a child and loves reading it to students every year.
- You would be amazed to know that she used to sell cars!

Ms. Stewart

- 11 years as a teacher – all at Smithfield (National Board Certified).
- She played school in our basement when I was a little girl, using old textbooks, a chalkboard, and stuffed animals as props. She was also inspired by her 5th gr teacher, who encouraged her career decision.
- Her favorite thing about being a teacher is when she can make the kids laugh, smile, and enjoy learning.
- Over Spring Break, she visited with her sister and spent time with her twin 6 month old niece and nephew.
- Sweet potatoes are her favorite food "I could eat them with every meal...even breakfast!"

Ms. Shah

- 28 years teaching (9 at Smithfield). Other than time in Cincinnati, Ohio, she has always lived in NC & SC.
- She was called to teaching in 3rd grade. She had the same last name as her teacher, who was very cheerful and soft spoken, and took such a personal interest in all of the students' lives.
- One of the most important lessons she learned was from a 4th grade student in her 3rd year teaching. He ensured that everyone was treated fairly, often standing up to bullies, earning him the respect of his classmates. "Children are capable of solving many of their problems if given an opportunity to do so."
- Her favorite movie is "Avatar 3D" for the action, visual splendor, and Indian connection (the blue skin people represent the Hindu gods, Krishna and Ram.)

Ms. Garner

- 8 of her 17 years as a teacher have been at Smithfield, and 2 years at a high school.
- She was born in Florida, but claims NC as her home state.
- She visited her two grandkids in Florida over Spring Break.
- She says, "Children are the most wonderful people to learn from – something new every day!"
- She has lived in Japan and Morocco -- amazing!