

Bio for Shay Manuel Whittaker  
High Pointe Elementary

I would like to introduce, Shay Manuel Whittaker, the Teacher of the Year from High Pointe Elementary. This is her 4<sup>th</sup> year teaching and all of them have been here in Cedar Hill. She taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade advanced academics for two years and this year she will be able to strengthen all students' math skills as the High Pointe's math specialist. Shay received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from THE University of Texas at Austin, and she will receive her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership this December from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. She also proudly completed the district's LINC Academy last year. She is an avid fan of all sporting events but she is especially partial to her Texas Longhorns and her Dallas Cowboys! She is currently a Mentor Teacher, the chairperson of her Campus Improvement Team and has served on the Dismissal, Math, Advanced Academics, and the District Curriculum Committees.

She believes that every child deserves the opportunity to receive a quality education regardless of their economic status or home environment. She believes in strengthening children's academics as well as their character. The most important trait that she imparts on her students is self-discipline. She often tells them that many people are smart however those that are the most successful possess self-discipline and self-motivation. She gets her greatest reward when students who thought that they couldn't learn realize that they can!

Her students understand that she will accept nothing less than their best effort and they always rise to meet her high expectations. She will assist in whatever area is needed whether it is mentoring another teacher, modeling a lesson, cleaning a table, or simply offering words of encouragement. She is always eager to learn new strategies and methods so that she can continue to provide students with the best education possible. If she had to be summed up in three words, they would be Dedicated, Compassionate, and an Active Learner.