



***Sarah Baird, NBCT
K-5th grade Math
Kyrene del Milenio and
Kyrene de las Lomas, Phoenix
Kyrene School District
2009 Arizona Teacher of the Year***

Sarah Baird is a National Board Certified Teacher. She has been a teacher for 10 years. Ms. Baird has been educating K-5 students in math and served as a math coach since 2005. She attended Northern Arizona University where she earned a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education after receiving a Bachelors of Science degree in Elementary Education also at NAU.

“I am a firm believer that the way to a child’s mind is through his/her heart. I know my students have the potential to go on to do great things, better things than I have done. The heart of my work, my philosophy, stems from the belief that human interaction and attitude trump assessment, curriculum, and planning.”

“My lessons include energy, enthusiasm, movement, manipulatives, student-to-student discourse, and CELEBRATIONS! I love the sound of learning! It always starts slowly with one kiddo saying “ohhhh”, and then like popcorn, the rest of the kids, ‘I get it!’, ‘Yeah, I see it!’ I am thrilled to see my kindergarteners solving multiplication and division problems because they ‘get’ the story. Fifth graders are manipulating numbers in their heads and solving problems without standard algorithms. My students cheer for math and are not afraid to attack hard problems, help one another, and ask questions.”

“My work with children is driven by my philosophy, my unwavering conviction that education is their greatest catalyst for change and what will lead them to experience choice and control is writing their own future. If I am not exhausted by the end of the day and my pants aren’t dirty from being on the floor teaching kids then I have to ask myself, ‘Did I put it all in today? Did I make a difference?’”

“Sarah’s enthusiasm captures the attention not only of each student as she gathers them in with her friendliness and outstanding presence, but also the teachers who are compelled to watch and learn from her. Sarah is willing to teach for teachers to model, with teachers to co-teach, and also observe teachers to provide positive feedback and relevant suggestions for future lessons. Her mind continues to generate new ideas to increase student achievement and her creativity is a gift to those of us who spend our day with her. Ms. Baird’s lessons are incredibly engaging, hands-on, and developmentally appropriate. They are always well thought out, and she brings manipulatives, literature, visual aids and other materials to support and enhance her lessons. Sarah is so well organized and has a vast array of resources to help improve her time spent with students and teachers alike. This in turn benefits us all.” Jeanette Rosenfield, Kindergarten teacher