



Farabaugh Honored By TPSD As Top Parent

TUPELO, Miss. — In sports, legends are defined by championships. If the same theory applied to parent of the year honors, then Kate Farabaugh has earned legend status.

Friday morning at Lawhon Elementary with her daughter, Julia, by her side, Farabaugh was named the 2020 Tupelo Public School District Parent of the Year for the second time, a first in TPSD history. She received the same distinction in 2015 when Julie was at ECEC and went on to be tabbed Mississippi's First Congressional District Parent of the Year.

A pharmacist with two other children who are Tupelo High graduates, she also received parent of the year honors at Carver in 2017 and Lawhon in 2018.

A strong advocate of public schools, Farabaugh is currently the PTO president at Lawhon.

“Kate has proven to be a very caring, kind-hearted and helpful individual that never expects anything in return,” Lawhon assistant principal Kama Smith said. “She has a true love for children as well as for Tupelo Public Schools. She has gone above and beyond to make sure Lawhon has had a successful year. Kate truly has a servant’s heart and a passion for helping those around her.”

Farabaugh, a 1988 THS graduate, has been instrumental in successful fundraising campaigns, including a \$15,000 drive last fall that ended with a parent winning a raffle for a family vacation to Walt Disney World. A graduate of the Parent Leadership Institute in 2012, she works with legislatures regarding educational issues and the impact it has on the district. While serving on the CREATE Tupelo School Bond Issue advisory committee, she's written and received several grants for arts integration.

"Kate goes above and beyond to help out in my class," Lawhon teacher Jennifer Holloway said. "She will work with other parents to coordinate anything needed for my class. Examples of this would be food for parties, supplies for children and art supplies for projects. She is also committed to wanting the best for her daughter, so she actively participates and volunteers in all areas of our classroom and school."

In addition to her community involvements with the local clothes closet, Calvary Baptist Church, where she teaches Sunday school, and the Junior Auxiliary, where she helped raised \$180,000 to aid children in Tupelo and Lee County, Farabaugh has worked with the city to plant 1,000 daffodils on campus.

"There are so many parents here who work just as hard, and I want to thank them for all they do," Farabaugh said. "We have such a passion for our public schools and these kids and teachers. This is such an honor."

She also finds time to cook different types of food for students, while planning lunches and breakfasts for the Lawhon teachers. And if that's not enough, she's a part of several reading and tutoring programs, one which helps struggling students prepare for the GATE test.

"If there is a role for a parent volunteer that exists in one of her children's schools, Kate has held that position," District 6 state Sen. Chad McMahan said. "I have known Kate for six years, and the schools in Tupelo benefit immensely from her astounding volunteer efforts."

2019-20 Parents of the Year

Carver

Kelly Gregory

ECEC

Lindsey Chaney

Joyner

Kaycee Burrell

Lawhon

Kate Farabaugh

Lawndale

Jessica Ridgway-Barnes

Milam

Gunner Goad

Parkway

Catherine Baldwin

Pierce Street

Cortney Hood

Rankin

Lesley Tackitt

Thomas Street

Loren Duke

Tupelo High School

Patricia Wax

Tupelo Middle School

Kim Burkley

Winners Since 2005

2005 Trentice Imbler, Joyner
2006 Tricia Edmonson, Thomas Street
2007 Amy Blackmon, Lawndale
2008 Mary Thomas, Church Street
2009 Mary Ann Plasencia, Tupelo High School
2010 Amy Justice, Joyner
2011 Andi Hildenbrand, Lawndale
2012 Harry Rayburn
2013 Jane Clair Shettles
2014 Ragan Milner
2015 Kate Farabaugh
2016 Stacey Blaylock, Parkway
2017 Karmel Davis
2018 Kim Hopkins
2019 Kimberly Jaffares
2020 Kate Farabaugh