



Rankin's Heather Cartwright (L) is the 2023 TPSD Administrator of the Year, while Chelsey Wilson of Tupelo High School is the Teacher of the Year.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tupelo Public Schools (@TupeloSchools)

Contact: Gregg Ellis (662.620.6195 or 662.322.0145)

Website:

Cartwright, Wilson Receive TPSD's Top Honors

TUPELO, Miss. — Tuesday afternoon was a day of celebration for the Tupelo Public School District as Heather Cartwright was named the 2023 Administrator of the Year and Chelsey Wilson the Teacher of the Year at the December board of trustees meeting.

Cartwright, a native of Jumpertown, Miss., has been the principal at Rankin Elementary the last four years. Wilson, a native of Starkville, Miss., has been an English teacher at Tupelo High School the last four years.

It's the first recognition of this kind for both.

"I am extremely honored and humbled to be named TPSD Administrator of the Year," said Cartwright, who earned her bachelor's degree from Ole Miss and master's from Delta State and

is currently working on her doctorate at Southern Miss. “While I am proud, this award and recognition would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the Rankin Elementary staff, students, and parents. Our Rankin All-Stars are shining brighter today because of this award.”

Cartwright is in her 14th year with the district. She began her educational journey at Parkway, teaching first-grade for four years before transitioning to media specialist for another four years. In 2016-17, she was named assistant principal at Lawndale before taking over at Rankin in 2019-20.

“Mrs. Cartwright is an excellent principal who leads by example,” TPSD superintendent Dr. Rob Picou said. “She and her staff have done an excellent job at Rankin, raising expectations and meeting them. Her passion for education is contagious.”

She and her husband, Clint, have two daughters — Ella, a fifth-grader at Rankin, and Emmy, a first-grader at Joyner.

After graduating from Starkville High School in 1997, Wilson earned her bachelor’s degree from BYU.

In 2005-06, she got her first teaching job as a seventh-grade ELA teacher in Utah’s Nebo School District. She also worked as a Title I paraprofessional in Michigan and spent four years as a seminary teacher for the Church of Jesus Christ of LDS before coming to Tupelo High School in 2018.

She currently serves as sponsor of the THS Book Club, co-sponsor of the Golden Lines Poetry Club and is a Professional Learning Committee leader.

She and her husband, Jared, have three children — Maile, John and Edith.

“Mrs. Wilson is what I would call a quiet, yet powerful educator,” THS principal Dr. Melissa Thomas said. “She’s a woman of few words, but when she steps in front of her students to teach, her ideas, creativity, and passion bring the instruction to life in a big way. In her own quiet and meek way, she changes lives every single day.”

Both Cartwright and Wilson are now eligible for the state of Mississippi’s top honors in their respective categories.

Last year’s winners were Carmen Gary and Christal Chapman, both of Parkway.

2022-23 Teachers of the Year

Carver

Sandy Corken

ECEC

Amy Hardy

Joyner

Cathryn Richey

Lawhon

Aleigha Franks

Lawndale

Amy Hughes

Milam

Timothy Norris

Parkway

Tammy Pointer

Pierce Street

Amy Hildenbrand

Rankin

Caren Barber

Thomas Street

Bo Boatner

Tupelo Career Center

Brookes Prince

Tupelo Middle School

Bridgette Wilson

Tupelo High School

Chelsey Wilson