2016-2017

TEACHER *of the* YEAR

FINALISTS

Congratulations

to the Killeen ISD campus
Teachers Of The Year

DAILY HERALD

Better than ever!

TEACHER of the YEAR

Killeen ISD honors teachers of the year

During the Killeen ISD Teacher of the Year event Thursday, Nolanville Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Laura Young listens to testimony praising her after she was named KISD Elementary Teacher of the Year. She is standing on stage with Executive Director of Elementary School Leadership Jo-Lynette Crayton at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. **TODD MARTIN/KISD**

Harker Heights High School science teacher Barton Jacques responds Thursday during the KISD Teacher of the Year event at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. Fifty-one teachers of the year represented each school in the district. Through applications, interviews and class visits a committee selected a top elementary and secondary teacher for the year. **TODD MARTIN/KISD**

BY TODD MARTIN
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Two teachers known for designing creative lessons to engage students in the classroom and for extending heartfelt care beyond the classroom are this year's Killeen Independent School District teachers of the year.

Harker Heights High School science teacher Barton Jacques is secondary teacher of the year and Nolanville Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Laura Young is the elementary teacher of the year.

Fifty-one campus teachers of the year walked into the Killeen Civic and Conference Center ballroom Thursday, stepped into a spotlight and waved to the audience with their images magnified on a huge screen.

One by one, Executive Director of Elementary School Leadership Jo-Lynette Crayton revealed six elementary teacher of the year finalists before naming Young the teacher of the year.

Next, Crayton named five secondary level finalists and then announced Jacques teacher of the year.

Other elementary finalists are Tami Barclay of Harker Heights, Ame Campbell of Trimmier, Trinity Tinsley of Reeces Creek, Katie Hequembourg of Duncan, Joshua Wells of Cavazos and Lynda Freeman of Iduma.

At the secondary level, finalists are Zendria Anderson of Manor Middle School, Teaven Barnum of Patterson Middle School, Funke Alashe-King of Palo Alto Middle School, Albert Gonzalez of Union Grove Middle School and Cody Parrott of Killeen High School.

First Young, then Jacques made their way from their campus tables to the stage, where they accepted awards then stood and watched video of their principals, as well as students and parents praise them.

> **"It shows that people notice. I don't go to work. I go to school and have fun. I want to impart that idea to kids. My measure of success is their success."**
>
> **– Barton Jacques**

Each school conducted a peer nomination process to select their teacher of the year. A committee of educators and community members screened applications, interviewed candidates and conducted classroom visits.

Now, Young and Jacques enter the Region 12 Education Service Center teacher of the year process as KISD representatives. This is the seventh year KISD has formally named teachers of the year.

In accepting their awards in front of family and colleagues, both expressed humility and gratitude.

"I always wanted to be a teacher," Young said, explaining the power of working with young children filled with potential and the privilege of unlocking that hidden talent. "We get to make a difference."

Now finishing her 30th year teaching, she said it's "all about relationships and nothing else."

"You hate to see them go," she said of the end of each school year. "It's such a tiny moment in their life we have."

Jacques taught at the elementary level five years in Temple ISD before joining his family's business. It was Harker Heights High School Principal Larry Brazzil who convinced him to accept a long-term substitute-teaching role nine years ago. He never left.

"Teaching is a calling," he said. "The work we do affects our students now and in the future."

Following the suspenseful buildup and emotional ceremony, the two teachers said the moment was overwhelming.

"It's very humbling," Young said. "I'm blessed to receive a reward for doing something I love."

Continuing to teach after 30 years, the fifth-grade teacher said she is motivated to keep building lessons to reach each child. "The biggest motivation is being able to develop creativity. I tailor the learning based on their needs," she said.

"They are the customers and I am here to serve them. I'm proud of the great training and experience in KISD," Young said.

"It's an affirmation of what I do every day," said Jacques. "It shows that people notice. I don't go to work. I go to school and have fun. I want to impart that idea to kids. My measure of success is their success."

