



Wyoming Department of Education

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PRESS Release

Local Teacher of the Year, James Hoffman, Receives Accolades

Big Horn County School District #4 teacher, James Hoffman, received the district Teacher of the Year award for 2015, according to Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill. Hoffman, a teacher for 28 years, serves as math teacher at Riverside High School.

“I find that building a personal relationship with students is most influential to cultivate their best performance,” says Hoffman. “I like to build an individual relationship with each of my students.”

Accountability is a current buzz word in educational circles. Hoffman addresses this topic: “The current trend is to apply a business model to teacher accountability. The problem with this approach is we cannot keep score with dollars or points like the business world does. Subjective teacher evaluation is old-fashioned but necessary to measure the strengths and weaknesses of a teacher. A well-trained administrator understands the variables including the teacher, students, parents, and past history of the students. Assessing the success of a class, a teacher or a school by test scores is deceptive and quite dangerous. Children are not a collection of test scores; they are people with real lives and emotions. Educators must never forget they are there to serve the best interests of the kids first, regardless of how it affects the test scores.”

Hoffman, who will receive a crystal apple award from the Wyoming Department of Education, says, “I believe that my biggest strength is my focus on teaching students, not teaching math. Thankfully I am teaching students which involves so much more than mathematics.”