



# Support Staff Spotlight

NAME: Karlyn Wilson

POSITION: Para-Educator

School: Berney

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 20 years

Q. What do you do to support the teachers and has it changed over the years?

A. Our jobs as Para-Educators have changed in the 20 years I have been here. I don't do copying and art projects like I used to when I started. I actually teach reading groups now. I work with kindergarten, first, second and fourth grade students this year.

Q. How would teachers operate without Para-Educators?

A. Teachers are so incredible and much of the day they are in the classroom with their entire class. Para-Educators "pull out" students for math and reading interventions. We work with them in small group settings. This allows the classroom teacher to have a smaller group to work with too.

Q. Do you see academic gains from using this model?

A. The kids we work with are not able to focus in a whole group setting. They do much better in a small group with more individualized instruction. We identify their weaknesses and put a plan in place to develop their skills.

Q. What are some of the different interventions you use to help students?

A. It depends on the area we are trying to improve. For example, if a student is struggling with decoding -- which is sounding out words -- then we would focus more on teaching them to sound out words. We start with simple words and progress to more advanced words.

We are trying a new curriculum in math and it seems to be working well. We work one-on-one or in small groups to improve needed skills.

Over

**NOTES:**

We just finished our winter assessments and the majority of the students have made incredible gains. We analyze our interventions for those who are struggling and seek solutions to improve their skills.



# Highlights Karlyn Wilson

I grew up on a farm in Endicott, WA. I attended WWCC on a volleyball scholarship.



My three children attended Berney and I was very involved in PTA over the years. Opportunity teacher Kelsee Anderson is my daughter.

We love boating on Priest Lake. It is a family tradition.