



CARMEL CLAY SCHOOLS

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Sarah Wolff Named 2018 Teacher of the Year for Carmel Clay Schools

Carmel, IN – Sarah Wolff, Carmel High School, has been awarded the 2017 Stephen A. Backer Teacher of the Year for Carmel Clay Schools (CCS).

Wolff received the surprise announcement at a banquet celebration on the evening of April 26th. Wolff, a Ball State Alumnus, has been an art teacher at Carmel High School since August 2000.

Mrs. Sarah Wolff continues to impact the lives of thousands of students while fostering leadership inside and outside the classroom. Each year, she leads more than 750 students through her role as a House of Representative Sponsor, helping raise millions of dollars for charity through remarkable events such as Dance Marathon, Cancer Tailgate for Life, community blood drives and other year-round initiatives. She also dedicates her time as a Sponsor for the Coquette and Charisma Dance Team, spending countless hours teaching dance technique and inspiring the team to perform their best at all home girls and boys soccer games.

Recently, Wolff made national headlines when she challenged her ceramic art class with a random acts of kindness challenge with only \$20. What resulted was more than 5100 inspirational messages posted on every high school student's locker. Those positive messages of hope and encouragement are words that Wolff instills in her students each and every day.



One nomination described Wolff as a selfless leader and incredible mentor. "Mrs. Wolff is a remarkable educator both inside and outside the classroom. Inside the classroom, she teaches students to cherish the arts and is always willing to lend a helping hand for a student in need. Her devotion to the students continues outside the classroom, where she allows students to flourish and utilize our passions to make a positive difference in our community. Thanks to Ms. Wolff, I will leave Carmel High School with a selfless spirit for helping others and a drive so fierce that I can accomplish anything I set my mind to."

Wolff will now represent Carmel Clay Schools at the Indiana Teacher of the Year competition which will be held next fall.

Co-Interim Superintendents Mr. Roger McMichael, Dr. Amy Dudley and Carmel High School Principal Tom Harms were quick to congratulate Wolff on the honor.

"Sarah is the epitome of an outstanding public school teacher and we are honored to recognize her as the Carmel Clay Schools Teacher of the Year," said McMichael. Her dedication to student success extends beyond the classroom as she inspires students to become passionate, determined and incredible leaders at Carmel High School and the community."

"It has been a joy to see how Sarah's passion for teaching and selfless leadership has made a lasting impact in the lives of students and staff at Carmel High School.," said Dr. Dudley. "We are incredibly thankful for Sarah and it is an honor to recognize her as Carmel Clay Schools Teacher of the Year."

"It is with great admiration that we honor Sarah as the 2018 Carmel Clay Schools Teacher of the Year. She is an incredible educator that challenges students to not only excel academically, but motivates them to be kind, caring and compassionate leaders both in and out of the classroom. She is admired by so many students and staff and it is a privilege to be able to recognize her for this achievement."

About Stephen A. Backer Teacher of the Year

Stephen A. Backer Teacher of the Year nominations are made by students, parents, and colleagues each spring. A selection committee consisting of teachers and administrators thoroughly reviews the nominations, conducts interviews with both the candidate's principal and nominator, and then selects a recipient in April. The CCS Teacher of the Year is endowed by the Stephen A. Backer Teacher of the Year Award through the Carmel Education Foundation. This award was created in memory of Mr. Backer, who served on the CCS Board of Trustees from 1994 to 1998 and from 2006 until his passing in March of 2009. Mr. Backer held the position of school board president for five of those years and is remembered as an advocate and supporter of the Carmel Clay Schools. Donations in support of the award can be made through the Carmel Education Foundation at <http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/foundation/home>.

To read about previous CCS Teacher of the Year winners, please visit the Carmel Clay School website at <http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/private/current-employees/teacher-of-the-year>.

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