KISD Elementary TEACHER *of the* YEAR

Laura Young

Nolanville Elementary
5th Grade
30 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is

that every so often, students are a little embarrassed when it happens, but they catch themselves saying, "Mom," instead of Mrs. Young. It brings a big smile to my face! I've realized that this is the highest compliment students can pay me. It means that they feel valued, safe and secure. Being their "School Mom" is a responsibility that I don't take lightly. I love helping them to realize their individual worth and limitless potential. I love designing learning opportunities that unwrap their gifts and lead them to new depths of thinking. So, what's my favorite thing about being a teacher? Being their "School Mom" and creating a fun environment that challenges them to accomplish more than they ever thought possible. I have the greatest job in the world!

KISD Secondary TEACHER *of the* YEAR

Barton Jacques

Harker Heights High
9th Grade Biology
18 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is

working with students from all backgrounds and building positive relationships that will impact them for the rest of their lives. I love nothing more than to hear a student say, "I got it", or "you explained this so I can really understand it." My true joy comes from spreading a love for learning and personal growth with all of my students.

TEACHER of the YEAR

Unique ways to use newspapers in the classroom

metrocreativeconnection.com

Today's students have numerous devices at their disposal that can make learning more fun. Teachers may rely on such devices to engage students, but one more traditional teaching tool can still be an asset in the classroom.

Newspapers have changed considerably over the last decade-plus, but they still can serve teachers and students alike. The following are a handful of ways for teachers to incorporate newspapers into their lesson plans.

Use newspapers to teach geography. Whether they're local, national or international periodicals, newspapers contain stories from all over the globe. Teachers tasked with teaching students about world geography can assign each student an article about a newsworthy event taking place in a given country. Kids can then write a report about that country, including information about its location in the world, its citizens and its history.

Use newspapers to teach vocabulary. Perhaps no resource is more valuable than newspapers when teaching vocabulary. Assign each student a story or stories from the newspaper, instructing them to underline or jot down between five and 10 words they are unfamiliar with as they read. Once they have finished reading their assigned articles, students can then look up and write down the meaning of each word, ultimately handing in their list of words and/or sharing those words and their meanings with their classmates.

Use newspapers to teach mathematics. While newspapers are often touted as great tools to teach reading comprehension and vocabulary, they also can be used to teach math lessons. For example, newspaper classified sections typically list dozens, if not hundreds, of items for sale. Assign each student 10 vehicles listed in the classified section and ask them to calculate the average asking prices of these vehicles. Another potential lesson is to ask kids to determine the percentage breakdown of each section of the newspaper. You can then explore the reasons why certain sections may be given more ink than others.

Use newspapers to teach current events. The world is an interesting place, and newspapers are great resources for people looking to keep up with all that is going on in the world. While current events can sometimes be confusing for young students, newspaper reporters aim to convey complicated topics in ways that readers of all ages and backgrounds can understand. By assigning newspaper articles as part of their students' current events assignments, teachers can help students gain a better understanding of what's going on in their world.

While newspapers may have changed considerably over the last several years, they still make great teaching tools that can benefit instructors and students alike.

The Daily Herald
presents its annual

2017 TEACHERS *of the* YEAR

special section.

The Daily Herald would like to congratulate all of the nominees for Teacher of the Year!

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Kathleen White

Audie Murphy Middle
PE
8 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is being able to be a positive example in student's lives. I truly enjoy being able to speak about how being positive, kind, and joyful can change life for the better.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Cynthia Sewell

Bellaire Elementary
4th Grade
6 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is witnessing a student's "Aha" moment. This gives me a sense of enjoyment and drives me to continue to teach.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Gladys Martinez

Brookhaven Elementary
4th Grade
4 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is my students, because every year I get the privilege of impacting young minds! Teaching allows you to have different personalities all in one room and you get to teach them how to work with one another. My students have molded me into the teacher I am today!

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Sarah Stolley

C.E. Ellison High
9-12 Grade P.E./Athletics
15 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is the many relationships I have been fortunate to cultivate over my 15 years of teaching and coaching. I enjoy the many types of conversations I get to have with my kids (the catch-up, the consequences, the counseling, and the encouragement). I love that one of my former volleyball players is an English major and has a desk already picked out for when she comes back to teach and coach."

