

Our daughter recently learned she has to wear a cumbersome, uncomfortable back brace to help curb the progression of scoliosis. Her teacher at Veterans Park Elementary, **Pam Bradley**, and assistant, **Valerie McCaw**, have been extremely supportive through the entire process of doctors' appointments, missed school and learning to wear the brace. They allowed me to speak to their class, teaching a little about scoliosis and sharing that my daughter would be wearing a brace to school. On the day my daughter was absent from class to go to her brace fitting, the students made "Welcome Back" cards, and Ms. Bradley called to check on our daughter. The day our daughter first wore her brace to school, Ms. Bradley, Mrs. McCaw and many of the students wore Under Armour and other athletic shirts in support of my daughter, who has to wear that type of apparel under her brace to protect her skin. Ms. Bradley even took a class photo of all the students in their special shirts and posted it on her Web site! Also, during the first day our daughter wore her brace to school, Ms. Bradley allowed her to take time to show her brace, having each classmate decorate the brace with a sticker so that each student has seen and touched the brace up close, and there are now no mysteries about this medical appliance. As our daughter has adjusted to wearing the brace, we have had to pop in and out of school, giving bathroom breaks, checking for pressure sores and making sure she stays healthy. Every time we walk into the classroom, we are greeted with welcoming smiles. Sincere thanks to Ms. Bradley, Mrs. McCaw and to all the upper primary students in their class. You have made something that could have been a horrible experience into something that's not so bad – and actually kind of fun! We appreciate you!

-- Submitted by Tammie and Daniel Marsh, parents