

Randolph County teacher finalist for national award



Sarah Remery is a finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. Remery, who teaches fourth grade at Trindale Elementary School, is one of three North Carolina math teachers chosen as a finalist. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

By Rachel Berry
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Sarah Remery, a fourth grade teacher at Trindale Elementary School in Archdale, was inspired to

become a teacher by great teachers she had as a child.

She had teachers who put everything they had into their jobs and made school fun, which made Remery want to become a teacher herself.

Now, eight years after

she began teaching fourth grade, Remery is a finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. This is the nation's highest award

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for science, technology, engineering and math teachers.

To qualify, teachers must be nominated and must fill out an application, including a video of themselves teaching. The award is open to teachers who teach STEM as their primary subject. At the time of her application,

Remery taught fourth grade math, while now she teaches all subjects.

Remery is one of three math teachers in the state of North Carolina who was chosen as a finalist for the award. Nationally, one math teacher and one science teacher from each state will be chosen as the overall winners.

The overall winners are expected to be announced at some point next summer.

Remery said she's

humbled to be chosen as a finalist out of all the amazing teachers who were nominated. It means even more to be recognized for her work in a year when teachers have had to adapt to online learning and the different schedules that came with school during the pandemic.

"I think that makes it even more special to have the recognition in a year when nothing feels right, and you are working all

the time and doing everything you can, and it just doesn't feel like enough for your students and for your families," Remery said.

Through it all, Remery also wants to give her students some of the recognition for the award, saying that she is thankful they have been working hard and persevering through all the challenges of the past year.

Helping her students is what Remery really loves

about teaching.

"I really like being able to help help my students achieve more than they've ever achieved before and be successful at something that they've never been successful at and giving them that 'aha' moment of 'I finally get it, and I can do it.'"

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