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Jessica Bautista

Cedar Valley Elementary
1st Grade
4 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is the people. I enjoy the people that I interact with on a daily basis. It's also the kids in my room, the lightbulb moments, and the adults in the building that make up my work family. The connections that I have made with these people are priceless.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Teaven Barnum

Charles Patterson Middle
6th Grade Social Studies
7 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is being able to help students become who they are meant to be. It is the most rewarding part of my career, and it is simply priceless. It is the little conversations that shape a growing mind, and to be a part of that process means that I can truly make a change in the world around me.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Brooke Alfaro

Clarke Elementary
1st Grade
5 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is knowing that I make an impact every single day. I am continuously reminded throughout the day, even the tough ones, of why I do what I do. I build lasting relationships and help individuals to reach their fullest potential. I make a long-lasting difference.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Dennis Reilly

Clear Creek Elementary
Title I
16 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is making students believe in themselves. All students want to be loved, accepted and successful. Getting students to think mathematically, rather than memorize facts, can and will close the gap between what children are and what they can become.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Beverly Connelly

Clifton Park Elementary
1st Grade
18 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is teaching brand new concepts. I enjoy introducing new skills to students and then witnessing a "light bulb" turn on in their heads! I love the moment a student visibly "gets it!" That's when this students knows the joy of learning and I know the joy of watching the student learn.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Freda Washington

Dr. Joseph A. Fowler Elementary
3rd Grade
4 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is listening to students talk about what they are learning, especially when they make connections to everyday life or what they have learned in a previous grade. I love it when students realize everything has a purpose and there are connections everywhere.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Kati Hequembourg

Duncan Elementary
RICA
15 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is watching my students' resiliency when pushing themselves to do something we take for granted, reading. Their dedication motivates me to be the best teacher I can be, each and every day, even after 15 years. There are no "off days" when you have engaged students.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Ebony White

East Ward Elementary
Special Education
10 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is helping students to become invested in their own learning. When students feel empowered to create and share their ideas, I know that I have created a safe, student-centered learning environment.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Angela Meyer

Eastern Hills Middle
6th Grade Math
7 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is when I can finally reach the reluctant or struggling learner. There is no other, more satisfying, and rewarding feeling as a teacher than seeing a student's eyes open wide and exclaim, "Oh! Now I get it." I love the lightbulb moment.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Angela Querner

Gateway High
Algebra
24 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is the light bulb moment. That moment of understanding something that before seemed incomprehensible. I love seeing the light come on in the student's mind and the look of satisfaction in their eyes when they feel the accomplishment of learning.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Christopher Onwukaife

Gateway Middle
7th Grade Math
2 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is without a doubt, the lightbulb "ah ha" moments that the students achieve through perseverance after struggling with a task. The joy that can be seen in a student's face and the excitement that can be heard in their voices literally gives me a euphoric feeling that sometimes makes me fist pump in exuberance. It's priceless and it's part of the reason that I love my job.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Tami Barclay

Harker Heights Elementary
1st Grade
14 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is when light beams in my children's eyes the moment they grasp a new concept, or have discovered a new way to solve a problem. Also, when my previous students return and share their successes and academic achievements with me and I see light beaming in their eyes, my heart is fulfilled.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Johnie Williams

Hay Branch Elementary
2nd Grade
5 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is learning while my students are learning. Since I've been teaching, a great discovery has been made. I have been able to fill academic gaps in my personal academic background. There is more to be discovered, I'm sure. We are life-long learners.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Colleen Lepeda

Haynes Elementary
Title I
9 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is being able to see a student's potential, even when he might not see it himself. I look forward to being there to not only encourage and scaffold their learning, but also to celebrate with them when they achieve a goal. I take pride in showing them that sometimes their greatest challenge can turn into their greatest gift.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Lynda Freeman

Iduma Elementary
1st Grade
6 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is for a very small moment in time, I am able to experience the journey of a child's unrealized potential and share in their exploration of infinite possibilities.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Jessica Askew

Ira Cross Elementary
5th Grade
3 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is being able to watch students celebrate when they have accomplished a goal they set for themselves. The honor of being able to witness their excitement and joy, especially after struggling right alongside them the entire journey, is an irreplaceable feeling.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Cody Parrott

Killeen High
Choir
10 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is being fortunate enough to watch students grow from freshmen with wide eyes to seniors who are going on to adulthood. Specifically in my profession, being able to see 14-year-old singers, who often have talent, develop into young singers with professional-level technique and poise.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Jeff Watson

KISD Career Center
12th Grade
Health & Science
3 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is knowing I am making a direct impact on future healthcare providers, who will take care of my children, my wife, myself, and possibly my grandchildren. I get the pleasure of shaping how they view health care as a profession.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

