

Rena Huntington
Gifted and Talented Education

Rena Huntington has been the GATE teacher at Westergard since Fall 2014. She has been teaching for 24 years. She received her BA in Elementary Education from Oregon State University, and her MS in Special Education from Western Oregon University. She is also a Reading Specialist, GATE Specialist, and certified robotics coach. This is the start of her 7th year in the GATE program.



Rena started her teaching career as a Special Education teacher in Kauai, HI, for two years, moved to Colorado and taught middle school special education in Boulder for 5 years before she moved to Nevada in 1996. She taught middle school special education in Douglas County School District, in Gardnerville, NV for 4 years.

After a 6-year break to stay home with her children, she returned to teaching 2nd and 4th grade in the Carson City School District for 7 years. In 2013, she decided to move to teaching GATE soon after completing her GATE certification.

Rena is a constant learner. She loves to learn every day, enjoys bringing hands-on projects to education settings and is always looking forward to seeing her students at Westergard. She loves this traveling teacher position because she gets to reach so many students and interact with some of the best teachers in WCSD, especially here at Westergard.

Helping students to understand how they learn best, how to reach their highest potential, learning to problem solve in a variety of ways, and how to understand their emotions, as well as their peers, are critical pieces in the GATE Program. She wants the best for every student and will do whatever is necessary to help them achieve their goals.

Rena has children, 20 and 16, who keep her very busy. Her husband keeps her just as busy with bike rides, attending all events with her children, and trying to stay calm, cool, and collected. She enjoys cooking, baking, learning, and having fun with her friends.

She is at Westergard every Tuesday. The rest of the week she teaches at Verdi, Diedrichson, Peavine, and Pleasant Valley Elementary schools.

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