

For immediate release on May 10, 2022



Madison, IN: MCS announces Thurston as the district's Teacher of the Year.

As part of the annual recognition throughout the district, Mrs. Jackie Thurston has been named the district's Teacher of the Year. For over a decade, Thurston has been passionately educating students. Starting as a 5th-grade teacher at Anderson Elementary School in 2007, she taught there until 2013. In 2013, she moved to Madison Junior High School to teach 6th-grade math for three years. She returned to MCS in 2018, and since that time has been teaching 7th and 8th-grade math. Widely sought out by students based on her reputation, her course resume has included 7th-grade honors and 7th & 8th-grade algebra and geometry - both of which earn students high school credits while at MJHS.



Nominated by fellow teachers, staff members, and parents it is easy to see why Thurston is so successful in the classroom. Quite simply, her students love her. When visiting her class to present the award, she shared that she does this for them...pointing to her students in class at the time. "Every time they leave I say 'enjoy the rest of your day and [asking the students what comes next] they responded with a resounding I LOVE YOU!"

When reading some of the nominations, that rings true:

- She is a strong advocate for the whole child.
- She is patient and understanding while instilling responsibility and positive life lessons.
- She takes a personal interest in her students. She attends their extracurricular events and checks on them when they are sick. She dedicates her time to preparing engaging classroom material.

- She stays after school and gives up her lunch and free period to work with her students. You can find her busy working on school work in the evenings and on the weekends.
- She allows us to complete corrections to improve our grades and grasp math concepts better. She also re-teaches us when we do not get it the first time.

Principal Mr. Dan Grill echoed the nominations. “Mrs. Thurston has created a positive, academic-focused, rigorous learning environment ideal for student learning,” he shared with a smile looking on. “Her work ethic and dedication to student learning are at the highest level, we are very fortunate to have a teacher of her caliber in our classroom.”

Thurston was visibly overwhelmed and her students thrilled for her as the award was announced during one of her classes. “I am so very honored and humbled to have been selected as Teacher of the Year,” she shared. “Like many of the teachers at Madison, I work diligently every day to educate and prepare our students for a lifetime of success. Teaching has always been my calling and passion. I truly love and care for each of the children at Madison Junior High and those that I have been privileged to have taught in the past. I am so blessed to be a part of the student's educational journey.”

Thurston will go on to represent Madison Consolidated Schools in the state-wide annual Teacher of the Year program. Each participating district's winner moves on to compete for the state-wide honor. If Thurston is selected as a finalist, the interview process will begin in August. The Indiana Teacher of the Year will then be announced in October. Induction and recognition events will take place throughout the year and through May of 2023.

Join us in celebrating and congratulating Mrs. Jackie Thurston as our 2022 Teacher of the Year!