Faculty, students and parents know Leneta as kind, loving and funny. And students who work beside her, have the extra expectation that she wants them to achieve. As a cornerstone of our Learning Resource team, Leneta works with dozens of students each week on reading, writing and comprehension — lighting the way to reading fluency through the Wilson Language Training program.

You have probably walked past Leneta's office, cozily situated between the cafeteria and the entrance to Tim's and Joanna's offices. There, she crams a forty-hour week into four days with back-to-back meetings with K-Middle School students. Leneta is a Certified Wilson Language reading specialist — a phonetics-based program Stanley's resource teachers selected and helped populate to every K-S classroom. While every classroom teaches reading fundamentals, only a few of our resource teachers are certified to help kids at Wilson's intervention and "Just Words" levels. Leneta says the program has proven to be quite effective with kids who need it.

Leneta joined Stanley in 1990 after getting her B.A. in Special Education and teaching in California (punctuated by a short stint as a benefits administrator for a semiconductor company). She moved back to Denver, started a family and went through our teacher intern program to learn the British Primary style of teaching. "I taught in a K-1-2 classroom for 16 wonderful years, during which I received my Masters Degree in early childhood education. After leaving the classroom, I had the opportunity to teach music for two years in K-1-2 and serve as part of the admissions team." Today, Leneta helps kids decode language to become fluent readers, and also works privately with students — children to adults.

One thing that represents Stanley to Leneta? "Caring. People and teachers who are caring, not just about the academics of the student but caring about the whole child — their social, emotional and academic development.” The truth is, Leneta embodies that element of caring every day, with every child.

Her favorite quote represents Leneta's larger wish for the world, and for our school; it represents what she strives to do in her own life, what she taught her own children (now 24 and 28) and what she conveys in her lessons with students: "I have a dream that my four little children will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character" (Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote). Says Leneta, "I chose this quote because I hope that one day, probably not in my lifetime, that we are not judged by the color of our skin but by the content of our character and our hearts.”

Leneta meets students at the reading skills level she finds them and makes a difference. She's most proud of her long career with children: “Teaching for 26 years here at Stanley BPS, getting my Masters and Advanced training as a Wilson Language Program Certified teacher.” Her biggest passion is “making a difference in a child's life by opening up their ability to read and understand the English language.” She adds, “Also, making my students laugh is really rewarding. I’m proud of that, too.”

Leneta grew up in Colorado loving our weather, and still does. "I love to cook, travel and do fun things with my family,” she says. “My greatest joy and my toughest challenge has been my children. I love cooking with my son David; I love having philosophical conversations with my son Randy; and I enjoy learning about new musical artists from them both!”