

Rachel Underwood - AmeriCorps Fall 2003-2004

Jefferson Junior High School

As I began my placement at Jefferson, I wondered whether or not this would be my opportunity to make an impact on the lives of youth. As I worked in the first few months with a small group of seventh graders I found that they were unmotivated and careless about their own grades. However, when I began to work with my own small group of students, I found that the potential was overwhelming. Although some students continued to be disruptive and neglectful with their homework, throughout the months many began to hold strong B's and even A's! The students were proud to show me their grades, when in the past they had a hard time returning a signed copy back to school. Their diligence and prompt work has reinforced my beliefs that anyone, anywhere can be successful if given the chance and a helping hand.

Finger painting during Dr. Martin Luther King Day. The activity sent a great message to the community by illustrating that regardless of skin color, we are all the same.



I felt as though my time and efforts have made a difference with the students. They appeared to be more interested in their schoolwork and their grades improved overall. Encouragement, especially toward homework, was an absolute necessity.



8th grade Language Arts and Science classes were challenging and rewarding!

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

