

Mrs. Barnes

1. When did you start teaching at Bradfield?

I began teaching at Bradfield in 2004

I have the opportunity to be under the care of 4 superintendents and 4 principals.

2. What is one or some of your favorite memories of your time at Bradfield?

Being a teacher at Bradfield has been one of the most meaningful and rewarding experiences of my life. I have formed lifelong bonds with colleagues and families. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to work with the absolute finest teachers. Many of my colleagues are like sisters to me and we will be lifelong friends. My favorite memory is throughout the years all of our countless moments of laughter we have shared together. Equally important are the relationships and friendships I have formed with our Bradfield parents. It has been incredibly impactful. We are all on the same team, investing in our children to "enter these halls and go forth to serve." What an incredible mission to prepare these children for life. My heart is full and I know how fortunate I am to have had 22 years in a career in this incredible school district. Where else in the world do you hear people ask once they learn you are from Highland Park, Texas "Which elementary school did you attend.?" I proudly respond, "I teach at Bradfield and both of my children attended Bradfield."

3. What is next for you?

My plan is to take a year off from work and spend time with family. After a year off from work I will see what is next for me. It is about the unknown right now. I graduated from SMU with my Master's Degree. I may pursue a position at SMU, however for now I will be diving into more of a parent volunteer role at MIS and HPHS. I am looking forward to devoting more time to James and Jackson, our soon to be seventh and tenth graders.

4. What lessons will you take with you from your time at Bradfield?

A lesson that I have acquired while being at Bradfield is putting my heart and soul into a profession that has impacted me in ways that will serve me well for the rest of my life. It started with my grandfather who taught me to be the best that I can be through hard work and dedication. I sometimes hear in my mind my grandfather's words of wisdom transcend down through me as I guide our youth into participating in the virtue that hard work does

indeed pay off. It has come full circle for me in this career path I have chosen as I see students develop and grow from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

Mrs. Keffer

1. When did you start teaching at Bradfield?

I began teaching kindergarten at Bradfield in 2004. Before that, I was a stay-at-home mom while my own children attended Bradfield. I realized how much I missed the classroom, so I returned to teaching when my children reached 4th and 5th grade.

2. What are some of your favorite memories from your time here?

The Halloween Parade is a clear favorite. There is something so hilarious about the morning struggle—helping five-year-olds manage bulky dinosaur tails, slippery capes, and masks that won't stay straight before the parade even begins! I also love the excitement in the air as the older students line the hallways to cheer on the "littlest Broncos."

3. What is next for you?

My husband, Tom, and I are moving to Houston to be near our daughter, her husband, and our grandchildren: Freddy (2.5 years) and Annabelle (10 months). We also plan to travel quite a bit and spend more time in Newport Beach, California.

4. What lessons will you take with you from Bradfield?

I've taught through countless educational "fads" and technological shifts, and my biggest takeaway is that while the tools change, the nature of children remains the same. They still need connection and the knowledge that their teacher truly cares about them. I still love teaching, which made the decision to leave such a wonderful school incredibly difficult! Bradfield will always hold a very special place in my heart!

Senora Parker

1. When did you start teaching at Bradfield?

I began teaching at Bradfield in August 2018, the same year the "new Bradfield" campus opened.

2. What is one or some of your favorite memories of your time at Bradfield?

One memory that stands out from my time at Bradfield is my very first day. It was a teacher workday, and I arrived ready to begin—only to discover I was supposed to report to Boone. When I walked into Bradfield, I was greeted by a flurry of activity, with staff working hard to prepare for the first day of school. I quickly called Regina to let her know I had arrived, and she laughed and said, “We’re at Boone!” It was an unforgettable introduction to a new chapter. Another powerful memory is the day we shifted instructional delivery during the COVID-19 crisis. Like schools everywhere, we pivoted to emergency remote teaching, using a blend of synchronous tools like Zoom and Google Meet alongside asynchronous online learning. It was a challenging time, but also one that highlighted resilience, adaptability, and commitment to students.

I carry with me countless memories of greeting students at the door each day—welcoming them with smiles, hugs, and a sense of belonging. My classroom was filled with authentic learning experiences, from using real-world materials like menus, pamphlets, and comics to exploring cultural comparisons in traditions, food, and social norms. Student-driven topics, such as the 2022 FIFA World Cup and the Taco Truck Project, sparked meaningful discussions and deep engagement in the world language classroom.

Throughout my teaching, I prioritized communication over perfection. Using TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling), I encouraged students to speak freely, aiming for 90% target language use while embracing mistakes as a natural and valuable part of learning.

Some of my favorite memories come from the joy of playing games in the classroom. These moments not only boosted engagement and reduced anxiety but also built community and reinforced learning. From “Corre En Círculos” and Spanish Jeopardy to “La Silla Caliente,” Guess Who, BINGO variations, Kahoot, and more, laughter and learning always went hand in hand.

I have also truly enjoyed working with the Specials team, who have been an extension of my own learning and growth at Bradfield. Collaborating with Mr. Foley on Great Friends Day and with Ms. Cromley on Day of the Dead celebrations created meaningful experiences for students and strengthened our school community. These partnerships are among the many relationships I will always cherish.

3. What is next for you?

After 41 years in the classroom, I look forward to a new chapter that allows me to slow down and enjoy the moments I once had to fit into a busy schedule. I hope to spend more time with family and friends, travel and explore new places, and continue learning in ways that bring me joy. While I may be stepping away from full-time teaching, I know my passion for education will stay with me—whether through mentoring, volunteering, or simply sharing my love of language and learning with others. This next phase is about balance, gratitude, and embracing the opportunities ahead.

4. What lessons will you take with you from your time at Bradfield?

One of the most important lessons I will take with me from my time at Bradfield is the power of relationships. Building connections with students, colleagues, and families creates a sense of belonging that makes learning meaningful and lasting. I've also learned the importance of flexibility and resilience—especially during times of change—understanding that great teaching often requires adapting while keeping students at the center.

Bradfield reinforced for me that learning should be engaging, relevant, and joyful. Whether through authentic resources, cultural exploration, or games, students learn best when they feel safe to take risks and be themselves. I will also carry with me the value of collaboration. Working alongside such a supportive Specials team showed me that we grow stronger as educators when we learn from one another and share our strengths.

Above all, I leave Bradfield with a deep sense of gratitude and the reminder that teaching is not just about content—it's about connection, community, and making a lasting impact on the lives of students.