

2013 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FINALISTS

Mathematics



Brian Frees

Hendersonville Middle School

As an educator, I believe it is my responsibility to inspire my students to become life-long learners by making learning fun, exciting, and relevant through the use of hands-on activities, technology, games, songs, and humor. My 10 years of experience in the classroom has taught me there is no one size fits all approach for teaching math, and this leads me to employ a variety of methods to ensure success for all types of learners. While being voted teacher of the year for 2011-12 was an honor, I have found an even greater sense of pride and accomplishment when former students and their parents have told me that I positively impacted their confidence and enjoyment of math. I was selected as a trainer of math teachers in the Common Core and Math Partners programs, and I have enjoyed working with my colleagues to develop the most effective instructional strategies to help all students experience academic success.



Julie Riggins

East Forsyth High School

It is amazing that after 20 years of teaching I still learn new math, new applications, new solutions, and new problems. I love the challenge of helping students appreciate the math that is around them every day by analyzing a tossed ball, a rolling car, or a launched rocket. I want them to be curious, to ask “why”, to be creative, and to discover relationships. Helping students learn something new and seeing them beam with pride is why I love what I do! I thank my husband, Marshall, who I have been married to for 15 years for supporting me and tolerating my long hours. We also have two wonderful children: Caleb, age 11 and Grayson, age 8.



Katie Salter

West Carteret High School

As a Carteret County native, each of my twelve years of teaching, I promote a passion for life-long learning within my students through my strong work ethic and enthusiastic attitude. I create an environment where students’ problem-solve and engage in hands-on mathematical activities. I serve on several committees and actively participate in professional development. I enjoy exploring new teaching methods and learning opportunities to use in the classroom. I consider it an honor to be recognized by my colleagues as the Teacher of the Year and county wide last year as the NCCTM Outstanding Mathematics Teacher for Carteret County. I have been married for ten years to my wonderful husband, Clint. We share two beautiful daughters, Baily and Anna Kate.