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For Immediate Release:



Wilson Named 2018-19 District Teacher of the Year

Griffin, GA - Jordan Hill Elementary Music Teacher Jennifer Wilson is this year's Griffin-Spalding County School System (GSCS) Teacher of the Year. She will now represent the district in the 2020 Georgia Teacher of the Year competition. Wilson was surprised with the news in her classroom on Tuesday, Oct. 2, and recognized at the Griffin-Spalding Board of Education meeting held that evening.

Board Members
Barbara Jo Cook
William B. Doss
James A. "Pete" Graham
Zachery Holmes
Michael Kendall

JAMES D. SMITH
Superintendent



Pictured (L-R): Griffin-Spalding County School System Deputy Superintendent Dr. Kiawana Kennedy, GSCS 2018-19 Teacher of the Year Jennifer Wilson and Jordan Hill Elementary Principal Dottie English. Photo Credit: GSCS

Wilson has been a music teacher for 15 years serving elementary, middle and high school students at both private and public schools. Wilson has taught music at Jordan Hill Elementary for two years. She also helps with the school's Literacy Days competition, organizes music performances for PTO and special holiday programs and serves as the accompanist for the elementary and middle school Griffin-Spalding Honor Chorus events. For the district, Wilson has edited and written nationally aligned middle school chorus curriculum, created Student Learning Objectives and served as a mentor to new choral teachers. Wilson received her bachelor's degree in Music from Clayton State University and her master's degree in Music Education from the University of Southern Mississippi.

In her application Wilson stated, "As an educator, it is my goal to help all students reach their fullest potential by providing a classroom environment that is positive, challenging and allows for self-discovery. I truly love what I do and give my students all of my focus and energy. I strive every day to be a better teacher than the day before. My teaching motto is to do what you love, do it better every day, every hour and for every child."

GSCS Superintendent Jim Smith stated, "Our school system is fortunate to have talented teachers such as Mrs. Wilson. She is respected by her fellow teachers, students, parents and administrators as a teacher with a true passion for education. We are proud to have her represent our district."

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"A lot of people teach, but not everyone has the ability to truly inspire students. It is a joy and a privilege to watch Mrs. Wilson's inspiration come to life day in and day out. If we could bottle up and sell Mrs. Wilson's talents, energy, creativity and the ability to create that enthusiasm in students, we would be rich indeed," stated Jordan Hill Elementary Principal Dottie English.

Wilson's fellow teacher, Evelyn Chivers, Ph.D., stated, "Jenny's classroom environment has the right mix of encouragement and challenges. She builds confidence and plays to the individual strengths of her students while bolstering them with constant encouragement."

Candidates from all 19 schools completed applications and were scored by outside evaluators. Three finalists were selected. Interviews and classroom observations with the finalists were conducted by a panel of judges to determine the Teacher of the Year.

The Georgia Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the Georgia Department of Education, annually recognizes outstanding public school teachers at both local and state levels. This is a prestigious award program focused on excellence in teaching.

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About GSCS

The Griffin-Spalding County School System (GSCS) is an AdvancED accredited district serving 10,000 students in 11 elementary schools, four middle schools, two high schools, one alternative high school and the Griffin Regional College and Career Academy. The vision of GSCS is to be an agent of change, transforming our students into future-ready learners and contributing members of society. For more information about GSCS, visit www.spalding.k12.ga.us, follow us on Twitter at @GriffinSpalding, visit www.facebook.com/GSCSS, download the GSCS app or follow Sights & Sounds of GSCS on YouTube.