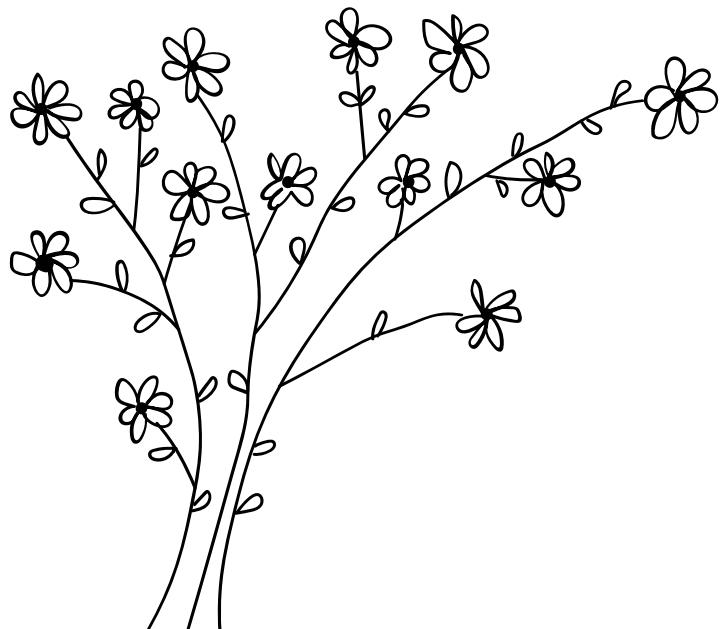


# Planting Seeds, Growing Minds.

SAMANTHA BRADY'S TEACHING PORTFOLIO



# Overview

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## I. PHILOSOPHY

- MY APPROACH
- EXPERIENCE AND GROWTH

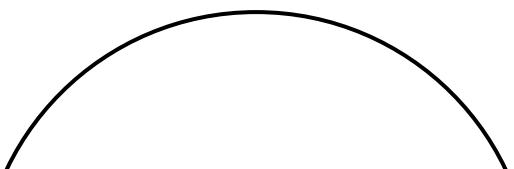
## II. IN OUR CLASSROOM

- RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING PLANS
- CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT PLANS
- LESSON PLAN APPROACH
- ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION STRATEGY



## III. PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- RESUME
- EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE
- CONTACT INFORMATION
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# Philosophy

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**“Empowering young minds through curiosity, connection, and a love for lifelong learning.”**

I believe that every child is naturally curious and capable of growth when given the right environment. My goal as an educator is to create a space where students feel safe to ask questions, challenge ideas, and develop confidence in their own voices.

By encouraging curiosity and meaningful connections, I aim to help students not only master academic content but also build the skills and mindset they need to become thoughtful, compassionate, and engaged learners — in and beyond the classroom.

# My Approach

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Every child is naturally curious and capable of growth when nurtured in the right environment. My classroom is a safe space for students to ask questions, explore ideas, and build confidence in their voices.

Through meaningful connections and student-centered learning, I aim to:

- Foster curiosity and critical thinking across all subjects
- Create a welcoming, collaborative environment where every student feels valued
- Inspire a love for lifelong learning that extends beyond the classroom

By combining high expectations with genuine support, I strive to empower students academically, socially, and emotionally.

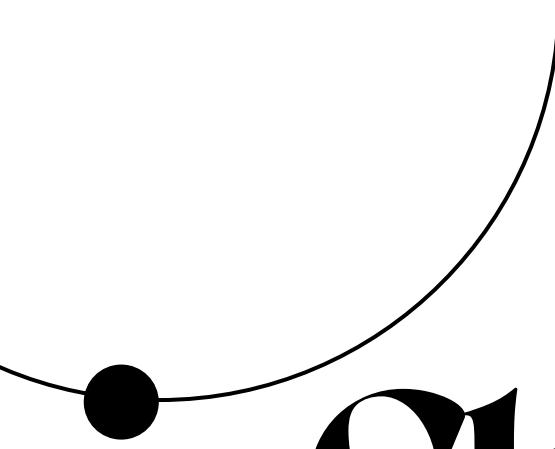
# Experience and Growth

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My path to teaching is rooted in both academic learning and real-world leadership experiences:

- **Tutor.com and All-Star Kids Center:** Supporting diverse learners individually, helping them master challenging concepts, and building their academic confidence.
- **Leadership at Starbucks:** Developing teamwork, adaptability, and strong communication skills — all essential in creating a connected, supportive classroom.
- **Texas Teachers of Tomorrow:** Pursuing certification in Core Subjects 4–8 with a Science of Teaching Reading endorsement, deepening my instructional expertise.

These experiences have strengthened my commitment to fostering a classroom where curiosity is nurtured, critical thinking is celebrated, and every student's potential is recognized.



