

Stargate portraits

Whei: Portrait of a Stargate supporter

Whei loves Stargate School and wants the best for students. Every year, she contributes time to her students and to the school. She donates to the annual fundraising campaign, works to support teachers in educating students, and votes in each election. Whei believes it is important to engage in healthy discussion on critical issues in the community and makes it a point to attend the Stakeholders meeting and at least one other board meeting per semester. Whei tries to set aside at least 10 hours per month on school projects and donates \$200 per year for each of her three children at Stargate.

Allen: Portrait of a Stargate educator

Allen came to teaching with a mission to support gifted and talented students. He was identified as gifted when he was in middle school. He was exposed to very limited gifted offerings in his district school, but it did whet his appetite for exploring giftedness. After he completed his teaching certification at a university in Denver, Allen followed up with getting his gifted endorsement. Stargate is Allen's third school and he has been teaching here for five years. He says he loves the inquisitive and "very different" nature of the students in his classes. He says he appreciates the support from the community and can't imagine teaching anywhere else.

Eliza: Portrait of a Stargate board member

Eliza – "E" to her friends – joined the CRC at Stargate when her first child was in second grade. They were new to the school and new to the area having moved here from Florida. She was immediately impressed by her child's learning experience and by the environment Stargate offered. She decided to take the next step in school leadership by running for a position on the School Accountability Committee. The deep research she got to do there, combined with the survey feedback SAC reviewed each year, led her to run for the school board. She is now in the second year of her three-year term on the board. She says she has learned a lot about operations and the legal and financial environment in which the school exists. She says being on the board can be incredibly time consuming but critical to keeping Stargate rolling into the future.

Kristen: Portrait of a Stargate leader

Kristen never thought she would be in administration. She pursued an education degree because she loved being in the classroom. While she enjoyed her time teaching third graders, once she got her gifted endorsement, she started looking for new challenges. She went back to the classroom herself to get additional certifications. After working as an assistant principal in Adams 27J, she joined Stargate. She has only been here a couple of years, but she continues to be impressed by the high-achieving students and the hard-working staff. While she misses the

classroom, she says she feels like she is getting to teach in a new way as she coaches new educators and works with other leaders in the school.

Lou: Portrait of a Stargate staff member

Lou came to Stargate 10 years ago after working for years in construction. Lou brings a trove of skills to the school from his time as a master carpenter and sometime electrician. Lou discovered additional roles at Stargate. First, he helped to coach basketball in middle school. Then he turned his attention to public address systems in the school's buildings. For the past several years, he has been working on gardening projects in raised beds at the school. He says he feels lucky every day he comes to work at Stargate.