David Lambert

KISD Early College High
9th Grade Algebra
12 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is the relationships with the students. Connecting individually with each student every day, even if for a brief moment, has established an environment where my students feels accepted, can grow and become the very best version of themselves, smile because they know they are valued, have no doubt they are loved unconditionally, and find success waiting for them. . . just inside the doors of my classroom.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Barbara Hutchinson

Liberty Hill Middle
8th Grade Career
7 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is that I love it! I cannot think of anything I would rather be doing at this moment in my life. In past occupations, I was going to a job, but teaching has never felt like a job to me. I get up each morning looking forward to the ways that I can inspire a child to invest in his/her future.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Rosalia Martinez

Live Oak Ridge Middle
8th Grade Spanish
2 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is seeing my students "ah ha" moments. I love seeing hands go up to help a classmate when he/she struggles to answer a question; watching students interact as they learn in groups or demonstrate to their peers what they have learned.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Lendria Anderson

Manor Middle
AVID
18 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is the "ah-ha!" moment. I live for the moment that a student "gets it!" There is nothing more satisfying to me as an educator than witnessing a student make the connection between themselves and what I'm imparting to them. I believe that these are the moments that change lives.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Renee Penland

Maxdale Elementary
4th Grade
7 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is making an impact on student lives. Supporting and motivating each of my students and helping them feel success throughout the school year is what makes teaching so rewarding for me.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Kayla Holeman

Meadows Elementary
2nd Grade
4 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is seeing each of my students learn and grow as the year progresses. The excitement in their eyes when they learn a new skill or concept for the first time is remarkable. Having the opportunity to be a part of a constant process of learning, not only my students learning from me, but also me learning from them, is truly extraordinary.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Christopher Diaz

Montague Village Elementary
4th Grade
12 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is watching my students grow in love with learning. From the time I get to school until I leave for the day, I am able to share in their experiences. I observe them sharing and using what they've learned during the school day in their daily lives. Sometimes they are aware they are doing it, and sometimes they are not. Either way, watching them grow in love with learning fills my heart to overflowing.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Erin Wyatt

Mountain View Elementary
1st Grade
5 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is the kids and the journey they go on each year. I love to see who they become in just one school year. The challenges they face and the victories they celebrate are stepping stones to their success in the future. I am so honored to be a part of their journey and a recipient of the love they give.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Jaime Delatorre

Nolan Middle
7th Grade Math
10 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is building and growing relationships with staff and students. When you have an opportunity to build students up and help them feel they can meet their goals in life, it creates a better community. A staff that cares for and supports each other will do the same for their students.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Angela Elliott

Oveta Culp Hobby Elementary
Kindergarten
3 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is when my scholars come to believe and behave like the scholars they have proclaimed to be since the beginning of the school year. The moments they actually see their scholar accomplishments either in their academic, emotional, and behavioral growth is what teaching is about!

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Funke Allashe-King

Palo Alto Middle
Special Education
7 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is creating positive school experiences for my students. Regardless of their disabilities, the sky is the limit! Their potential towards life-long goals surpasses their many challenges. Watching my students persevere and gain knowledge and skills to be as independent as possible, reassures me that I make the right decision to become a special education teacher.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Jennifer Ellison

Pathways Academic Campus
English
4 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is helping students learn who they are before the world tells them. It is a joy to see students find themselves and discover that they have opportunities beyond what they realize or what their past may have afforded them. It's an honor to play a role, however small, in furnishing a child with hope for their future.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Nicole Johnson

Rancier Middle
Theater Arts
2 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is the student interaction. I love smiling, laughing, talking, and educating students. They bring me so much joy. I teach them, but honestly they teach me things as well. Who needs coffee with 120 students?

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Trinity Tinsley

Reeces Creek Elementary
Prekindergarten
7 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is to find fun, new, innovating ways for students to learn. I love it when students enjoy what they are doing in the classroom. I love to see them grow socially, emotionally, and academically and I know that I have had a major impact on their success.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Joshua Wells

Richard E. Cavazos Elementary
PE
10 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is seeing how excited the students are about coming to my class each day. They are always interested in finding out what our activity is for the day and are eager to learn.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Ximena Barbosa

Robert M. Shoemaker High
Chemistry
16 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is the EUREKA moment; it is the special moment when the student suddenly understands a concept that he/she was previously unable to comprehend. And the beauty of it is the sublime energy and feeling that this process brings to the student.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Michael Valentine

Saegert Elementary
5th Grade
6 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is building long-lasting relationships with my students. I love being able to connect with my students on different levels and being a part of their development. Each day is a great opportunity to impact their lives in a positive way. They are the reason I teach!

