

# ORE Special Education

## ORE Special Education Mission Statement

The League of All Abilities will support flexible services for all individuals to foster independence.

## Staff Spotlight



One of our fabulous new para-educators is named Ms. Brenda Draper. She started working at Ocotillo Ridge in August, but has worked in other schools for quite a while.

Born and raised: Tucson, AZ

Tell us about your family: I've been married for 28 years and have one daughter.

Favorite part of your job: I love our ORE staff. Also, I love to see the students grow and achieve goals and accomplishments.

Why do you love working with Special Education?

I enjoy helping students learn and I like seeing their progress!



One of our veteran para-educators is Ms. Alison Smith. Ms. Alison started working at ORE in 2012.

Born and raised: Banbury, England

Tell us about your family: I have been married for 26 years to Dennis. We have three children: Emily, 25, a Lieutenant in the US Air

Force in South Korea. Loren, 23, just graduated from the U of A and works at GEICO in the management program. Finally, Nicholas who is in the 7th grade at OVMS.

Favorite part of your job: My favorite part of my job is how rewarding it can be seeing the kids achieve their goals or seeing all the hard work you put in, pay off.

Why do you love working with Special Education? I love being a SPED Para because it allows me to make a difference in a child's life by giving them the help they need with academics and the attention, compassion, and encouragement a child needs to succeed.

## Seeing Behaviors at Home? Try These Tips!

1. Set consistent expectations and routines.
  2. If poor behaviors are consistent, find the cause.
  3. Avoid power struggles - use calm voice and relaxed body language.
  4. Use meaningful incentives (reach out to the special education team if you need ideas!)
  5. Give positive praise for desired behaviors.
- "The behavior you attend to is the behavior you teach."

## How can you help ORE Sped Department?

If you would like to help the Sped Department with supplies, here are some examples of materials we are in need of:

- Snacks (goldfish, apple sauce, crackers, etc.)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Lysol Wipes
- Fidgets
- Small Trinkets for Sensory House

Please write ORE SPED on donated items and have your child give them to his or her classroom teacher. Thank you for your support!

## Need Help? Email the Special Education Team!

### Special Education Teachers:

Kelsey Wittoesch - [wittoeschk@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:wittoeschk@vailschooldistrict.org)

Samantha Mangus - [manguss@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:manguss@vailschooldistrict.org)

Sharon Hodges - [hodgesowens@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:hodgesowens@vailschooldistrict.org)

### Behavior Specialist:

Shauna Nordling - [nordlings@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:nordlings@vailschooldistrict.org)

### Speech Language Therapist

Loreen Kleinberg - [kleinbergl@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:kleinbergl@vailschooldistrict.org)

### School Psychologist:

Nancy Gulotta - [gulottan@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:gulottan@vailschooldistrict.org)