

Spartan Spotlight: Ms. Catherine Eldridge, Academic Facilitator



As the Sedgefield Middle academic facilitator, Ms. Eldridge acts as a bridge between administration, community partners, parents and staff – and assists with Title 1 compliance, extended day programs and the SMS Beginning Teacher Support Program. Ms. Eldridge has been in education for 24 years; she began her career in 1995 in Granville County as an Exceptional Children's (EC) teacher, then moved to Charlotte in 1997 and worked for six years at Kennedy Middle School as an EC teacher and sixth grade science/ELA teacher. She has been at SMS

since 2003.

"The thing I love about working in middle school is that it is always changing and busy," Ms. Eldridge said. "No two days are ever the same. I could be working with teachers on lesson plans one day, then working with a business partner about supporting our staff with incentives. It is always changing."

During the 2019-20 school year, Ms. Eldridge said she is excited to work with our SMS partners and to watch "our PTO grow and flourish into a strong, active and engaging part of our amazing school. I am also looking forward to working with our new teachers. They are such a strong and creative group of educators. I can't wait to see what new ideas and strategies they bring to Sedgefield."

Ms. Eldridge has a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education and a master's in history from the College of Charleston. She holds National Board Certification in early adolescence English/language arts and is certified in academically gifted instruction.

Born and raised in Durham, North Carolina, she is – you guessed it – a Duke fan (in particular, Duke basketball!) Her dad, a professor of international relations in Middle East affairs and political science at Duke University for over 35 years, was Ms. Eldridge's spark for her career in education. "The way he would challenge and encourage critical thinking in his students during lectures made me see the gift of being an educator," she said.

