

QUALITY INSTRUCTION VISION AWARDS 2022

The recipients were selected for their work in 2021-2022 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

Josue Ramirez – 3rd Grade Teacher

Josue is an exceptional teacher. His connection to his classroom and students is so seamless, he sincerely has no idea how exceptional he is - as it just seems so natural. Josue's ability to connect to students' personal assets and culture is integrated into everything he does. The activities that he does seem effortless and understated, yet have a huge impact. For example, his students count to ten in both Spanish and Vietnamese when they do their PE exercises - representing the majority of home languages in his classroom. With pride, they recite this and share their multi-lingual skills. When entering his classroom there are maps with pins representing each of his students' heritages. Josue taught a 2/3 combo class and had some of the highest growth in the school, demonstrating that small groups and independence produces confident students and a love for learning. In all my years working with Josue I have never had a student or parent complain about his class, his students are successful and happy. Josue led our Student Council this past year and even though he teaches primary grades - he had our upper grade students more committed than I have ever seen in leadership. They organized bake sales, created PBIS posters, and put a booth up at Back to School Night to support Anderson's sixth grade promotion. The students loved him and spoke very highly of his support of them in their promotion speeches. Josue understands curriculum, but most importantly, he understands kids. He is a wonderful teacher and Anderson is so lucky to have him.

BALDWIN ELEMENTARY

Allen Cotton – 3rd Grade Teacher

It is an honor to recommend Allen Cotton for the Quality Instruction Vision Award. Allen has created a warm, caring learning environment where students' socio-emotional needs are a top priority. He continuously seeks out new ways to meet the diverse needs of all of his students. Over the past several years he has taken on a lot of new learning and has implemented it all at a high level. It is an honor to have him as an integral part of our Baldwin Team.

BALDWIN ELEMENTARY

Ileana Juarez – 2nd Grade Teacher

It is an honor to recommend Ileana Juarez for the Quality Instruction Vision Award. Ileana is constantly adjusting her instruction and the strategies that she uses to support student learning so that all students are successful. Her classroom environment is one of acceptance and warmth with a caring heart at the center. Students' socio-emotional needs take a priority in her classroom and are actively connected to the academic content and life experiences that she provides for her students. Ileana has taken on a lot of new learning over the past few years and has, beyond a doubt, implemented it all at a high level. It is an honor to have her as an integral part of our Baldwin Team.

CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Fariba Roberts – 3rd/4th Grade Teacher

If there is a teacher who best fits this category then it would be Fariba Roberts. She is a hard worker and an example of a strong instructional leader. She keeps students at the heart of her work and is able to be flexible and think out of the box to keep her students engaged and in a place where they want to learn. Her classroom is warm and inviting where students know they are loved and cared for. She is constantly adjusting her teaching to ensure all students are able to have access to the instruction and ensures she is aware of growths and opportunities that she can capitalize on to make things more impactful. There are so many great things happening in Fariba's classroom and Christopher School is lucky to have her as a teacher.

DAVIS INTERMEDIATE

Thinley Shrestha – Math Teacher

Ms. Shrestha creates a classroom environment that is engaging to the students. She utilizes lessons and strategies that are culturally relevant and students are taught to work collaboratively in math. She takes time to create lesson plans which are easy to understand. She has a positive mindset and creates a classroom environment that is safe and she ensures learning is accessible and meaningful to her students. She brings a good energy to her math department colleagues, as well as to any Professional Learning Community that she collaborates and plans with. She is professional, supportive, spirited, positive, and helpful. We are fortunate to have her at Davis and look forward to her continuous contributions and service to the Davis community.

HERMAN INTERMEDIATE AND THE ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Andrea Neff – ELD Teacher

Andrea 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. She provides a caring and supportive environment for students learning English and content at the same time.

Judy Zaccheo – 5th Grade Adventure Teacher

Judy's classroom is always a safe and engaging environment for students to learn. She consistently matches the delivery of curriculum with the learning style of students and objectives of the lesson and provides positive student results. Her students not only thrive academically, but socially and emotionally as well. Her approach to project based learning, coupled with her skills based instruction yields very high outcomes and creates a space where children feel successful and want to come to school and learn.

INDIGO PROGRAM

Amanda Bishop – Middle School Science and Math Teacher

Amanda develops and implements an engaging curriculum using a variety of strategies to support student learning. Students love the hands-on experiments and activities Amanda brings to the classroom. She is also the kind of teacher who students feel comfortable talking to about all sorts of things going on in their lives. Students thrive both academically and socially in her class.

LEDESMA ELEMENTARY

Jennifer Dempsey – 2nd Grade Teacher

Jennifer Dempsey works hard to establish an environment inside and outside the classroom where students feel valued and appreciated. Students are encouraged to learn and explore in a safe environment and, furthermore, they are supported through scaffolds to clearly articulate their thoughts and feelings in order to effectively express themselves.

