



Cannon County Schools

301 West Main Street Woodbury, TN 37190

William Freddy Curtis – Director of Schools Phone: (629) 201-4801 Fax: (629) 201-4830

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Cannon County Schools Announce District-Level Teachers of the Year for 2022-2023 School Year

WOODBURY – Cannon County Schools take pleasure in honoring the District-Level Teachers of the Year for the 2022-2023 School Year. Each teacher was selected to represent the Cannon County School District in **three categories: PreK - 4th Grade; 5th Grade – 8th Grade; 9th Grade – 12th Grade**. One Teacher in each category was selected by a committee to represent Cannon County as the District Teacher of the Year in the Upper Cumberland CORE Region. A special announcement and ceremony took place in each educator's school this past week.

The Teacher of the Year program recognizes and honors outstanding teachers in Tennessee. The Tennessee Department of Education applaud teachers who care about children, who devote their professional lives to enriching the lives of Tennessee students, and who demonstrate exceptional gains in student achievement. Goals of the program are:

- Promote effective teaching practices by recognizing and rewarding outstanding teachers.
- Engage regional teachers of the year in education policy making through the Teacher Advisory Council.
- Encourage participation by every school in the state so that all Tennessee teachers may be recognized and rewarded.
- Build a network of local and state corporate sponsors.
- Provide a network for teachers to share effective practices.
- Encourage a sense of professionalism in teaching.
- Encourage greater participation in building a strong community-school partnership.

The Tennessee Teacher of the Year program is designed to promote recognition, respect and appreciation for teachers, to stimulate interest in teaching as a career, and to encourage public involvement in education. Teachers of the Year are selected competitively through five cycles: school, district, region, grand division and state in three grade bands: Pre-K–4, 5–8, and 9–12. Please note that these levels refer to the grade(s) taught by the teacher and not to the grade structure or designation of the individual school. The following teachers were selected to represent Cannon County Schools as District Teachers of the Year 2022-2023:

Cannon County Schools – 2022-2023 District Teachers of the Year

PreK-4th Grade – Mrs. Elleana Nave of Cannon South Elementary School – Mrs. Nave is in her 4th year of educating students and is currently serving as a 1st Grade Teacher at Cannon South Elementary School in Bradyville, TN for the past 3 years. She has previously served as a Reading-Math Interventionist in Cannon County Schools at Woodland School beginning in the 2018-2019 School Year, and has served in multiple capacities at her school including being Technology Leader, Lead in School and District Grade Level PLC's, Organizing Parent Nights at School, ESGI Administrator, First Grade Lead Teacher in School and assists at parent pick up every afternoon. Mrs. Nave stated, "I have been teaching first grade for 3 years. This has helped me to familiarize myself with the standards and expectations that these first grade students need to master by the end of the school year. First grade is a very important time for students. It is the year where students start to read. Since I have been in first grade, we have been teaching the CKLA curriculum. I feel that my teaching practices of following the curriculum with fidelity has helped my students to grow and learn. I have seen growth in my Aimsweb benchmark and progress monitoring scores for my students with their reading. This year we have also implemented CKLA materials to help with progress monitoring in the classroom with skills being taught. This has helped me to see what students have mastered certain words and skills, and who still needs the extra push. I also teach the Sounds First Curriculum which helps students with their phonological awareness. I have seen a great deal of improvement with my students with implementing this curriculum."



Cannon County Schools Supervisor of Instruction Dr. Marcia Melton; **PreK-4th Grade 2022-2023 District Teacher of the Year – Mrs. Elleana Nave of Cannon South Elementary School**; Cannon South Elementary School School Principal Mrs. Angela Cossey; and Cannon County Director of Schools – Mr. William Freddy Curtis congratulate the PreK – 4th Grades 2022-2023 District Teacher of the Year.

5th Grade – 8th Grade – Ms. Melissa Patterson Anderson of Cannon County Middle School

Ms. Anderson is in her 23rd year of teaching and currently serves as a 6th Grade English-Language Arts Teacher at the Cannon County Middle School in Woodbury, TN. She has previously served as a 3rd Grade Teacher, 5th – 8th Grade Social Studies & English-Language Arts Teacher at West Side Elementary School from 1999-2000 School Year through 2020-2021 School Year, and as a 6th/7th Grades Mathematics Teacher at the former Woodbury Grammar School in the 2021-2022 School Year. She has served as Mentor Teacher for numerous beginning Teachers, Extended School Program Site Coordinator 2019-2021, ELA and Social Studies Textbook Adoption Committees at numerous times, Cooperating Teacher- four student teachers over the years, 504 Coordinator 2012-2019, Cheerleading Sponsor, Cannon County Education Association Representative, and Summer School Camp Facilitator and Educator. Ms. Anderson stated, “Throughout the years of teaching, I have had the opportunity to experience many different educational approaches to make learning more engaging and effective for all of my students. I have used trial and error, reflected, and made improvements based on those practices. I have always held the belief that if the students are not actively engaged in the learning, they won’t experience the material to the fullest extent. Also, I try my very best to make the students feel excited about learning! If they are excited about what we are covering, they will be even more invested. Over the course of my career, I have provided multiple opportunities to extend the learning inside the classroom. One of my favorite practices was our yearly production of *The Hysterical History of the Trojan War*. I served only as the facilitator and coordinator of this event. I taught both ELA and Social Studies for the sixth grade classes. I extended their learning of Greek Mythology by having them perform a dramatic interpretation of The Trojan War. The students auditioned for the roles, memorized their lines, decorated the set, and created their own costumes. The best part of this production is that EVERY student played a role- either behind the scenes or in the actual performance. Parents and students were invited to attend a nighttime performance at the end of the year. So many of my former students will approach me and remark on how much fun they had doing this. Little did they know, they were actually learning about material required of them in the Tennessee State Standards. Overall, I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to have an impact on so many students. I have taught long enough to have so many of my former students approach me at different times. I love hearing that they remember material we covered years before and was actually interesting to them.”



