



Excerpts from PAGE Teacher Appreciation Contest

May 2016

“My teacher makes sure that I am challenged by giving us a flipped learning classroom. In a flipped classroom, students learn at their own pace through the use of technology and various online resources. I believe that this kind of learning is essential in teaching students how to be responsible with their own work and learn to achieve success on their own. My teacher is a great pioneer of the flipped classroom, and I hope she continues to use it in the future.”

By student Owen Sizemore about Ms. Sanderlin, 9th Adv. ELA, VS Lincoln Middle
(District 9)

“Mr. Young engages his class in a special way. He teaches at their level but the conversation feels more like that of a college English class. Familiar yet challenging, and infused with the right amount of humor. His students love him and feel respected. His teaching style ignites the students’ internal motivation to learn and succeed.”

By parent Kelly Leggett about Mr. K. Young, 6th adv. ELA, Brown Summit Middle School
(District 4)

“Mr. Bell has made sure that Makayla is constantly challenged in Language Arts class and her incredible thirst for reading and acquiring new vocabulary continues. At a time when many students are dealing with a ‘disconnect’ from literacy, he has done a fantastic job of keeping her and the other students engaged and he has introduced them to Shakespeare! Mr. Bell, we salute you!”

By parent Myra Key about Mr. Erik Bell, Aycock Middle School
(District 8)

“My teacher makes sure that I am challenged by writing his own course materials and adjusting the class to the people in it.”

By student Dylan O'Connor about Paul Smith, Early College at Guilford
(District 7)

“Mrs. Huff really understands AG students. I have seen my son's self-confidence grow over the past 3 years in her class. She sets the bar high for her students and what a fun experience he's had reaching that goal. Thank you for "getting" these kids!!!”

By parent Jana Lambeth about Mrs. Huff, General Greene Elementary
(District 7)

“My teacher challenges me by not trying to force knowledge in my head like a normal teacher but making it fun and truly inspiring me to be a better student, and to show me that education isn't as horrible as it seems. She understands that I get really stressed under pressure or when I don't understand something and get overwhelmed [about] what I am doing. I love that she has amazing ideas like the warm fuzzy board in our classroom where you post something like a thank you note or a congratulations and it really makes a difference in the positive attitude in the room/ making it raise above the roof. This is why Mrs. Brehm is the best teacher that I know in the world.”

By student Kaley Elizabeth White about Mrs. Brehm, AG Teacher, Gibsonville Elementary
(District 4)

“Ms. Townes is an exceptional teacher! She challenges my children to think and recognizes that gifted learners have special needs. She is always willing to provide enrichment opportunities, takes on more responsibilities than imaginable, and makes sure the whole child is educated. This is something RARE in the over tested elementary school!”

By parent Meghan Sharp, about Mrs. Townes, AG Teacher, Jesse Wharton Elementary
(District 7)

“This teacher understands my daughter as a learner and shows she cares by letting her run with her independent projects. These open-ended tasks could be group work, but my daughter much prefers working independently, and she is allowed to do so. Mrs. Roberts will email documents so that my daughter can continue to work at home. The one day a week when she has AG is my daughter's favorite part of school, and this encouraging, understanding and supportive teacher is a big part of that wonderful experience.”

By parent Karin Rochester about Mrs. Roberts, AG Teacher, Summerfield Elementary
(District 3)

“My teacher makes sure that I am challenged by going out of our comfort zone and making us read some fantastic literature. She's also really cool and understands us as students. Thank you Mrs. Davis!”

By student who wished to remain anonymous about Mrs. Davis, Southwest High School
(District 2)

“My son's teacher understands him as an inquisitive learner; she provides him with opportunity to grow through appropriate and challenging materials.”

By a parent who wished to remain anonymous about Mrs. Dare, AG Teacher, Southwest Elementary (District 2)

“Ms. Gilmore was my daughter, Anna Grace's...Kindergarten teacher. It was because of her strong knowledge, skill, and understanding of how to modify the curriculum to meet individual differences that helped my child succeed. She understood my child's need to be independent, desire to be a leader and help others, and allowed her to be self-driven. Not only was Ms.

Gilmore a part of building a strong educational foundation for Anna Grace, she cared for her and our family ... Somehow, we never seem to acknowledge exactly what our Early Educators do at the beginning of the formal educational process- it is far more than literacy and math skills. They nurture the spirits of young children by teaching them to communicate, cooperate, hone the natural creativity of a five-year-old, and most importantly respect them as human beings - all with great potential do great things. They excite a desire to learn for a lifetime. Because of that strong foundation, my now 7th grader, ... is thriving.”

By parent Nicole McCaskill, about Ms. Carol Gilmore, Alamance Elementary Teacher
(District 5)

“Mr. Cooke is a great teacher. He makes sure that my classmates and I are challenged by giving us work that is difficult, interesting, and enjoyable. ...He makes work fun, not boring at all. I have learned so much from him. He is awesome, I love being in his class!”

By student Mutee Qui about David Cooke, AG Teacher, Jamestown Elementary
(District 5)

“My son's teacher made sure that he was challenged by creating a book club with him when she found out he didn't like to read, despite being an amazing reader. It took a lot of bravery for me to go to my son's teacher and express concern that my above grade level reading child did not enjoy reading, especially knowing that there were surely children in his grade that still struggled to even be able to read. However, Ms. Toomes took this concern to heart and started a reading club with him. They both read a book independently and then talked about it together. Then another and then other kids got interested and joined in. She was soon able to phase herself out and let them take control. It was beautiful. He's loving his AG classes and can't put books down now. His life is changed for the better....”

By a parent wishing to remain anonymous about Kaitlyn Toomes at Morehead Elementary
(District 6)

“Ms. Mannino made sure my child was challenged by giving her meaningful work in meaningful settings. Because my daughter was very interested in cultures, Ms. Mannino suggested my daughter read books by an author who talks about people who came from other countries. These books were not easy for my daughter--they were much harder than the picture books she selected on her own. But because the topics interested her, she devoured them. Her reading jumped several grade levels during her experiences in Ms. Mannino's class, and her love of reading skyrocketed. Also, Ms. Mannino developed group projects that pushed my daughter to collaborate with her peers in ways that were fun and meaningful. Because social situations with other kids were challenging for her, these projects, like reader's theater, allowed her to create and execute fun activities with her peers. My daughter left Ms. Mannino's class a changed person: she became confident, social and an absolute lover of learning. Because she was a quieter child, many teachers could have ignored her and let her just blend in. But as she did with all the other children in the classroom, Ms. Mannino recognized what was unique about her and how to create a situation where she would grow the most. I am grateful for Ms. Mannino's classroom magic.”

By parent Ayla Samli, about Ms. Mannino, Peeler Open School
(District 9)