OAK RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Janelle Biskup – 5th/6th Grade Teacher

Janelle consistently seeks ways to engage her students and improve upon her practice. She incorporates instructional strategies that meet all her learners' needs, both social/emotional and academic. Students are often seen engaging in community and restorative circles, writing in teacher-student journals, and one-on-one conversations with the teacher. Instructionally, Janelle uses a variety of tools from task cards, escape rooms, themed days, and hands-on science experiments that connect the standards to real world situations. She is currently our PBIS Mentor, piloting the new science adoption and working with the Center for Reaching and Teaching the Whole Child.

PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY

Karl Berquist – 5th Grade Teacher

Fifth Grade Teacher, Karl Berquist, brings a calmness and structure to his classroom that speaks to his years as a veteran teacher. Through the unpredictability of the COVID pandemic over the last few years, Karl provided an environment of safety and reassurance. Students enter Karl's class knowing they will receive the support they need to succeed in school as he works tirelessly to prepare his students to move to the next grade with confidence and skill. Karl seamlessly integrates technology into his instruction for a well-balanced educational experience that is engaging to students. Through a variety of learning modalities, Karl maintains the utmost level of professionalism and expertise while motivating students to meet high expectations. He understands the importance of engaging students in their learning and helps them understand the value of taking pride in their work. Karl is a dedicated educator and it is an honor to recognize him with the Oak Grove School District Vision Award for Quality Instruction.

Valerie Burrows – 4th Grade Teacher

Fourth Grade Teacher, Valerie Burrows, can tell you exactly where her students stand at any given moment. Her expertise in utilizing data to inform her planning and instruction is but one example of her commitment to quality instruction. Through her ongoing efforts to build positive connections with her students, she motivates them to do their best and strive to improve. Val continually seeks resources to support the gaps she finds through a variety of data points resulting in individualized, targeted instruction to meet her student's needs. It is truly an honor to acknowledge Val Burrows with the Oak Grove School District Vision Award for Quality Instruction.

SANTA TERESA ELEMENTARY

Sandra Aranda – Speech Language Pathologist

Sandra Aranda is an incredibly creative and organized SLP. She develops thematic units that are engaging and provide bountiful language immersion opportunities for the students she serves. She is always well prepared and provides clear data in IEP reports. It is a pleasure to recognize Sandra with the Quality Instruction Vision Award.

Stefani Joseph – 3rd Grade Teacher

Stefani Joseph is a model educator. She is incredibly organized and focuses on every detail to run an amazing classroom. She is adept at providing differentiated instruction for her students, working tirelessly to meet all of their needs. Her lessons are thoughtful, engaging, and full of exciting and meaningful activities. Not a moment is wasted in Mrs. Joseph's class. It is a pleasure to nominate Stefani Joseph with the Quality Instruction Vision Award.

Jennifer Miller – 2nd Grade Teacher

Jennifer Miller cares deeply about the academic growth of her students. She challenges them to give their absolute best each and every day. Jennifer implements thematic units that are fun and engaging. She always keeps her students on track for success and celebrates all that they do. It is a pleasure to nominate Jennifer Miller for the Quality Instruction Vision Award.

STIPE ELEMENTARY

Samara Glantz – RSP Teacher

Despite her relocation and as a new employee of the Oak Grove School District, Ms. Glantz has transitioned excellently to her new environment. With the demands and varied challenges of supporting a Title I school, Ms. Glantz has positioned herself as a critical element in supporting our students. Ms. Glantz has quickly become a tremendous asset to our staff, especially in how we deliver Special Education services. She is a highly skilled teacher that is resourceful and knowledgeable in providing creative accommodations for her students. She is empathetic, extremely collaborative, and, most importantly, has a great attitude interacting with students and staff. On behalf of the Stipe community, we are delighted to nominate Ms. Glantz to receive this Vision Award.

TAYLOR ELEMENTARY

Marrissa Urias-Diangson – 3rd Grade Teacher

Marrissa is quite thoughtful about developing her community of learners, setting high expectations for everyone, while helping all students recognize the diversity of learning styles in the classroom. She uses every opportunity inside and outside of the classroom and on special days as opportunities for learning. She is excellent at adapting her lessons based on assessments and differentiating her instruction, so that all students are given the opportunity for growth. Marrissa demonstrates a high level of quality in her instruction and continues to seek opportunities to learn. We are lucky to have her as part of the Oak Grove Community!

TWO WAY BILINGUAL IMMERSION PROGRAM

Deniz Patino Ramos – 3rd Grade Teacher

Maestra Patino develops and implements a variety of instructional strategies which consistently matches the delivery of curriculum with the learning style of her students and objectives of the lesson and provides positive student results. She 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. Maestra Patino creates an environment where students are challenged and feel empowered to share their ideas.