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Emily Polson

Skipcha Elementary
3rd Grade
6 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is the children! I love to see them problem solve, think critically, and grow into mature individuals. I enjoy sharing a love of learning each day and seeing the children fill with pride because their hard work has paid off.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Carol Cress

Sugar Loaf Elementary
PBS
12 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is connecting my students' everyday experiences with the learning objectives I am teaching. I believe once they understand why, they will want to learn more. Seeing my students grasp the concept of the lesson and collaborating with each other about their experiences on the topic is very rewarding.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Brianna Randall

Timber Ridge Elementary
3rd Grade
4 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is witnessing students learning to love reading, especially those students who previously said reading is boring. Then, through reading together, conversations and book talks, I can see students grow as readers. Before we know it, they are asking, begging, for more time to read.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Ame' Campbell

Trimmier Elementary
4th Grade
9 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is being able to inspire students to become more than what they thought possible. The magic in teaching is having the ability to enable a student to see possibilities that were previously invisible to them and help them develop a hunger to achieve greatness.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Albert Gonzalez

Union Grove Middle
6th Grade Science
12 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is finding creative and engaging ways to do science with my students. I find that kids do not want to read about others doing science, - they want to do it themselves. Performing science experiments with students, makes me feel as if I am making a difference in the way they learn.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Kimberley Lankford

Venable Village Elementary
4th Grade
3 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is those moments when a student's struggle becomes mastery. There is nothing more rewarding than watching students become motivated by their own perseverance. Through this newly found empowerment, students evolve into enthusiastic learners.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Michele Chancellor

West Ward Elementary
PE
12 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is being able to teach using movement. My students are always moving in physical education and learn academic concepts at the same time. Students are having fun, completely involved, and not complaining about learning the academic concepts because they are integrated within the activities.

2016-2017 Teacher of the Year NOMINEE

Dorothy Phillips

Willow Springs Elementary
5th Grade
5 Years of Experience

My favorite thing about teaching is finding new ways to engage my students. I love the smiles on their faces when they enjoy learning. When learning is fun, it takes the stress out of the equation. I love how simple things like expo-markers can make a lesson more fun. It gives the students the freedom to make mistakes and learn from them. Mistakes can easily be fixed.

TEACHER of the YEAR

Jan Stalder - Copperas Cove High School Secondary Teacher of the Year

CCISD Secondary Teacher Of The Year— Jan Stalder, Copperas Cove High School

Jan Stalder has been teaching students in the classroom for 45 years, 39 of the years at Copperas Cove High School. Mrs. Stalder teaches Advanced Placement English and Creative Writing. She teaches seven different classes that each cover different subject matter and she handles them with ease. Affectionately nicknamed the "Dragon Lady," by her students, they are challenged by her rigorous course work as she prepares them for their advanced placement exams and success with the school's literary magazine. Mrs. Stalder ensures her students are ready for college and will success.

Innovative is not a word most think of with a 45-year veteran teacher, yet Stalder is with her teaching methods.She creates new lessons to reach the students today. She pays attention to her demographic and develops creative new ways to help students understand. Stalder does not continue to do things the way they have always been done, but creates new and exciting ways to guide students and teachers alike.

Robert Stroup - Martin Walker Elementary School Elementary Teacher of the Year

CCISD Elementary Teacher Of The Year— Robert Stroup, Martin Walker Elementary

Robert Stroup's teaching places him at the exceptional level. He currently teaches the K-5 Program for Children with Multiple Disabilities class at Martin Walker Elementary School. Although his students face unique challenges each day due to chronic health conditions and learning difficulties, Mr. Stroup never lets these challenges overwhelm him or his students. Mr. Stroup has designed his classroom with their unique circumstances in mind. When one enters his classroom, it is apparent that the selected learning materials were specially placed in the classroom for a specific purpose–to facilitate learning for a particular students. Mr. Stroup seeks out and attends highly specialized training to learn and create new ways to work with and meet the hurdles his students face. He tirelessly advocates for his students and progressively utilizes an inclusive model with all of his students.