Cannon County Schools Supervisor of Instruction Dr. Marcia Melton; Cannon County Middle School Principal Dr. Annie Reed; **5th- 8th Grade 2022-2023 District Teacher of the Year – Ms. Melissa Patterson Anderson of Cannon County Middle School**; Cannon County Director of Schools – Mr. William Freddy Curtis; and Cannon County Middle School Assistant Principal Mrs. Tammy Smith congratulate the 5th – 8th Grades 2022-2023 District Teacher of the Year.

9th Grade – 12th Grade – Mrs. Lacy Eckart of Cannon County High School – Mrs. Eckart is in her 11th year of teaching and currently serves as a English-Language Arts – English III (Juniors) Teacher at Cannon County High School in Woodbury, TN. She has served her school as Cheer coach (2011-2012), Yearbook Advisor (2018 – current), Academic Dean (2020 – current), and Student Council Advisor (2022 – current). Mrs. Eckart stated, “When students enter my classroom, they know exactly how their day will unfold. I am very procedural-based. The students know what to expect from me, and they have clear expectations set for them. The first five minutes are dedicated to a Snapshot (boardwork) assignment that assesses their ACT skills; the main chunk of class is dedicated to analyzing texts; the final few minutes of class are dedicated to closing out the lesson and touching base with students by

giving feedback on assignments or making a personal connection. Having procedures doesn't mean that my classroom has become dehumanized. I believe that by making the time for those personal connections and by incorporating peer collaboration and movement in my classroom, I have achieved higher levels of growth and learning for all of my students. Individual analysis is interspersed with tasks that cater to other strengths that my students have. I feel that I have more buy-in from my students when they know that they will be given an opportunity to succeed, especially when they have a history of limited or no success on traditional modes of assessment. As proof, I offer data that I've been tracking in regards to the ACT. All of us know how important the ACT is to our students (and school), but students often fail to see the value of this test. Often, they "Christmas tree" their responses or simply sleep through the entire thing because they claim they "don't care" or they "aren't going to college". To tackle this attitude, I have incorporated ACT skills into their daily assignments. As the date for the ACT approaches, I begin mimicking testing conditions and testing the students not only on skills but on basic test-taking strategies. I "talk up" how these skills are taught to them as early as the first grade and that they DO know these things; they just have to "beat the system" by utilizing my tips and feedback. After each practice session, I offer a reward for those who can hit the benchmark—they get an automatic 100 on a week of Snapshots (they hate them because they only have 5 minutes to answer the questions, so it makes it a worthwhile reward). Using last year's ACT scores as my data, I compared how well my students did versus students enrolled in dual enrollment. The result is validating. Of the 35 students who hit the benchmark on the 2022 English ACT portion, 22 students were mine. An additional four students under my care scored a 17, which is one point from the benchmark. This trend isn't restricted to just last year; in fact, over the course of three years, my students have outnumbered the dual enrollment students consistently on the ACT English portion when it comes to meeting the benchmark. For comparison purposes, on the 2022 ACT in Math, only 9 Juniors hit the benchmark. I firmly believe that by reiterating to my students that they CAN achieve these scores, and that I fully expect them to, has accounted for their success on the English ACT."



Cannon County Director of Schools – Mr. William Freddy Curtis; Cannon County High School Principal Mr. Courtney Nichols; **Cannon County Schools 9th-12th Grade 2022-2023 District Teacher of the Year – Mrs. Lacy Eckart of Cannon County High School**; and Cannon County Schools Supervisor of Instruction – Dr. Marcia Melton congratulate the 2022-2023 Cannon County Schools 9th-12th Grade District Teacher of the Year.

Director of Cannon County Schools Mr. William Freddy Curtis stated regarding these excellent examples of the quality of educators in Cannon County Schools, “We are tremendously proud of each one of these outstanding educators. Each one of these deserving teachers exemplifies the Cannon County Schools’ VISION – ‘Engaged in Excellence EVERY Day in EVERY Way!’ through our MISSION – ‘To Create a Unified Environment That Will Provide Opportunities for

All Students to Reach Their Full Potential!’ These individuals live the VISION and MISSION every moment of every day, and we salute them for their distinguished efforts! All of us in the Cannon County School District stand behind these outstanding individuals and wish them the very best as they represent the finest of Cannon County Educators in the Upper Cumberland Region of the State of Tennessee!”

For media inquiries, please contact Mr. William F. Curtis, Director of Cannon County Schools at 629-201-4801 Extension 10101 or at williamf.curtis@ccstn.net for local Cannon County Schools information.