



## Wendy Hild

11<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher  
Mountain Ridge High School (an A+ School),  
Glendale  
Deer Valley Unified School District

- ❖ *“I want to be that ‘one’ teacher who believes in a student so much that it changes his/her course of action. I want to be that ‘one’ teacher who listens when no one else cares. I want to be that ‘one’ teacher who tells every student about scholarship opportunities and that there is money available for just about any kind of student not just the academically or athletically gifted. I want to be that ‘one’ teacher that parents trust and have a strong sense of relief in knowing that their child is safe and cared for away from home. Americans spend the majority of their adult lives working. To me it is vitally important to spend that time on the most worthy of causes, fostering our future. My love of learning, quest for betterment and the desire to guide and inspire others are the factors that influenced me to be a teacher.”*
- ❖ *“A strong work ethic, dedication and integrity are the basis for accountability in this profession. Accountability is more than test scores. Test scores tell some data but not all. Accountability includes compliance. Teachers must attend meetings for students’ accommodations and improvement. Teachers must be involved by continually improving their profession by educating themselves and changing to meet the needs of society. Accountability is feedback and comments. Just like customer service satisfaction surveys, teachers must receive feedback from students and parents. I administer a student survey. I hear directly from my students about what really works for them. Parent-teacher conferences allow parents to be a voice in the educational process. In a way, accountability is similar to the honor system. I hold myself accountable every day when I reflect upon my job. I know what I needed to do and ask myself did I perform to the best of my ability? One day after an evaluation a student remarked, ‘You are the only teacher that doesn’t change when the principal comes in.’ That was an honorable moment. I know that at any time a parent or principal can walk into my room and he or she will see consistent learning. Accountability rests in the work ethic, dedication and integrity of each teacher which ultimately reflects in impressive test scores.”*
- ❖ *“My excitement about teaching is abundant and can be seen when I jump on top of a table as Hitler the orator or hide underneath a desk pretending to be a student during the days of the Cold War participating in an air raid drill. Duck and cover! Thomas Jefferson passionately believed that the Declaration of Independence should be performed not just read. Similarly, I believe that learning should be a memorable experience filled with emotion that spans a lifetime.”*
- ❖ *Ms. Hild’s Social Studies Department Leader and co-worker Gina Bedene says of Wendy, “She is consistently addressing issues in students’ lives with solutions instead of blame. Her lessons include the study of character where students analyze and discuss the six pillars of character, ways to respond to bullying, characteristics of heroes, and being a good citizen. In each of her classes she encourages community service in her students. She does this, not just in the Government course she has taught where hours of service are required, but with every subject matter she teaches. She is able to motivate students to serve by her passion for civic-mindedness and her pure devotion to doing what is right. As a Sociology teacher during her first year at Mountain Ridge, Wendy had her student create ‘public service announcement’ video projects about the trash problems at our school as a sort of grassroots movement to encourage student involvement in improving our school culture. Wendy consistently wins food drive competitions and has the greatest numbers of students supporting community or school projects than any other teacher each year. This does not just happen. It is the effect of this dynamic teacher’s ability to stand behind her words. She is a teacher of substance and character.”*

Wendy’s first career was in the business field as a Buyer/Merchandising Manager. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications for Business with a minor in Social Studies from Florida State University. Ms. Hild began teaching after earning her Post-baccalaureate degree in Secondary Education from the University of Phoenix; she then completed her Masters Degree in Educational Psychology/Counseling at Northern Arizona University. She has taught for six years.