

Mary F. Roe Equity in Literacy Award, 2020

Sarah Cohen Burrowbridge



Sarah Burrowbridge spent her 18-year career working with middle grades students. She started her career in DC Public Schools teaching an all-girls class. That group of girls taught Sarah the power of student voice to impact change when given the chance despite many of the challenges they faced daily. This shaped much of her educational philosophy, which puts students at the center. She then moved to Lynbrook Elementary School in Fairfax County Public Schools where she continued to teach at a Title I school. Her sixth-grade classroom empowered students to guide their own learning and grow their classroom community. It was there that she connected with Dr. Seth Parsons and began her research journey. She published on student engagement in literacy tasks, the impact of home visits, and the case for teacher adaptability.

She left the classroom in 2019 to move into a middle school setting as an intervention coordinator and instructional coach. She also developed a school-wide advisory program designed to carve out time in the day for students to acquire social and emotional learning skills, enhance executive functioning skills, and explore issues around equity. Currently, Sarah is a middle school assistant principal. She continues to help teachers grow their capacity to build relationships with students and adapt to the needs of their students to increase academic and equitable outcomes for all.

Biography by Seth Parsons