Mr. Stroup is not only the K-5 PCMD teacher, he is also the Lead Special Education teacher at Martin Walker. In this capacity, he leads the special education team to positively impact student success throughout the campus. Mr. Stoup works relentlessly to help the other case managers and as a result, the students meet and exceed their learning goals. He is not content with the status quo and is always pushing the envelope in our thinking to make sure the students are individually challenged in creative and new ways.

Jessica Bredwell - Williams/Ledger Elementary School Secondary Teacher of the Year

CCISD Rookie Teacher Of The Year— Jessica Bredwell, Williams/Ledger Elementary

Jessica Bredwell is a new teacher this school year at Williams/Ledger Elementary and has taken on the challenge of teaching a self-contained 4th-grade classroom, which translates to 3 different STAAR tests. Mrs. Bredwell has worked closely with her mentor teacher as well as our instructional coach, researching new ideas to meet her students' varied needs. She is always open to new ideas and is willing to share any resources or activities that she finds work successfully in her classroom. As Mrs. Bredwell has observed veteran teachers, she has spent extra time asking questions and finding ways to implement best practices into her own growing 'tool kit.' She stands out among our rookie teachers because she is not afraid to ask questions, seek feedback, reflect and then implement new ideas that will positively impact her students.

Mrs. Bredwell's classroom inspires learning because of the collaborative nature of her instructional practices. She has one of the most diverse classes on her campus and has worked tirelessly to find instructional practices that engage her students at the highest levels. Her innovation and creativity, combined with her use of technology and hands-on strategies, has been the perfect environment for her unique learners to thrive.

Kristina Williams-Myers - Martin Walker Elementary School Secondary Teacher of the Year

CCISD Paraprofessional Of The Year— Kristina Williams-Myers, Martin Walker Elementary

Kristina Williams-Myers is a "kid-whisperer." Students who struggle with behavior and challenge even the most veteran teachers, become malleable clay in the hands of Mrs. Myers. When teachers are in a situation in which they are having extreme difficulty with a student, they call Mrs. Myers. Students love her and know she will be firm but fair in all circumstances. Her kids know she cares for them and loves them enough to help them make good choices each and everyday. Mrs. Myers has served as a special education aide, a physical education aide, and now has found her niche as her school's Behavior Intervention aide.

Many in-school suspension classrooms are all about consequences. Instead of consequences and punishment, Mrs. Myers works with the students, teaching them social skills and replacement behaviors to help them be successful in the classroom. She works day in and day out with some of the most challenging behaviors in the school. She never gets frustrated with students and begins each day anew. When teachers need assistance, Mrs. Myers enters their classroom to help the students generalize the social skills they have learned in her small group instruction into the classroom whole group environment.

Bonnie Edmonds - Support Services Department Auxiliary Personnel of the Year

CCISD Auxiliary Personnel Of The Year— Bonnie Edmonds, Support Services Department

Bonnie Edmonds serves the school district with the job title of transportation secretary, but she fulfills many roles. When CCISD is short of bus drivers, Mrs. Edmonds quickly gets behind the wheel without hesitation transporting the precious cargo of students to and from school. She talks with concerned parents and eases their worries and calms their fears. She undertook the task of learning about computers and worked her way from being a bus driver to secretary of the department. She is firm but fair when working out staff issues and was selected as one of only three spokespeople to represent the school district in a recognition video when CCISD was honored by the Central Texas Girl Scouts as the 2017 Workplace of Distinction.

Congratulations

to our Teachers of the Year and Para-professionals of the Year!

