

QUALITY INSTRUCTION VISION AWARDS 2020

The recipients were selected based on the following criteria:

- Develops and implements a variety of instructional strategies, which consistently matches the delivery of curriculum with the learning style of students and objectives of the lesson, and provides positive student results.
- Provides an environment inside or outside the classroom, which gives students an opportunity to be involved in active learning experiences for exploration, discovery, and enhancement for social, emotional and academic skills, and to actively connect what they are learning with their life experiences.
- Recruits, develops and/or participates in parent and community partnerships and/or activities, which provide opportunities for active involvement to support the instructional program.
- Evaluates and implements a balanced curriculum, which is research-based and student-centered. Assesses student learning, reflects, and refines curriculum to meet the needs of all students.

ANDERSON ELEMENTARY

Katherine Pyne – Teacher, 2nd/3rd Grade

Katie is an exceptional teacher. She is always willing to try something new, she never sees a change in course as an obstacle, and views it as an opportunity for both herself and her students. She collaborates with her colleagues and opens her classroom for others to learn. While distance learning has been viewed as an unfortunate and frustrating experience for most, Katie has viewed it as a new journey and has done some incredible new things. She created a class website which includes her own library for students to check out books, she has virtual rotations, and is doing all of this with a combo class that was formed just one week before school started. Katie never missed a beat, and when asked if she wanted to collapse her six second grade students to another class she asked to keep them, because "they had all bonded." Further, those parents BEGGED to remain in her classroom, even though it was a combo and none of the other classes were. She is creative and inventive in how she approaches her subject matter. Katie is such an asset to Anderson, her passion for her job is contagious and often makes me miss the classroom when I see what she is doing. She has a strong career ahead of her and her students will forever benefit from her commitment to their success.

BALDWIN ELEMENTARY

Kristin Weiss – Teacher, 5th Grade

Kristin has been instrumental, during distance learning, in bringing our 4/5 SEAL strategies to life in a digital format that works for students and has our English Language Learners at its center. She jumped on board and lead the way during the spring of last year and has continued to do so this fall. Over the summer, Kristin worked at bringing our SEAL units alive in a digital format in preparation for the fall. This year she has joined our Tech Academy Teachers and is looking for innovative ways in which to infuse tech challenges and STEM activities into our SEAL units. Kristin's classroom environment is always centered around the students and their needs. She is masterful at seeing a child's potential, meeting them where they are at, and supporting them in their growth along the way. Her innovative style during this pandemic as helped to lead the way for not only our Baldwin staff but for her SEAL Cohort as well. It is with great honor that I recommend Kristin Weiss for the Quality Instruction Award.

BERNAL INTERMEDIATE

Roxanna Chita Williams – Teacher, SDC 7th/8th Grade

Roxanna Chita Williams always has a pleasant demeanor; partners and collaborates with colleagues both in and outside of SPED; has a passion for students with disabilities; her students consistently demonstrate progress in all areas; parents love her; general education teachers, special education teachers and staff love her; Roxanna is an extremely hard worker.

CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Rachel Kralyevich – Teacher, 1st Grade

Rachel exemplifies what it means to be a model teacher. She is consistently refining her craft in teaching so that her students get the best education possible. Rachel is not afraid to try something new and is persistent and never gives up until every one of her students succeeds. Rachel provides a learning environment that is rigorous, student centered, supported and loved. It is not surprising that whenever anyone steps into her classroom to see Rachel in action, people always leave with the utmost respect and admiration for her.

DAVIS INTERMEDIATE

Tierney Genoar – Teacher, Math 7th Grade

Ms. Genoar has worked hard on developing relationships with all her students (both in and out of class), while at the same time having high expectations on how they should conduct themselves at Davis. It is evident that she values and uses a variety of strategies to make these connections with students. Ms. Genoar's expectations are high but nothing that the students cannot handle. Tierney has routines and procedures so when students enter the class they know what is expected of them and are able to get started right away without wasting class time. Students can rely on her being available to help them when needed. It is evident that Tierney really thinks about the makeup of her class to plan accordingly. She takes a lot of consideration when planning her lessons. Ms. Genoar makes sure that supports are built into her lessons while at the same time adjusting her lesson as she is delivering it.

EDENVALE ELEMENTARY

Sahira Larios Silva – Teacher, Bilingual Kindergarten

Sahira Larios is skilled at implementing a variety of instructional strategies such as the wide array of integrated ELD techniques embedded within the SEAL model. She is highly adaptive to the specific learning needs of her kindergarten students, and she matches the delivery of the curriculum with the learning style of the students. Ms. Larios has seamlessly weaved together the key instructional practices at Edenvale including balanced literacy, SEAL, guided reading, readers and writers workshop, and Adelante. She has done all of this within the context of a bilingual class. Her teaching seems effortless, her demeanor comes off as patient, gentle and full of grace. At the same time, Ms. Larios' students are extremely engaged, productive, and make marked gains academically each year. Finally, as a leader within the PFA, Transformation Network, and the ILT, Ms. Larios has established strong bridges between bilingual teachers and SEI teachers around shared instructional agreements. Furthermore, in this capacity Ms. Larios has strengthened the partnership between the staff and our Edenvale community. In doing so, she has advanced our mission to narrow the English learner achievement gap and create a more equitable learning community.

