

Agenda Item B - Recognitions and Celebrations

Each year, the Mineola Kiwanis Club asks every campus in Mineola I.S.D. to nominate one of their teachers for Teacher of the Year. A Kiwanis Club committee read the nominations and then made their decision.



Kendall Gould was chosen by the Kiwanis as Teacher of the year for Mineola Independent School District. As the Teacher of the Year for our district, Mrs. Gould is eligible to run for Teacher of the Year for Education Service Center (ESC) Region 7.

Mrs. Gould was nominated by the elementary campus. She has been teaching for 21 years, with the last 15 of those years have been spent teaching fourth grade at Mineola Elementary School. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Texas A & M University, and also holds a Master of Education degree in Educational Administration and a Texas Principal's Certification. Mrs. Gould is an innovator in the classroom and she is a natural leader among her peers. She is currently serving on the campus leadership team helping coordinate programs and policies for the entire campus. She has dedicated her life to teaching and molding young students and it shows in everything she does in the classroom and on the elementary campus. She sees every single student as a success story waiting to happen, and she does everything in her power to ensure that each of her students achieves that success.



Jerald Cameron is the Teacher of the Year for Mineola High School and was runner-up for Teacher of the Year for Mineola I.S.D. As runner-up Mr. Cameron is eligible to run for Secondary Regional Teacher of the Year in ESC Region 7.

From day one Mr. Cameron has been a dynamic teacher of kids. He is at his door every period high fiving students as they walk down the hall. Mathematics comes to life inside the four walls of his classroom. Students are actively working and they never seem to be off task. His use of interesting math experiments and manipulatives with the students is a highlight of his class. Mr. Cameron's day doesn't stop at 3:30; instead it continues well into the evening in an effort to make the next day as interesting and powerful as it can be. In addition to his regular math classes, he is always staying after school tutoring a wide variety of math students. He has done an incredible job of helping struggling students finish their work and progress through their classes.

The primary school and middle school candidates who were considered for this honor are exceptional teachers:



Staci Wyman is Teacher of the Year for Mineola Primary School. Coach Wyman has 25 years of teaching/coaching experience, all in Mineola ISD. Coach Wyman goes above and beyond her coaching duties on the campus to assist students and teachers all in her efforts to make every student successful. She serves on several campus committees, keeps the campus webpage and calendar current and is the unofficial campus technical expert. She is an asset to her campus and to this school district.



Kara Ledkins represents the Mineola Middle School as Teacher of the Year. She is the sixth grade reading teacher and Model United Nations sponsor. She is certified as a Generalist with a Gifted and Talented certification. Mrs. Ledkins is proficient at incorporating technology based presentations into instruction. During the reading of Summer Fire, the live cam of Yellowstone National Park's geyser was used to launch discussion related to reading concepts. Mrs. Ledkins incorporates interactive virtual field trips to enrich her students as she builds comprehension into her lessons. "Bringing reading alive" is what she communicates to her students. In addition, she serves on both academic team committees and the district site base committee. She has been a member of the AVID site team which supports college preparedness. She is actively involved in the Mineola FFA Chapter where she has served as a judge and superintendent of events. She also supports middle school students in their youth activities and community events.

Congratulations to the Mineola Teachers of the Year. They represent the best of best!



Wendy Watts, the Wood County Special Education Shared Services teacher for the visually impaired (VI) has been selected as the VI Teacher of the Year by the Council of Exceptional Children (CEC). Wendy serves students with visual impairments in each of our six districts and also works with our Assistive Technology and Child Find programs. As Teacher of the Year, Wendy was honored twice during the National CEC Conference in San Antonio in April. The CEC Division on Visual Impairments presented her with a plaque, and she was honored at a CEC brunch for all award winners. Congratulations to Wendy Watts!

The Mineola Middle School Texas Quiz Show Team won the regional competition and represented East Texas at the state competition in Austin. The competition began in the spring with over 9,000 students and ended with eight schools competing for the state title. The MMS team received a trophy for being a state finalist. It was their second appearance at state.



The seventh and eighth graders on the team are: Anthony Tresca (7), Daniel Sparkman (8), Luke Bowden (8), Kaleigh Sauer (7), Bailey Mischnick (7), and Brett Fowler (8).

Mineola FFA had two teams advance to state level competition, The Forage Team and the Dairy Team:



Forage Team

Shane Kirk, Cassidy Rose, Jana Block, Zach Hurst



Dairy Team

Emily Wilkerson, Callie Walters, Presley Talley, Jana Block, Sparkle Dennis