



2024 Finalist

Amanda Bowser

5th Grade Math and Science Teacher
Rosewood Elementary School
Broken Arrow Public Schools



Each season of teaching continues to reveal the accumulating power of “better together.” I am boldly confident this power is what strengthens and improves the teaching profession above all else. My growth as an educator is the direct result of those who first took the time to cultivate me. While you will still find me seeking advice and wise counsel, you will most certainly also find me pouring into new teachers and colleagues in my hallway, my building, and my district, just like those who did the same for me. – Amanda Bowser



OKLAHOMA
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2024 Finalist

Amanda Winn

1st Grade Teacher

**Glenpool Elementary School
Glenpool Public Schools**



I believe that students' social and emotional development is of the utmost importance. Learning cannot adequately take place without students feeling safe. I want my learners to feel safe sharing their feelings, making mistakes, and being authentic. Our children crave human connection, and my mission is to make a deep, meaningful connection with each of my students and their families. I believe that modeling being a positive influence in my school and community will encourage the students in my classroom to become future difference-makers in their academic careers and beyond. – Amanda Winn



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2024 Finalist

Lisa Sager

7th Grade Math & Pre-Algebra Teacher
Durant Middle School
Durant Public Schools



I love teaching math, and I hope my students can see that. More importantly, I love watching students understand! Students need to know the why behind what they are learning and how to discover the why on their own. I try to teach my students to be confident in their answers, justify their reasoning, be willing to listen to another opinion and feel comfortable to speak up. Most importantly, I hope they know it is ok to try something and be wrong. – Lisa Sager



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2024 Finalist

Nichole Leib

Instructional Coach

Pre-K - 5th Grade Math and Reading

Interventionist

Morris Elementary School

Morris Public Schools



Outstanding teachers inspire dreams, build knowledge, and create lifelong learners. Their dedication, passion, and commitment shape not only minds but also the future of our society. The best teachers know their critical role in developing our future leaders. They find a way to meet students where they are and propel them toward success. The quote on my classroom door reads, "Come along and learn with me, the best is yet to be. – Nichole Leib



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Education



2024 Finalist

Frances Millspaugh

9th - 12th Grade Geometry, Trigonometry,
and Pre-Calculus Teacher
Locust Grove High School
Locust Grove Public Schools



I believe it is my responsibility and duty to challenge my students, differentiate their learning experiences, and inspire them to pursue their dreams beyond the classroom. There is no other way I would choose to spend my life than investing in students and trying to make a difference. Teaching is selflessness, teaching is relational, and teaching is powerful. – Frances Millspaugh



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2024 Finalist

Jake Henderson

**9th - 12th Grade Government and
Psychology Teacher
Woodward High School
Woodward Public Schools**



One of my all-time favorite songs has a line that says, 'This job doesn't pay half what it's worth, but it's a thankful man that gets it.' This is how I have always felt about the career I have chosen. Every time I enter a classroom, I am thankful that I get to do what I do for a living. – Jake Henderson



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2024 Finalist

Laura Powell
9th Grade English Teacher
Anadarko High School
Anadarko Public Schools



As educators, there simply can be no greater reward than working with our young people. Consequently, we must remember to make new advances but keep the old. Some are silver and others gold. It is truly a great day to teach in Oklahoma! – Laura Powell



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2024 Finalist

Rachel Keith

10th - 12th Grade AP Language &
Composition, Mock Trial, and
Humanities Teacher
Ada High School
Ada City Schools



The blessing of many special teachers helped me to succeed. They showed me that the talents and abilities God gave me were the tools that I could use to encourage and inspire others. How could I not join their ranks as an Oklahoma teacher? Today, I find myself looking for ways to make a difference in someone else's life just as my teachers did for me. – Rachel Keith



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2024 Finalist

Stephanie Overby

Kindergarten Teacher

Eisenhower Elementary School

Lawton Public Schools



In my role as a kindergarten teacher, where some students embark on their educational journey for the first time, I've made it my mission to instill a love for learning. School, with the right introduction, becomes a space for true growth and discovery. By laying this foundation, I hope to ignite a lasting passion for education in each student, shaping their positive perceptions of school as a place of endless possibilities. – Stephanie Overby



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2024 Finalist

Brian Muller

4th Grade Teacher

Parkview Elementary School
Mid-Del Public Schools



The key to a great school year starts and ends with building positive relationships with the students, parents, and the school community. When these relationships are created, anything can happen! – Brian Muller



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