

Lifting Up Asian American and Pacific Islander Staff Voices



Emily Ellingson

Thousand Oaks Elementary
Math Coach

Favorite Book: The Red Tent

Favorite Movie: Princess
Mononoke

What do you love to do when not working?: Spending time with my family, walking my dog, reading, cooking, and yoga.

What do you love most about BUSD?: I love the diversity of families, commitment to social justice, and the acceptance and celebration of differences.



"My mom was born in Japan and wanted to share her culture and language with her children. Growing up I spoke Japanese, went to Japanese school, and celebrated many Japanese holidays and traditions. When I was younger, I was often embarrassed that I was different from my "American" friends. But now that I am older, I am so thankful for my mom and all that she did to instill my Japanese culture. I love seeing my own children embrace their Japanese heritage and live in a world that is a little more accepting and appreciative of being Japanese."