

## Teacher of the Year 2010-2011

### Our second candidate: Amanda Burton for Teacher of the Year, Elkin Middle School

Amanda started her teaching career with Elkin City Schools in 2005 and has been with us almost 5 years. She earned Career Status in 2009.

#### History:

- *Attended North Carolina State University:*
  - In 2004, she earned Bachelor of Arts in English
  - She has also attended University of Phoenix from 2006 -2008 where she earned additional credits in Theory and Classroom Instruction as well as Exceptional Children learnings.
- She also attended Surry Community College
  - In 2003, she earned an Associative Arts degree in General Curriculum
- She attended Elkin High and graduated in 2005

Teaching History: In January 2005, she started teaching 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies and in the fall of 2005 she moved to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts.

#### Other:

- Amanda earned the Elkin City Schools "Spotlight on People" in November 2009
- A two-time winner of the Elkin Middle School's "Spirit of the Elk Award" - November 2009 and October 2008
- Elkin Middle School's "Honey Bee Award" in October 2009
- Elkin City School's "Certificate of Appreciation - Reading Incentive" in January 2009

#### A little bit about Amanda:

1. Amanda received some good advice early on in her life and that was about choosing the right career path. Her dad told her, "Choose a job you love and you will never work a day in your life." Her dad played a vital role in her decision making and his sound advice helped influence her to become a teacher.
2. Amanda believes she is a teacher 24/7 and that she influences both current and future students.
3. She chose the profession as a middle school teacher because of her earlier years as a teen herself. She remembers the seventh and eighth grade as being some of her best years in school.

#### Leadership Role and Responsibilities:

- Amanda directs the 8<sup>th</sup> grade play each year.
- She serves on the Positive Behavior Support team, Crisis Intervention Team, Safety Improvement Team, English as a Second Language Team, the School Advisory Committee and the School Calendar Committee.
- She serves as curriculum and data-directed leader among her colleagues.
- She is also the grade-level chair for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, student council advisor and assistant soccer coach and more recent serves as a remediation tutor to help improve student achievement and learning.
- In the community, she is involved with her church. Amanda volunteers in the nursery and children's choir and also helps with the Vacation Bible School. She also helps with mission work which supports the Lifeline Pregnancy Center, Baptist Children's Home, Tri-C (local food bank), Haiti Relief Missions, and NC Baptist Men Projects. Amanda also has a very humbling job at church. She volunteers to clean the church two months out of the year. She feels this is an important role too and that is to keep the Lord's house clean at all times.

#### What's important to Amanda?

- She considers her greatest contributions and accomplishments in education to be her positive point of view. She builds upon a comment made by a former principal, "As a teacher, you control the weather in your classroom."
- She states, "If I am positive and excited about learning then my students feel the same way." "They will work hard for you if you put a little bit of work in them. Let students know you care about them."

#### Comments about Amanda:

- "Mrs. Burton's excitement for teaching is contagious."
- She is an excellent speaker and often in our school advocates for new programs, policies, and changes that help benefit our student learning and the overall school environment."
- She doesn't just care about student learning but she is involved in the children's social learning as well.
- She is dedicated to her teaching and love of children no matter what the gender, ethnicity or disability.
- Her high expectations for herself transcend to her students and she expects no less of them.
- Her strong work ethic, positive attitude, great personality, genuine skill, intellect, flexibility and wisdom will serve her well in her role as a teacher and leader.