

New Teacher of the Year

To whom it may concern

In my 34 years in education, which includes 16 years as an administrator, I have never seen a new teacher make such a huge impact in the classroom as Mandy Curtis. As a principal, it is certainly an honor to nominate Mandy Curtis for the New Teacher of the Year award. Mandy is such a natural teacher who can and does reach every student in her classroom. It is such a treat to see Mandy in her math classroom getting students to participate, solve problems on the interactive tv, and ask and answer questions. When Mandy is not in front of the class, you will find her at eye level with the students at their desk, helping them solve problems and help students understand mathematical concepts. Oftentimes, as I enter the classroom, I have to look around, because I know she is in the classroom, but have to look closely because she will be kneeling at a student's desk spending one on one time helping students. Meanwhile the rest of her students are on task.

When you visit her classroom, you will see her reaching all students. You will see students who struggle with school, or who don't want to learn, participating in the learning process and wanting to come up to the board and solve equations in front of the whole class. She has a natural way about her that helps her communicate with her students, and make magic happen. Her students love and respect her and want to do their best for her. Classroom management is not an issue, which for a first year teacher speaks volumes. In fact, to see students who have a tendency to get in trouble, putting in the work and wanting to learn, is a real treat.

After we hired Mandy, we saw Mandy several times during the summer in the preparation mode and getting ready for the year. You will not find anyone who works harder and brings her "A" game each and every day. She uses her time wisely, and has her lessons so well prepared so that she is student ready at the start of each class. Mandy is always cheerful, passionate, and kind. Her super power is building relationships with each student. Her students know that she is there for them, and will help them each day and make one on one contact with each student as she walks around the classroom checking for progress and understanding.

I wish every new teacher could see Mandy in action. She would be an inspiration to all and they would learn so much of what awesome teaching looks like. Mandy is an ambassador for the teaching profession. She certainly deserves the New Teacher of the Year award.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lenn Ward". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Lenn Ward
Principal, T. H. Bell Junior High