# In Our Classroom

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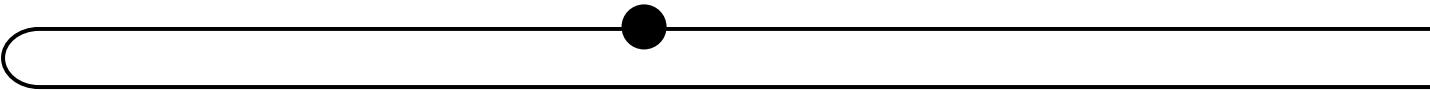
Welcome to a classroom built on curiosity, connection, and growth.

Here, students are encouraged to ask questions, explore new ideas, take risks, and celebrate their learning journey every day.

In this section, you'll find an overview of the core practices that shape our learning environment:

- **Relationship Building:** Creating strong connections with students and families
- **Classroom Management:** Establishing a safe, respectful, and collaborative space
- **Lesson Planning:** Designing engaging, TEKS-aligned learning experiences
- **Assessment and Feedback:** Supporting student growth through meaningful reflection

Every strategy is rooted in my belief that when students feel valued, challenged, and supported, they blossom into confident lifelong learners.



# Relationship Building

Strong relationships are the foundation of a thriving classroom. I believe that when students feel seen, heard, and supported, they are empowered to grow both academically and personally.

My approach to relationship building focuses on clear, consistent, and meaningful communication:

## Communication Methods:

- **Digital Platforms:** Class newsletters, parent emails, and learning management systems (such as Google Classroom or Remind)
- **Face-to-Face Meetings:** Scheduled conferences, open house events, and informal daily check-ins
- **Phone Outreach:** Personal calls to celebrate successes, address concerns, and build positive connections

## Key Strategies:

- **Setting Clear Expectations:** Sharing classroom norms and academic goals early and revisiting them regularly
- **Regular Updates:** Providing weekly feedback and communication with families
- **Parent and Family Engagement:** Creating opportunities for volunteering, family nights, and classroom involvement
- **Student Ownership:** Empowering students to set goals, reflect on progress, and take pride in their learning journey

By partnering with students and families, I strive to build a classroom culture rooted in curiosity, respect, and collaboration — where every learner feels connected and supported.

# Classroom Management

A well-managed classroom sets the foundation for both academic achievement and personal growth. I believe that when students feel respected, safe, and responsible for their learning community, they thrive.

## **My classroom management approach includes:**

- **Clear Expectations:** Establishing shared classroom norms at the start of the year, revisiting them regularly with student input.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** Celebrating student successes, good behavior, and personal growth through praise, incentives, and reflection.
- **Restorative Practices:** Addressing misbehavior through conversations, reflection sheets, and goal setting rather than punitive measures.
- **Predictable Routines:** Building consistency in daily procedures to reduce anxiety and maximize instructional time.
- **Student Leadership:** Encouraging students to take ownership through classroom jobs, peer mediation, and group collaboration roles.

Through structure, empathy, and shared responsibility, I aim to create a classroom where every student feels empowered to succeed.

# Lesson Planning

Every lesson offers a chance to spark curiosity, critical thinking, and a love of learning. I design lessons that are TEKS-aligned, culturally responsive, and differentiated to meet the diverse needs of my students.

## **Key principles in my lesson planning:**

- **Clear Learning Targets:** Defining and sharing objectives with students each day.
- **Active Engagement:** Using strategies like think-pair-share, project-based learning, and inquiry discussions.
- **Differentiation:** Offering multiple entry points for varied learning styles, including scaffolding, choice menus, and flexible groupings.
- **Integration of Literacy:** Embedding reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills across subjects.
- **Ongoing Reflection:** Adjusting instruction based on student feedback, formative assessments, and classroom observation.

By thoughtfully designing lessons, I strive to create an inclusive environment where students are challenged, supported, and excited to learn.

# Daily Lesson Plan: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

**Topic:** Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition

**TEKS Alignment:** 4.7B — The student is expected to investigate rapid changes to Earth's surface.

## **Objective:**

Students will explain how natural processes like weathering, erosion, and deposition change the Earth's surface over time.

## **Materials:**

- Anchor chart paper
- Science journals
- Images and video clips of landforms
- Small stream table (or erosion demonstration model)

## **Lesson Plan:**

1. **Hook (5 minutes):** Show a time-lapse video of a canyon forming. Ask: “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”
2. **Mini-Lesson (15 minutes):** Create an anchor chart together defining weathering, erosion, and deposition with real-world examples. Show quick video clips of each process.
3. **Guided Practice (15 minutes):** Demonstrate water erosion using a small stream table or simple sand and water setup. Students record observations in their science journals.
4. **Independent Practice (10 minutes):** Students draw a diagram of the demonstration and label where weathering, erosion, and deposition occurred.
5. **Exit Ticket (5 minutes):** Write one sentence explaining the difference between erosion and deposition.

