



Meet the Principal Kathy Shiba

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“A quality education is the path to a successful future...”

Kathy Shiba is the principal of Sahuarita Elementary School, a school with almost 1,300 students from Kindergarten through eighth grade. Named three times as “One of the Best Principals in the State”, Kathy believes a quality education is the path to a successful future. Kathy, a Sahuarita alumna, has been working in the educational system as both a principal and teacher for the past eighteen years. In 2004 Kathy was recognized with the National Distinguished Elementary Principal of the Year award; and in 2001 she received the Arizona’s Middle School Principal of the Year award.

A strong proponent of homework, Kathy believes that completing assigned homework is key to each student’s success. Therefore she has set the tone for excellence in learning by requiring that students who do not complete their homework assignments must stay after school to finish the assignment. Kathy notes that over the years, she has observed that students usually prefer to complete their assignments then spend time in study hall. Most students only spend one time in study hall and work hard to avoid it by completing their assignments on time.

Sahuarita Elementary School provides an extensive tutoring program which includes homework assistance for all students. These programs are designed to support students whom have fallen behind or need the extra academic attention. Additionally, the homework assistance programs aid students with the AIMS test and/or with English-language learning. Success stories include remedial students who are able to excel through the educational programs; eighth-graders who are able to take high-school level geometry or advanced algebra courses; and seventh graders learning eighth grade math.

Kathy works with two assistant principals, Karen Pischansky and Clarisa Rodriguez, to provide a fair and supportive environment for teachers and students to thrive and learn in. As Anza Trail continues to grown in student size, Kathy will continue to make student achievement her top priority. To assist Kathy with her responsibilities are numerous warm and giving volunteers who provide input and methods to motivate and praise the students.

Kathy believes in an "open door" environment and encourages parents to contact her with questions, concerns or ideas. Everyone is welcome at Anza Trail.