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KCES Ashley McConnell Named Houston's Gifted Teacher of the Year



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - Kings Chapel Elementary School teacher Ashley McConnell has been named the 2018-2019 Gifted Teacher of the Year for the district. The surprise announcement was made Nov. 28 in her classroom. McConnell teaches 2nd grade gifted students. Pictured above are: (from left) William Ray, Kings Chapel Elementary Principal; McConnell; and Jan Jacobsen, Director of Gifted Education.

McConnell has taught for 21 years, to include gifted education for five years. This educator is a lifelong learner who continues to grow her knowledge of gifted students and participates in robotics and programing workshops. Her students use technology to enhance learning, participate in creativity activities, and create passion projects-to drive their own learning.

McConnell said, "Ever since I have started teaching, I have been passionate in my commitment to maximizing student performance, inspiring students to develop a love of learning, and instilling a sense of self-worth among all students. It is an honor to serve a district that maintains high educational standards and provides students with opportunities for personal growth. I can attest to this because I am a product of Houston County schools. I attended Kings Chapel Elementary, Perry Middle and Perry High."

Principal Ray nominated her for this award. He wrote, "For Mrs. McConnell, learning is exploration and the world is her classroom. Students are just as likely to be found outside, in the hallway, in the computer lab, in an empty classroom, and any other place learning can happen as they are to be found seated in their desks. All student learning is approached as if it were a scientific experiment and the laboratory is everywhere."

Chuck Dumas, parent of a student McConnell teaches, had this to say, "Mrs. McConnell places great emphasis on kinesthetic and tactile learning, allowing the students to explore and discover new

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KCES Ashley McConnell Named Houston's Gifted Teacher of the Year / page 2 of 2

topics under her careful guidance. This approach has further instilled a love of learning and discovery with my daughter, as I am positive it has for countless other students."



As a token of appreciation, McConnell received gifts from the Museum of Arts and Sciences, Parrish Construction, Publix and more. She will also represent the Houston County Association of Gifted Children (HCAGC) during the Robins Regional Chamber's Christmas Parade on Dec. 1. McConnell is pictured left with her students, principal and Assistant Principal Shelley Shillcutt.

This award is sponsored by the HCAGC. Kings Chapel Elementary School is located at 460 Arena Road in Perry. For more information about the Gifted Teacher of the Year, please contact Jacobsen, at 478-988-6200, ext. 10393, or Jan.Jacobsen@hcbe.net.

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