

"Fontana Star" is our web series profiling district staff and alumni who are distinguished for their dedication on behalf of students, commitment to excellence and notable accomplishments in service of FUSD.



# Fontana STAR

## Jennifer Esquivel

shares how she is inspired



Profile in Excellence: Jennifer Esquivel, Music Teacher	
<b>FUSD Schools Attended:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cypress Elementary School</li> <li>▪ Randall Pepper Elementary School</li> <li>▪ Fontana Middle School</li> <li>▪ Fontana High School</li> </ul>
<b>Higher Education:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Southern Utah University</li> <li>▪ University of Nevada, Las Vegas</li> </ul>
<b>FUSD Career Experiences:</b>	Choir/Piano Teacher at Fontana High School
<b>Who were the FUSD staff that affected you most as a student?</b>	<i>I had the opportunity to have some of the very best teachers that have ever worked for FUSD. I still have fond memories of my Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Sneddon. I also remember very well Mrs. Joy Martin who was my 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade elementary teacher. She always encouraged me to work hard and she continually challenged me with new material. Another teacher that really challenged me and taught me how to work was Mr. Jerry Dison.</i>
<b>What did you dream of growing-up to be as a child that would lead you to your work with FUSD?</b>	<i>My mom, Linda Hartman, taught music in FUSD for her entire career. She really enjoyed her job and she taught me a love for music. I knew from the time that I was a middle school student that I wanted to teach music. I never really considered doing anything else. It's a great job!</i>
<b>Since you've joined FUSD as staff, what experience(s) have you been most proud of?</b>	<i>A few years ago, I took my Madrigal group to a competition in Las Vegas. We were very intimidated because there were very large groups from several prestigious schools including private schools from all over the United States. My group not only won first place in their division, but they also won the sweepstakes award for the highest scoring group in the competition. They worked hard and this was the moment when they saw the results of their efforts.</i>
<b>What keeps you up at night about your work for FUSD?</b>	<i>Money, money, and money. I know that I have very capable, hard-working students but we are always concerned with finances. I want to be able to take them to competitions but it is a very expensive proposition. It is a struggle just to get them all matching uniforms. It is becoming increasingly difficult each year that goes by.</i>
<b>What do you think is the biggest misconception the public has about our work?</b>	<i>The number of hours that it takes to run a successful program. I really enjoy the work that I do with the students but it is the after hours paperwork that will drive you crazy. I have spent hours at a time rolling coins from the latest fundraiser!</i>

<b>What can the community do to strengthen public education?</b>	<i>We need parents that will have the courage to expect high standards from their students. It is really at home that students need to be taught to have a strong work ethic and to be responsible and trustworthy human beings.</i>
<b>What inspires you to give your very best for the students of FUSD?</b>	<i>I love my subject matter. I want my students to catch some of the excitement that I have because I think that music is something that can uplift their lives. I have students that start out knowing very little about music and they realize through their journey that this is something that they want to be involved in for the rest of their lives.</i>
<b>What might staff or students be surprised to learn about you?</b>	<i>When I started working at Fontana High School, it was very odd to be back at my Alma Mater as a teacher. Several of my former teachers were still working here when I started and I never got into the habit of calling them by their first names. It was also strange going back into the choir room and seeing old photos of myself still hanging up. My students got a big kick out of my 80's hair styles!</i>

*If you know of a "Fontana Star," particularly one who was an FUSD alumnus, you can nominate him or her to be featured by emailing [webmaster@fusd.net](mailto:webmaster@fusd.net). Please provide your name, the name of the individual being nominated, contact information for both of you and a brief description as to why you think the individual qualifies as a Fontana Star.*