FROST ELEMENTARY

Anne Sanfilippo – Teacher, 3rd/4th Grade

Anne Sanfilippo is the model of a caring teacher. She builds relationships with students to care for their socio-emotional well-being and finds creative ways to keep students engaged in the core curriculum. Anne uses a variety of ongoing assessments to refine her curriculum to meet the needs of her diverse classroom.

Erin Thompson – Teacher, 3rd Grade

Erin Thompson implements SEAL and other instructional strategies to adapt to the learning styles of her students. Her safe and happy classroom environment (on-site or Distance Learning) reflects her positive and supportive personality. Erin uses a variety of ongoing assessments to refine her curriculum to meet the needs of her diverse classroom.

HAYES ELEMENTARY

Alissa Garcia – Teacher, 5th/6th Grade

Alissa Garcia is an amazing upper grade teacher! She is all about mindset and setting high expectations for her students. Alissa is fearless about trying new strategies and resources to help broaden her students' access to grade level curriculum and deepen her students' learning. She motivates her students to do their very best by honestly communicating and documenting where they are at in their educational journey and encouraging them to reach for the next step. This year Alissa immediately stepped up to be a DEIB representative for Hayes. She is passionate about social issues and applied for a Donor's Choose Grant this past summer to get more books for her students that are focused on equity and cultural relevance. A parent's words might best capture the magic of Ms. Garcia:

“The way you are weaving in the current Black Lives Matter movement with history (like the 13-15th amendments, Jim Crow era, court decisions, Ruby Bridges, John Lewis, etc.) and current events like George Floyd and Treyvon Martin etc. is a thoughtful, organized, and beautiful tapestry. The "flocabulary" songs and images are great learning tools and bring history to life. We play them on repeat and can't get enough. I wish history was taught like this back in my day. Thanks for all the warmth, passion and hard work you put in to creating class community, motivating the individual students and for leading by example. You have this virtual learning thing dialed in!”

Hayes is honored to have Alissa Garcia as part of our staff!

HERMAN INTERMEDIATE

Nikki Citerella – School Counselor

Since Nikki arrived at Herman she has worked tirelessly to meet the social, emotional and academic needs of students. She is always thinking outside the box for strategies to support her students and families, and always tries to follow the District mission of ensuring that every child's potential is achieved.

Nikki develops, seeks out, and attends or facilitates ongoing professional development opportunities and resources for students and families that reflect current research and provide extra support. She recruits, develops and participates in parent and community partnerships such as math boosters, the kindness club, parent information nights and Super Saturday. She plays an active role in the instructional program by pulling students for small groups or individual support. Although she is not a classroom teacher, she provides an environment in which students feel comfortable sharing and learning both inside and outside the classroom.

INDIGO PROGRAM

Megan Wells – Teacher, 4th/5th Grade

Ms. Wells is a phenomenal teacher, integrating and weaving in positive discipline, inclusion strategies, and responsive instruction. Her use of the workshop model in Math, Reading, and Writing ensures that her students are developing the habits of mathematicians, readers, and writers. This format allows her to confer with students to give them that just right and just in time encouragement and feedback. Her command of writer's workshop, writing development, and taking observational records makes her a leader in this area at our school, and even in our District.

OAK RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Maureen Lytle – Teacher, SDC 3rd/4th Grade

Mrs. Lytle is the 3rd/4th SDC teacher at Oak Ridge. During her time at Oak Ridge, Mrs. Lytle has worked as a Program Assistant in the SDC classroom and now teacher. She really has developed and honed her skills in how to support students succeed through the use of purposeful and intentional small group instruction. She develops and implements a variety of instructional strategies while always keeping the whole child in mind. Through distance learning, she has continued with her small groups and enhanced them with hands-on resources and manipulatives which she also provides her students through the material pick up days. She works closely with her families and assesses student learning and differentiates to meet their needs. It is a pleasure to nominate Mrs. Lytle for the Quality Instruction Award from Oak Ridge.

Sandra Sanchez – Teacher, RSP

Mrs. Sanchez is the lead resource teacher at Oak Ridge. She continually supports the students with IEP's and staff at Oak Ridge. With the swift shift to Distance Learning, Mrs. Sanchez implemented a variety of instructional strategies which supported her RSP students. She continues to provides an environment outside the classroom (in a virtual setting) which gives students an opportunity to be involved in active learning experiences for exploration, discovery, and enhancement for social, emotional and academic skills and to actively connect what they are learning with their life experiences. She also assesses student learning and reflects and refines curriculum to meet the needs of all her students. She goes out of her way to support all students at Oak Ridge and, therefore, it is an honor to nominate Mrs. Sanchez for the Quality Instruction Award!

PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY

Luis Velasquez – Teacher, 6th Grade

Parkview 6th Grade Teacher, Luis Velasquez, makes every moment a teachable moment. He builds positive relationships with his students inside and, as one of our basketball coaches, outside the classroom. Luis knows what it is to be an English Learner and strives to continually learn new approaches and strategies to engage and support EL students. He continually seeks to learn new ways to provide his students with a variety of instructional strategies. His classroom is a gallery of graphic organizers and anchor charts to support all students. He researches best practices and last year invited Parkview's ELTP into his classroom to demonstrate a SEAL strategy, Dictado, which he then implemented. With his positive attitude and growth mindset, his students are motivated to work hard and feel pride in their effort. It is truly an honor to acknowledge Luis Velasquez with the Oak Grove School District Vision Award for Quality Instruction.

SAKAMOTO ELEMENTARY

Madeline Marshall – Teacher, 4th Grade

Maddie's classroom environment is one of trust, caring, and inclusivity. She builds personal relationships with students and engages them in academic content through high-interest activities and building on prior knowledge.

Tracy Sanders – Speech Language Pathologist

Tracy works hard to provide inclusive instruction that meets the social emotional needs of students as well as their IEP goals. She builds strong relationships with families and students and students look forward to going to Speech - in person or remotely!

SANTA TERESA ELEMENTARY

Lauren Fujishin – Teacher, 2nd/3rd Grade

Lauren Fujishin has consistently delivered outstanding instruction for her entire career. She is adept at supporting students from all academic levels, and has regularly volunteered to teach combo classes, meeting the needs of two grade levels. She provides outstanding targeted guided reading lessons for her students, and is committed to ensuring her students show tremendous growth under her watch. Lauren Fujishin is an outstanding teacher and Santa Teresa is proud to recognize her with the Quality Instruction Vision Award.

Chernell Paige – Teacher, Transitional Kindergarten

Chernell Paige is an amazing TK teacher that thoroughly prepares her students for the grade levels ahead. She balances a rigorous curriculum with many opportunities for students to play and interact with each other. Chernell's thematic units bring learning to life for her students, and learning is never boring in her classroom. The students, families, and staff love Ms. Paige and she is very deserving of the Quality Instruction Vision Award.

TAYLOR ELEMENTARY

Elizabeth Kerridge – Teacher, 1st Grade

Ms. Elizabeth Kerridge is a National Board Certified Teacher who demonstrates her expertise in many ways when we are in school in person, and she has done amazing things to support her students in distance learning. Ms. Kerridge is very engaging, articulate, concise and clear online. She records her demonstration lessons for children to access as a reminder or for when they miss a synchronous session. She is using a variety of technologies and applications to make the most of distance learning, and she forms and works with flexible groups based on formative assessments. She has kept learning meaningful and relevant by tying lessons to current events and situations, such as science lessons associated with recent fires. She also keeps learning fun, and even staged a field trip to an apple farm where she made an instructional video of herself being there in person, and secretly communicated with parents to make sure each child received a surprise apple she picked for them from the farm. Her exemplary teaching skills were further validated when random people stopped to take part in the informative "tour" they assumed an employee docent was providing at the apple farm! Ms. Kerridge's first graders are fortunate to have such a skilled and dedicated teacher.

TWO WAY BILINGUAL IMMERSION PROGRAM

Norma Corton – Teacher, 2nd Grade

Maestra Corton has been a key instructional member of the development of the TWBI program at OGSD. She has the charisma and a positive growth mindset that has supported the team in moving forward and determining what is needed to have students succeed. Maestra Corton has taught at different levels, leans in during discussions, shares her thoughts in a respectful and caring manner, and uses data to analyze best practices during PLC's.

Maestra Corton has students engaged in lessons and makes sure that the instruction she presents to them is relevant and meaningful. She is very organized, dedicates a lot of time to the teaching craft, and works very well in any team. She is an exemplar teacher who is not shy to share her knowledge with others and has an open mind to learn many different things, especially with technology.

Maestra Corton has embraced distance learning and has collaborated with her team on a daily basis to provide students with the best interactive and engaging opportunities that she can give.

She is a very creative individual and always uses the most fundamental best teaching strategies to make learning fun and enjoyable. Her lessons are well structured, provide student thinking time, supports vocabulary development, scaffolds lessons appropriately, has students orally present as much as possible to give them opportunities to apply their knowledge of the languages, uses many visuals and realia to bring teaching to life, and does this with a smile on her face.

We are very fortunate to have Maestra Corton as part of the team. Throughout her years of teaching, she has touched many lives and will continue to make a very big impact on students, parents and on the entire team of Del Roble and the TWBI Program.