

# *Celebration of Excellence*

## *Employee of the Month*

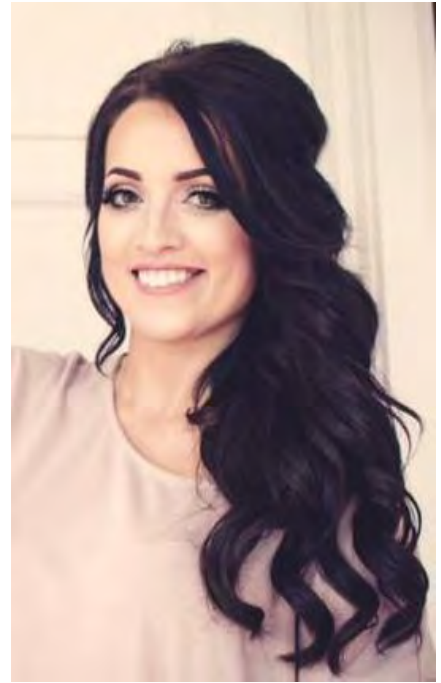
### **CMS – Jessica Gurley**

**College attended:** Stephen F Austin State University

**Years in education:** 5, all at CISD

**Who is your greatest supporter/inspiration?**

Without a doubt, my family is my biggest support. My mom, dad, and sister have always cheered me on. From an early age, I admired my mom as a teacher and she has been my rock since I began my teaching career. My husband, Mac, survives being married to a teacher like a champ! He's always there for me, encouraging me, whether its preparing activities for class and even doing an activity to see if it's going to work in the classroom. I couldn't make it without these people in my life.



**Why did you choose to become an educator?**

My mom was a big influence in my decision to become a teach. There have also been other teachers I had that influenced me as well. Archie Haddox, Jake Henson, Vickie Edge, Tresa Konderla, and Rob Payne, these are just a few that truly made a difference.

**What makes a good teacher?**

I think it all comes down to making a connection with the kids. Find a common interest, have a sense of humor, and let them know you care..and they'll do just about anything for you. Supporting them in their extracurricular activities as well goes a long way.

**What do you love about CISD?**

I love the people that I teach with. 6th grade teachers are so supportive of one another and make my day everyday! And of course my friends in the "outback": my mom and Mrs. Sharon Rice who helps me to look on the bright side of things :)

**From around campus:**

Mrs. Gurley loves teaching and she loves her students. She works tirelessly making sure her students enjoy learning. She always has a smile to share with everyone around her.

Jessica is constantly searching for engaging, new ways to teach her students. She has a sense of humor that just clicks with her students. I can tell that her heart is in teaching, whether it's in the classroom or as a cheer sponsor.

I don't think my form went through. Nominating Jessica Gurley. I see how much dedication and energy she puts into searching for new ways to engage her students. She has this awesome camper theme in her classroom and even incorporates it into her lessons. The students love Mrs. Gurley and her sense of humor.