

Teacher of the Year

A Celebration of Excellence

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.

In your own education, what teacher inspired you? Do you find yourself implementing their strategies in the classroom?

I had 2 amazing teachers that inspired me:

My 5th grade teacher Mrs. Barr was a wonderful teacher. I was struggling with some math concepts, and I cried when I didn't make an "A" on every paper. I asked her one day if she would help me practice during recess. She was shocked that I wanted to practice math instead of playing. In a few weeks I started to soar and we became best buddies. She was a fabulous first year teacher.

My next teacher I met in high school. His name was Mr. Taylor and he taught advanced math. I still never accepted a grade less than an "A" so I spent a lot of time after school in his classroom solving multiple math problems until I understood the concept. He never tired of me stopping by after school.

Both of these teachers inspired me to always give extra time to my students.

What was a goal you set this year? Did you achieve it? If not, when will you?

I set many goals at the start of this year:

I wanted to start a Reading Cafe where 170 students would have an adult read to them during lunch. I had 27 volunteers and 170 students this year. I hope to include even more kids next year. I have seen kids increase vocabulary and comprehension skills. I have also seen adults and kids bond over books.

I wanted to give away 5,000 books by the end of the school year. I have given away 4,500 so far. I will continue to buy books and collect books to give away next year. Kids can not learn how to read if they do not have books to read at home.

I wanted to help kids develop a love for Reading. I have had kids come up to me in the hallway jumping up and down to tell me about a new book. Teaching is my gift and inspiring staff, kids and parents is my purpose.

What do you love about CISD?

I love the support I am given at CISD. I love how it feels like I am working with family. These teachers and administrators have taken me in and helped me in anyway possible. I've been encouraged and supported with all of my crazy ideas. I love the overwhelming support that this staff gives each other daily. I started an after school club and did not limit the amount of kids. I had 122 kids sign up and numerous teachers stepped in to help out.

I asked for mentors for some of our struggling readers and an aide and the librarian have continued to work with these kids every single day all year on their break or before school.

I have custodians that keep my room spotless and trust me it is a mess after 50 kids eat lunch in it daily. The lady that cleans my room even washes an occasional dish that is left behind. She is such a blessing.

Our secretaries have been so supportive as volunteers have come in looking for me. They are all so patient and helpful. Secretaries set the atmosphere for our school and our ladies show everyone that our school is filled with love and support.

Many of our staff even help out with Reading Cafe and read to a group of kids every week.

I am truly blessed to work with such a wonderful group of supportive people.

What advice would you give a novice teacher starting a career at CISD in the fall?

A brand new teacher to our area needs to know that we are all here to help.

