

Brynn L. Decker

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3230 Normandy Circle NE • Marietta, GA 30062 • (404) 409-8266

EDUCATION

Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Masters of Education in Reading, Language and Literacy, June 2008 – May 2010

- Reading Specialist focus, K-12
- Literacy Coach and Tutor at Urban Literacy Clinic
- Overall GPA: 4.2

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, August 1999 - May 2003

- **Cum Laude** Overall GPA: 3.6/4.0
- **Dean's List** All semesters at Miami University
- **Recipient of Miami University Jean E. Mate Memorial Award, 2002**
Awarded to a student for academic excellence within the Education Department

The Lovett School, Atlanta, Georgia

College Prep Diploma, June, 1999

- **Recipient of Lovett Alumni Award, 1999**
Awarded to a student who exemplifies the outstanding characteristics of a Lovett student.

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

Georgia State Certification

- M.Ed. – T5 Certification
- Reading Instruction Certification

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Instructional Coach, K-6

Wheeler Elementary, K – 6 Public Elementary School, Oklahoma City, OK

2016 – 2018

- **Instructional Coach** – Engaged with teachers in coaching cycles designed to reach measurable student growth goals as determined by teachers. The type of teacher support was uniquely designed around the coaching cycle goal and may include imparting knowledge, modeling, co-teaching, observation, purposeful dialogue through questioning, reflection, and feedback.
- **Professional Development Facilitator** – Presented at professional development events regarding topics such as student engagement strategies, using games as effective instructional tools, and instructional strategies to create an effective Reader's Workshop and Writer's Workshop in the elementary classroom.

Learning Specialist, K-1

The Lovett School, K – 12 Private School, Atlanta, GA

2014 – 2016

- **Intervention Specialist** – Designed and implemented intervention programs for students with diagnosed learning disabilities in Kindergarten and First Grade.
- **Instructional Coach** – Assisted K-1 teachers in supporting students with learning differences in the classroom.
- **Student Support Team** – Participated in the Student Support Team, providing teachers with coaching to support struggling students in the classroom.
- **Parent Support** – Guided parents through the process of identifying learning differences through psychological testing, reviewing the testing, sharing the plan for support, and communicating progress.
- **Parent Information Events** – Presented to parents on various topics of interest regarding child development, supporting children with learning differences, mindfulness, and effective support techniques at home.
- **Designed the Phonics Scope and Sequence K – 5** - Integrated *Words Their Way* and *Orton Gillingham* instructional practices into *Lucy Calkins Reading Workshop Units of Study*
- **Professional Development Facilitator** – Created and presented professional development for K-5 teachers regarding best practices, instructional strategies for engagement and focus, integrating mindfulness into the classroom, and teaching with the brain in mind.
- **Lovett Institute Presenter** – Participated in organizing Lovett's annual professional development conference. Chosen to present at the event to share the core processes of learning and instructional strategies that integrate teaching with the brain in mind.

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INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued)

Reading Coach, Grades K - 6

Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology, K – 12 Charter School, Paterson, NJ 2011 – 2014

- **Literacy Curriculum Coordinator** – Designed a balanced literacy curriculum and instructional model for integrating best practices to meet the specific needs of the student population and align the curriculum with the Common Core State Standards for Grades K - 6.
- **Professional Development Coordinator and Facilitator** – Designed two weeks of literacy professional development to train teachers in the balanced literacy approach, language and literacy development, and teaching with the brain in mind. The professional development was driven by *Architecture of Learning* and *Foundations and Frameworks*, both graduate level courses. An overview of *The Daily 5* and *Reading CAFÉ* were also included in the training. In addition, collaborated with the Director of Curriculum to plan and facilitate staff development throughout the school year.
- **Literacy Instructional Coach** – Observed, supported, modeled lessons, and worked alongside of teachers in order to ensure understanding and utilization of the balanced literacy approach, best practices, and teaching with the brain in mind. In addition, evaluated students to determine strengths, weaknesses, and learning styles in order to make recommendations for teaching techniques, differentiation, and coach teachers in how to best teach struggling literacy learners in the classroom.
- **Language Arts Department Chair** – Coordinated the scope and sequence of the literacy curriculum, facilitated teacher collaboration throughout the year, evaluated lesson plans to ensure the use of best practices on a daily basis in the classroom, and coordinated school-wide literacy events to fuel and celebrate a love for reading, writing, and learning.
- **Member of RTI** – Worked with a Response to Intervention team to support teachers with struggling students, administered a literacy assessment when necessary, communicated with parents, and collaborated with the social worker when a psychological evaluation was requested.
- **Summer Literacy Program Developer and Coordinator** – Designed, organized, and led a month-long program to close the achievement gap for capable and motivated yet struggling literacy learners.

Mt. Bethel Christian Academy, PK – 8 Christian Day School, Marietta, Georgia 2009 - 2011

- **Reading Curriculum Trainer and Coordinator** - Directed and taught a two-week graduate level training course for 14 teachers (K-5) to implement the *Foundations & Frameworks* reading curriculum school-wide during the 2009 – 2010 school year; organized and ordered books and supplies; organized curriculum mapping and scope and sequence K – 5.
- **Reading Coach** – observed and coached 14 teachers (K-5) in implementing *Foundations & Frameworks* effectively.
- **Staff Development Leader** – Trained 18 teachers (K-5) in *Architecture of Learning; Teaching with the Brain in Mind*; successfully obtained approval for PLUs towards certification.
- **Developed** the third grade reading curriculum during the 2009-2010 school year.
- **Piloted** the *Foundations & Frameworks* reading curriculum during the 2009 – 2010 school year.
- **Reading Curriculum Committee** – Participated in choosing a new school-wide reading program.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2nd and 3rd Grade Teacher

Mt. Bethel Christian Academy, PK – 8 Christian Day School, Marietta, Georgia 2003 – 2011

- Maintained the Lead Teacher position in a self-contained classroom of 22 students.
- Rewrote the Writing curriculum to integrate the teaching of English and Writing and align with best practices for literacy development.
- Planned units throughout the school year to enhance and differentiate the curriculum.
- Volunteered for various committees throughout the year to assist with extracurricular activities and school-wide community events.
- Tutored struggling students in phonics, reading, and math after and before school hours.
- Developed an interactive summer camp for struggling students in Math and Writing. 2007, 2011
- Served on the committee to choose a new Social Studies curriculum. 2006

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS

Founder of *Inspiring Literacy, LLC*

2018 - Present

Professional Development Facilitator, Instructional Coach, Literacy Intervention Specialist

Mission: Creating Confident Readers

Contributor for *Writer's Stylus*, writing curriculum, K – 6

INFLUENTIAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Learning and the Brain Conference*
Boston, MA
- *Orton Gillingham Training*
The Schenck School, Atlanta, GA
- *Writer's Stylus* writing curriculum
Manhattan Christian School, New York, NY
- Advanced Training for *Foundations & Frameworks* reading curriculum
Briarwood Christian School, Birmingham, AL
- Advanced Training for *Architecture of Learning, Teaching with the Brain in Mind*
Briarwood Christian School, Birmingham, AL

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Reading Association (IRA)

Clerestory Learning, Dr. Kevin Washburn

The Art of Coaching

COMPUTER SKILLS

PC – Proficient in WORD, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Movie Maker / MAC – iWork, iLife programs

REFERENCES

Laurie Smilack, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
(Previously at The Lovett School)
(404) 441-1665
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Deserae Jackson, Principal
Wheeler Elementary School
501 SE 25th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73129
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Lenny Kopacz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
(Previously at Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology)
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