

**ERFAE Teacher of the Year
2023**

Richland County Elementary School

Amy McVicker



The 2023 Teacher of the Year from Richland County Elementary School is Amy McVicker. Mrs. McVicker is an Olney native and graduate of East Richland High School. After completing her Associate's degree at Olney Central College and then her Elementary Education degree at Eastern Illinois University, Mrs. McVicker began her teaching career at Noble Grade School in 1997. During her years at Noble, Mrs. McVicker taught 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade. In 2007 Mrs. McVicker came to East Richland Elementary School, where she has been a 3rd grade teacher for the past 16 years. During her time teaching and raising three sons, Mrs. McVicker also completed her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Illinois University in 2017.

Over the course of her 26 year teaching career, Mrs. McVicker has shown excellence in classroom teaching. Whether it is planning a lesson, managing her classroom, or working with the rest of the 3rd Grade Team, she serves as a role model for what being an elementary teacher should be

Some of the things that Mrs. McVicker's students and colleagues say about her are:

- "Mrs. McVicker is a great teacher! She is very nice."
- "We can tell Mrs. McVicker anything and she listens."
- "Amy McVicker is student-focused. She always puts children first."
- "Every moment is a teaching moment in Amy's classroom."
- "Amy is very sweet and kind and always thinks of others."

Amy McVicker and her husband Jim have three sons and she enjoys spending time with family. Even with a year of medical and health challenges, Amy has continued to prioritize her students and provide a great 3rd grade experience for all of them. Congratulations to Amy McVicker, the 2023 ERFAE Teacher of the Year for Richland County Elementary School.

Richland County Middle School

Julie Clodfelter



The 2023 Teacher of the Year from Richland County Middle School is Julie Clodfelter. A native of Cisne, Illinois, Mrs. Clodfelter graduated from the University of Illinois in 1997. She began teaching 7th and 8th Grade math at East Richland Middle School in the 1997-1998 school year. During her time at ERMS/RCMS, Mrs. Clodfelter has also served as the sponsor of the annual middle school talent show, was the cheerleading sponsor, coached 7th grade volleyball, and is currently in her second stint as the 8th Grade Team Leader.

Mrs. Clodfelter has been a key member of the RCMS 8th Grade Team for many years. While spending her entire teaching career at the middle school level, she has dedicated her time to helping all students learn and succeed. She works hard to promote a family atmosphere in her classroom and is often heard saying, "We're all in this together."

Some of the things Mrs. Clodfelter's students and colleagues say about her are:

- "Mrs. Clodfelter makes me feel included in her class."
- "Mrs. Clodfelter always encourages us to do our best, inside and outside the classroom."
- "Julie is a great teacher, friend, and mother!"
- "Julie is someone I can always turn to for advice, encouragement, or just to listen to me vent."
- "Julie is a teacher that we can always count on."

In addition to teaching 8th Grade Math at RCMS, Mrs. Clodfelter is a wife and mother that spends her time outside of school helping to farm and with her children's 4-H activities. She is so in to math that she even made sure her twin boys were born on Pi Day (3.14). Congratulations to Julie Clodfelter, the 2023 ERFAE Teacher of the Year for Richland County Middle School.

Richland County High School

Shannon Winters



The 2023 Teacher of the Year from Richland County High School is Shannon Winters. Mrs. Winters holds a BS in Physical Education and also a MA in Educational Administration from Oakland City University in Oakland City, Indiana. A native of Washington, Indiana, Shannon loves classic rock, especially the *Eagles*.

Mrs. Winters began her teaching career in Shoals, Indiana in 1990 and moved to the East Richland High School in 1994 as a Physical Education, Health, and Driver Education teacher and is now retiring after a 33-year career in education. During her time teaching at the high school, Mrs. Winters has also coached Girls Cross Country, Girls Track, Girls Freshman Basketball, and Girls Volleyball. In 2007 Mrs. Winters moved into a different teaching role as she took over the JILG program (Jobs for Illinois Graduates). Much of her teaching in more recent years has focused on helping students prepare for college and careers with resume writing, mock interviews, and job shadowing experiences.

Some of the things Mrs. Winters' students and colleagues say about her are:

- "Mrs. Winters teaches College and Careers and it is the best class I have taken in high school."
- "Mrs. Winters can be tough, but it is because she wants the best out of me and for me."
- "Mrs. Winters is like a mother to me. I will never forget her."
- "I love Shannon's quote, 'You can't reason with the unreasonable.'"
- "Shannon and I have gone from camp counselor when I was in 8th grade, to high school coach, to colleague and sharing an office, to a valued friend."

Mrs. Winters' husband relates that her mother once thought that she was not very tidy but is now a bit OCD on cleaning, so you better not leave a glass of iced tea on the table or it will be gone when you come back. Perhaps she will start her own cleaning service as a retirement business. On behalf of ERFAE, please join us in congratulating the 2023 RCHS Teacher of the Year, Shannon Winters.