Teachers of the Year - Campus Winners

Amy Loughran
Copperas Cove
High School

Gwen Gray
Crossroads
High School

Jennifer Wilson
Copperas Cove
Jr. High School

Robert Turner
S.C. Lee
Jr. High School

Jessica Crook
Clements/Parsons
Elementary School

Cindy Thornton
Fairview/Miss Jewell
Elementary School

Andrew Pence
Hettie Halstead
Elementary School

Amanda Rolfe
House Creek
Elementary School

Caitlin McGath
Martin Walker
Elementary School

Sarah Sierra
Williams/Ledger
Elementary School

Marie Aponte
Mae Stevens
Early Learning Academy

Rookie Teachers of the Year - Campus Winners

Eric Whitt
Copperas Cove
High School

Mandi Stai
Crossroads
High School

Jon Orman
Copperas Cove
Jr. High School

Hannah Jechow
Clements/Parsons
Elementary School

Andy Remedies
Fairview/Miss Jewell
Elementary School

Christina Newberry
Hettie Halstead
Elementary School

Barbara Miller
House Creek
Elementary School

Jennifer Stevenson
Martin Walker
Elementary School

Jessica Bredwell
Williams/Ledger
Elementary School

Tyshanda Okere
Mae Stevens
Early Learning Academy

Para-professionals of the Year - Campus Winners

Diana Vance
Copperas Cove
High School

Sheila Grantham
Crossroads
High School

Shelli Hayes
Copperas Cove
Jr. High School

Shunmekea Herring
S.C. Lee
Jr. High School

Wilford Elmore
Clements/Parsons
Elementary School

July Kelley
Fairview/Miss Jewell
Elementary School

Alicia Pelkey
Hettie Halstead
Elementary School

Laura Aguilar
House Creek
Elementary School

Kristina Williams-Myers
Martin Walker
Elementary School

Debbie Payne
Williams/Ledger
Elementary School

Sharon Miles
Mae Stevens
Early Learning Academy

A FOUNDATION OF EXCELLENCE.
A FUTURE OF SUCCESS.

The mission of Copperas Cove ISD is to provide exceptional opportunities for each student through exemplary instruction which inspires academic success, personal excellence, and responsible citizenship.

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TEACHER of the YEAR

How to keep kids engaged over school breaks

metrocreativeconnection.com

Children in North America will spend, on average, more than 900 hours attending school in a given year. The average school year in the United States lasts 1,016 hours, the equivalent of 42 continuous days. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, many developed countries begin their academic years in September and end them in June. Some, like Australia, feature four terms with two-week breaks in between each term. Others go to school for most of the year - with various holiday breaks in between - and then get the bulk of their time off during the summer.

As much time as kids spend in school, there will be times when they are left to their own devices, and during these times it's easy for them to forgot classroom lessons. Sometimes called "summer learning loss" or "summer slide," this forgetfulness sees many students fail to retain all of their lessons over prolonged breaks from school. Studies indicate that students score lower on standardized tests at the end of the summer compared to their performance on the same tests at the beginning of summer. Anywhere from between one to three month's worth of educational achievement can dissipate during prolonged breaks from the classroom. To help ensure that those hard-earned lessons are not so easily forgotten, parents can help children remain intellectually engaged in various ways over school breaks.

Stick to a schedule. Try to maintain a schedule similar to school, with children waking at the same time each day and going to bed at similar hours. This will make it much easier to get back into a routine when a new school year begins.

Encourage reading. Set aside time for reading each day. All it generally takes is 15 to 30 minutes of reading per day for kids to remember their vocabulary lessons and maintain their fluency and comprehension skills. Children may enjoy picking their own books rather than having a required reading list.

Keep a math book handy. On long car trips or rainy days, children can do a few math problems to keep their skills sharp. This will help keep learning loss to a minimum. Math workbooks may be available at bookstores, or parents can look online or ask a teacher for a summer to-do packet.

Plan educational trips. Vacations and day trips can be fun, entertaining and educational all at the same time. Science centers, museums and living history locations can bring to life information learned in the classroom, even on family vacations.

Learn at camp. Many children attend camp for a portion of their school breaks. Look for camps that do not simply babysit children, but engage them through enrichment activities.

Take a class. Children and families can learn together by exploring new skills. Enroll in something educational and enjoyable, such as a music or dance class, a STEM seminar or something else that engages the mind and body. This gives everyone a chance to learn something new and have a great time together as a family.

Parents and educators can reduce lesson loss over school breaks by encouraging families to remain intellectually engaged in any way they can.

UMHB QUICK FACTS

Student body includes over 3,900 students from 30 countries; 90% of full-time freshmen live on campus.

More than 60 majors are offered across seven colleges (Business, Christian Studies, Education, Humanities, Nursing, Science, and Visual and Performing Arts).

Over 90% of our students receive some form of financial aid.

16/1

The low student-to-faculty ratio cultivates an environment where students can grow and thrive.

umhb.edu

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