



Dear Walnut Acres Families...From Mrs. Datzman

Dr. Dowd invited me to be a link in her Newsletter so that I could send you the announcement of my retirement from Walnut Acres in June.

After teaching at a few other schools and grade levels I touched down here at Walnut Acres, and now I've spent almost half of my teaching career here in Kindergarten. It's been such a wonderful place for me to grow as I've worked to help your students grow.

About 10 years ago, as the age of technology began to have an everyday presence in elementary education, I worked with a parent here whose job was bringing tech and innovative teaching practices into high schools. He casually remarked that "students today come to school and Power Down," and "the need to know the capital of Florida died when my phone learned the answer."

My brilliant flash of awareness was that I needed to double down on keeping every student engaged, if I wanted to remain relevant.

I did, and I always will.

I wanted to help your students use their creativity, spur their curiosity, share their ideas with each other, and use their hands-on tools to help them become independent problem solvers.

And always, always, to be their most kind and generous selves.

How lucky I've been to teach at a school – Your School! – where the tools to keep the curriculum relevant-

- Readers and Writers Workshop
- Singapore Math and Math Talks
- Science, Literature and Social Studies presentations created by students using the coolest tech and apps we can find are adopted every year.

How lucky I've been to work with my sharp, talented, and fun kindergarten team who are always ready to stretch themselves to create better ways to help their students reach the challenging reading, writing, and math goals. We all worked together this spring to create a video primer for kindergarten parents on the Reading Workshop. It will be up on the WA Website soon!

I will dearly miss this place, and all of you who have supported this work every way you can. Thank you for all you've done to give me such wonderful memories.

With warmest wishes to you all,
Rohnda Datzman