

Cynthia Crimmin Biography

Dr. Cynthia Crimmin currently serves as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Bedford Public Schools. Although her responsibilities include supporting teachers and teacher leaders at all levels, over the past two years she has spent the majority of her time at the elementary level. In addition to time spent with teachers in individual classrooms, Cindy has led major initiatives to review and update curriculum in the areas of science, reading, writing, and social studies. She has also organized and delivered professional development opportunities for new teachers, and worked with elementary principals to establish meaningful teacher workshops for their staffs. Key in her approach to building and sustaining strong professional teams has been to encourage teachers to think deeply about their practice, to consider the fundamental understandings that underpin their goals for children and to share that thinking with their colleagues.

Prior to her time in Bedford, Cindy led the K-12 foreign language department in Weston, where she also taught classes in Spanish from Grade 2 through Advanced Placement. While at Weston, she designed and implemented a highly successful program for elementary foreign language that has served as a model for other programs in the state. Before moving to Weston, Cindy served as a bilingual teacher of Science and English as a Second Language for students in Grades 6-8 at the Mary Curley School in Boston and as an elementary and middle school language teacher and department head at the Fessenden School in West Newton. At Fessenden, she also initiated a FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools) program that continues to be a showpiece of Fessenden's curricular offerings. Central to the design of both elementary programs is Cindy's belief that an interdisciplinary focus is critical to making learning meaningful for young learners.

Cindy holds a Ph. D. in Educational Administration from Boston College and a Masters degree in Reading and Bilingual Education from Boston University. She is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Wheaton College where she earned departmental honors and Phi Beta Kappa distinction. She is past president of the Eastern Massachusetts Foreign Language Administrators Association and is president-elect of the Massachusetts chapter of the national Association for Curriculum and Supervision. Using videos of elementary students thinking about their work, Cindy presented a workshop on Student Voice at the National ASCD conference in Orlando, Florida in 2009. More recently, she has begun an initiative through MASCD to develop peer groups for elementary principals in the region who might otherwise find themselves working in isolation.

Cindy describes herself as a teacher's teacher. A recipient of the Vondergoltz Award for Excellence in Teaching while at the Fessenden School, she credits her own time in the classroom as fundamental to her current work with teachers. Most importantly, she is a believer in the power of listening to the voices of both students and teachers as significant data sources vital to engaging all individuals as life-long learners.

A life-long learner herself, Cindy lives in Acton with her husband and children where she spends her free time reading, running and drawing portraits of children.