

# Celebration of Excellence

## Employee of the Month

### CES – Andrea Clary

**College attended:**

I attended Stephen F. Austin State University and graduated in 2014.

**Years in education:**

This is my second year teaching. I've taught third grade math and science both years.

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

My parents are my greatest supporters because they taught me to find something that I'm passionate about and to work towards achieving that goal. My inspiration comes from my students. Every time I see the lightbulb go off when a student finally understands something they've been struggling with, I realize that we both overcame that challenge together, and that these kids teach me just as much as I teach them.

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

From the time that I was little, I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I am the oldest of 45 and counting grandchildren on my mom's side, so I grew up surrounded by kids. I always enjoyed taking care of them and helping them learn. I knew that I was their role model, and it helped me to realize that I had a passion for teaching and helping people to be successful in life.

**What makes a good teacher?**

There are so many qualities that make a good teacher, but I think the most important thing a good teacher does is build strong relationships with the kids. I have found that building a relationship with each kid is the key to his or her success. People tend to work harder for people they feel love and respect from and our students are no different. Even when my students do not understand something, they will try their best because they don't want me to be disappointed. They know that I love them and want them to work hard so they can be successful beyond the walls of my classroom. Having strong relationships makes my classroom management so much easier because I've created a class family who supports each other and holds each other accountable with little correction from me. I think it's important to build a positive relationship with students because we may be the only one who makes them believe in themselves.

**A career in education means constant growth. What is one area in which you wish to improve?**

I believe that the best way to help students understand new content is to find ways to make it relevant to them. I want to improve on teaching students in more fun and engaging ways of learning by incorporating more technology into the classroom.

**What do you love about CISD?**

I love the people that I work with. The past two years I have watched these people work hard to improve the lives of their students. They were super welcoming and helpful to me last year as a first year teacher, and we truly became a family. I think we are able to do so many great things in CISD because we are able to work together and bring our diverse ideas to the table to create great experiences for our students.

**From Around Campus:**

"I love Ms. Clary's dedication to her students. She is truly a teacher that wants to see her kids succeed inside and outside the classroom. She goes above and beyond to give her students the skills they need in school through her morning tutorials (strictly her idea, no prompting or extra perks) and she plants seeds in their personal lives with her hugs, high-fives, dance parties, and heart to hearts. If you didn't know any better, you'd think she was a veteran teacher. I love to see her interact with her students and to watch her prepare herself each day to be the best teacher for them."

"She goes above and beyond. Comes in early every morning for tutoring. Does her best to try to get her kids where they need to be to succeed."