## **Differentiation:**

- Provide visual vocabulary cards for ELLs.
- Allow students to verbally explain the process if writing is a barrier.
- Extension: Students research local examples of landform changes.

# Daily Lesson Plan: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA

**Topic:** Summarizing Fiction Texts

**TEKS Alignment:** 5.6A — The student is expected to summarize the elements of plot development (conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution).

## Objective:

Students will summarize a fiction passage by identifying key plot elements and sequencing events clearly.

## Materials:

- Short fiction passage (“The Runaway Kite” or similar)
- Story map graphic organizers
- Chart paper and markers

## Lesson Plan:

1. **Hook (5 minutes):** Ask: “Have you ever had to tell a story quickly? What details do you have to leave out?”
2. **Mini-Lesson (10 minutes):** Model summarizing a short paragraph using a “Somebody-Wanted-But-So-Then” structure. Create a sample story map on chart paper.
3. **Guided Practice (15 minutes):** Read the fiction passage aloud. As a class, fill out a story map identifying the key elements (characters, conflict, climax, resolution).
4. **Independent Practice (15 minutes):** Students work in pairs to complete their own story maps using a new short passage.
5. **Exit Ticket (5 minutes):** On a sticky note, students write one sentence summarizing the story’s conflict and resolution.

## Differentiation:

- Provide sentence stems for students who need scaffolding.
- Allow verbal summaries as needed.
- Challenge advanced students to compare two plots after summarizing.

# Weekly Plan: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Subjects

**Theme:** Exploring Patterns in Nature

**Week 1 Focus:**

Subject	Focus Standard	Learning Objective	Activities	Assessment
ELA	4.6F	Students identify theme and supporting evidence.	Read "The Giving Tree," theme anchor chart, group discussion.	Exit ticket: Write the theme in one sentence.
Math	4.4H	Students generate and represent numerical patterns.	Pattern station rotations, input/output tables practice.	Quick quiz Friday on pattern recognition.
Science	4.7C	Students examine slow changes to Earth's surface.	Weathering/erosion experiments, erosion investigation journals.	Group reflection: Erosion causes and effects.
Social Studies	4.13A	Students explain how Texas communities adapt to environments.	Research project: How Texans adapt to droughts, floods, hurricanes.	Poster presentation on community adaptations.

# Assessment & Evaluation

*"GROWTH IS A JOURNEY — ASSESSMENT SHINES THE LIGHT ON EVERY STEP FORWARD."*

Assessment is a tool not just to measure learning, but to drive it. I use a balance of formative and summative assessments to track student progress, inform instruction, and support each learner's growth.

## My assessment strategy includes:

- **Formative Checks:** Quick, low-stakes assessments like exit tickets, journals, or one-minute reflections.
- **Differentiated Summative Assessments:** Offering multiple ways to demonstrate mastery — projects, presentations, traditional tests, and performance tasks.
- **Student Self-Assessment:** Empowering students to reflect on their progress and set personal learning goals.
- **Data-Driven Instruction:** Analyzing assessment results to target intervention, enrichment, and adjust pacing.
- **Timely, Constructive Feedback:** Providing actionable feedback that students can use to improve their learning.

Through thoughtful assessment practices, I aim to cultivate a growth mindset and help every student see themselves as capable, reflective learners.

# Let's Connect!

*"BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS THAT HELP EVERY STUDENT BLOOM."*

Thank you for exploring my portfolio!

Below you'll find my résumé and contact information. I look forward to building partnerships that support student growth, curiosity, and lifelong learning.

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WIX

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MYTEACHINGPORTFOLIO

# Samantha N. Brady

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## Academics

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**University of Houston** — Downtown

- Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies

**Texas Teachers of Tomorrow** — Certification in Progress

- Core Subjects 4-8
- Science of Teaching Reading Certification

## Education Experience

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**Tutor.com** — Academic Tutor

- Delivered individualized support in reading, writing, and study skills.
- Focused on building student confidence and critical thinking through positive reinforcement.

**All-Star Kids Center** — Instructional Assistant

- Supported small group instruction and student progress tracking.
- Promoted student engagement and positive classroom relationships.

## Leadership Experience

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**Starbucks Coffee Company** — Shift Supervisor

- Led team collaboration and communication, skills essential for classroom management.
- Trained new partners, emphasizing adaptability, consistency, and leadership.

## Key Skills

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- Student-Centered Instruction
- Classroom Management and Routines
- Literacy Integration Across Content Areas
- Family Communication and Collaboration
- Lesson Planning (TEKS-Aligned)
- Growth Mindset and SEL Practices
- Technology: Google Classroom, Remind, Microsoft Office