



Curriculum Writer

Connie Dierking

Connie Dierking is an Educational Writer at Schoolwide, Inc. Connie has over 34 years of experience in the educational field. She started her instruction experience in Northeast Kansas. She then moved to Pinellas County School District (PCS) and began teaching at Tyrone Elementary in St. Petersburg, FL, in 1986. She continued classroom teaching until 2004. Connie then went on to become a District Reading Coach and a Writing Staff Developer for PCS. With her teaching background, Connie also held the position of Reading Coordinator for The University of Central Florida.

With all of her teaching knowledge, Connie has contributed to several professional books published by Maupin House Publishing. The topics have included Primary Writing, Elementary Writing, and Reading and Writing Connections. Connie has presented professionally on a variety of topics and to several associations, including beginning reading and writing to The International Reading Association (IRA), educational coaching to The Florida Department of Education, reading interventions for The Reading First Professional Development, and primary writing to Pinellas County Schools, where she is also a Reading Council member. For her commitment to the profession of teaching, Connie was awarded the Pinellas County Teacher of the Year award for 2003.

Connie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Kansas State University and a Master of Special Education degree from Kansas State University. She also holds a Reading Endorsement Certification from the University of Central Florida.

You can say that teaching was passed down to Connie. Her father was a teacher, and she saw how much he loved his career and how much he meant to his students, as well as their families. She remembers thinking that he always seemed to be having so much fun at his job, and she wanted that kind of job, too! If you ask Connie what is the best part of teaching, she will tell you that the unpredictable nature of children makes every day unique and amazing. Over the years her most rewarding experience was having a student write her 32 years after being in her class to tell her that she was “the best teacher ever!” Now, if you asked her why she loves working at Schoolwide, she would tell you because Schoolwide is truly a family, and she loves that! Connie’s other passions include boating, reading, perusing old bookstores, and traveling.

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