

Celebration of Excellence

Employee of the Month

CIS – Jody Franks

College attended: SFA (undergrad) and the University of Alaska Southeast (master's program)

Years in education: 14 (teacher, secretary, aide, AmeriCorps Volunteer, substitute, long-term substitute)

Who is your greatest supporter/inspiration? My 10-year old nephew is my greatest supporter and source of inspiration. We share a very close bond that includes sharing a birthday. His unwavering faith in me keeps me strong in times when I feel challenged. I love experiencing life through his eyes. We love camping, hiking, road tripping, and going on adventures together!

Why did you choose to become an educator? It's easy to say that I chose education, because I love working with children, but it really delves much deeper than that. Science is my favorite subject and if you ask my students, they'll tell you I'm really passionate about it. What better opportunity can a teacher have than the chance to share their passions with their students? Watching a student blossom and bloom is by far better than watching the most beautiful flower come to fruition.

What makes a good teacher? A great teacher is a well-crafted amalgam of many characteristics. While portions might slightly differ, a great teacher is comprised of humor, patience, willingness to help others, a desire to see a growth and improvement in humanity, and the ability to laugh at one's mistakes/misadventures.

A career in education means constant growth. What is one area in which you wish to improve? I feel that students learn best in an experiential, hands-on setting. I would like to continue to explore ways to make my classroom more exploratory. We use the phrase "unGoogleable", because we are in search of answers that can't be found with a quick Internet search.

What do you love about CISD? I love how CISD is so closely tied into the community of Center. I grew up in a school district with about 100,000 students and you didn't feel that close-knit connection between school and community.

From around campus:

"She is creative and always works hard to keep her students engaged!"

"She is a wonderful teacher. She gives 110% to her kids everyday, and is always thinking of fun ways and projects to teach her lessons."

