



Wyoming Department of Education

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PRESS Release

Local Teacher of the Year, Michelle Davis, Receives Accolades

Crook County School District #1 teacher, Michelle Davis, received the district Teacher of the Year award for 2015, according to Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill. Davis, a teacher for 4 years, serves as first grade teacher at Moorcroft Elementary School.

“The greatest growth I hope to see in my students is a love of learning,” says Davis. “I specifically look to see if my students leave the classroom loving school and learning. During open house once, a parent came up to me saying that her son was worried I wouldn’t like him because he did not read very well. This broke my heart to have a six year old already dread school.”

Accountability is a current buzz word in educational circles. Davis addresses this topic: “I have been blessed to be in a school providing me flexibility to create learning. But I know teachers who aren’t. Many schools are restrictive about following curricula. Through these two mandates--testing and rigid curriculum--teachers feel stifled. I feel the problem is an unrealistic expectation for assessments. Assessment should be to form the lessons in the classroom. Teachers take the stress of this expectation and pass it along to the students through. The majority of teachers have felt stress driven by administration on MAP, PAWS, and other tests.”

Davis continues, “Authentic observation shows the true nature of the classroom and the effectiveness of the teacher. Administrators who do walk-throughs see teaching.”

Davis will receive a crystal apple award from the Wyoming Department of Education.