

Celebration of Excellence

Employee of the Month

CES – Kimberly Hearn



College Attended: I attended Eastfield Community College where I earned an Associates. I attended Texas A&M Commerce where I earned a Bachelors and Masters.

Years in Education: This is my first year in Center, but I have been teaching for 15 years.

Who is your greatest supporter/inspiration? My greatest supporter is my husband. I set high goals for myself and he supports me each step of the way. I know I can accomplish anything with his support.

Why did you choose to become an educator? I was the first person in my family to graduate high school and college. I knew I wanted to be a teacher when I was in Kindergarten. I had a very mean teacher. She screamed at all of the kids and never smiled. I told my family the second week of school that one day I would teach and I would love my kids. I graduated college with a job teaching Kindergarten. I knew I wanted to help others learn. I worked 3 jobs to pay my way through college because I did not want to payoff any loans. I love teaching kids how to read because I love reading.

What makes a good teacher? I will do whatever it takes to help our community. I have accomplished a lot of goals since I started here in August. I started a Reading Cafe at our school where 29 volunteers come in and help me read to 170 kids a week during their lunchtime. These kids love listening to stories during lunch and I hope to include even more volunteers and kids for next year. I also started a Reading and Writing Club with the help of many other teachers. We have 122 kids that stay until 4 every Tuesday. I have really enjoyed working with these kids after school. I started a book drive for our school in October when I realized that half of our kids did not have any books at home. I've collected books from our staff, Half Price Bookstore, all of my friends back home and I've ordered books. I also had a group of students from Royce City do their outreach program for our school. They collected 400 books and came to our school one Saturday for a story time. Students and parents listened to stories and all kids left with free books. As of yesterday, 3,500 books have been sent home with kids in our school. I'd like to turn a small area in our school into a bookstore where kids can go in and shop for books. I hate that they have to dig through my buckets. The kids don't mind but I want them to get the bookstore experience. I also started a monthly book club for our staff. We read professional books some months and fun books other months. It's amazing to have people to read with and discuss new ideas. I started a caught reading rewards program for our school where I put books in the cafeteria and gym. Kids that are reading during these times are given a caught reading certificate. On Friday, names are drawn and those kids are sent to my room for prizes. I work with struggling readers and many of my kids qualify for the dyslexia program after they are tested. I would love to have some more training on dyslexia. I enjoy learning and I spend a ton of time reading to learn new strategies that might help kids read.

What do you love about CISD: I love CISD because of the kids and the people I work with on a daily basis. These kids are amazing. They want to learn and they inspire me daily. I work with some fabulous teachers that have taken me in and helped me feel like family. I moved to this area from Dallas and I did not know a soul until school started. I feel like God sent me here to not just teach but to help transform a community. I want to reach out to the elderly and get them reading to these kids. I want them to know that they still have a purpose. I want to teach adults how to read right alongside with their children. The only way to help our kids become the best readers is to help our community value reading.

From Around Campus:

- She goes above and beyond for all the students on our campus!
- She is devoted to helping these children be successful readers. She dedicates all her energy and time in making sure this is a reality.
- She always has the best attitude and is willing to push the boundaries to do great things for our kiddos!
- She goes beyond her duties as a reading teacher. She collects books for students that do not have books to read at home. She gets volunteers to come read with struggling students at lunchtime. She has also started a reading and writing club for students after school on Tuesdays. She is one awesome teacher!!!!!!
- She is continuously positive to the staff and also the students. She encourages and has a positive outlook with the students and goes above and beyond whenever or wherever necessary.
- She works hard every single day. She gets to school early, and leaves late. She is always planning extra things for the students and trying to make them love reading.
- She is always willing to help anyone anyhow. She brings so much positiveness and joy to our school.
- This is Mrs. Hearn's first year at Center Elementary School. When she came to us this year, she also brought with her, her love for reading. She has made a huge effort to provide under privileged students with books to read at home. Her love for reading is such a positive thing to share with students and her peers as well.