

ASFMS Teacher of the Year 2016-2017



The ASFMS Teacher of the Year for the 2016-2017 school year is someone who is skilled at engaging all students in deep and meaningful exploration of content, while also personalizing instruction to meet the needs of all learners. She is a lifelong learner who is motivated to be successful and continuously seeks out professional development opportunities to strengthen her own practice. She exemplifies what it means to be a distinguished educator and is a tremendous asset to our school community.

Her love for teaching is obvious to all who enter her classroom. She actively engages her students in the

learning process by using a hands-on inquiry based approach to teaching. She focuses her lessons, using a shared learning target and utilizes meaningful formative assessment strategies throughout her lessons to assess student performance. She uses a variety of data sources to inform her instruction and meet the needs of all learners. She maintains high academic and behavioral expectations for all students. As a result, her lessons are rigorous and her classes are well managed.

The ASFMS Teacher of the Year is a dedicated professional who is passionate about teaching and learning. Her approach to teaching is to educate the whole child to make certain that each and every student is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. She always puts her students first and makes certain that she provides them with a variety of experiences that allow to them to grow as individuals while also mastering essential content and skills. She is committed to preparing her students for the future and providing them with the skills necessary for their success both in and out of school.

This teacher has taken on a leadership role within her department and works collaboratively with grade level teachers on a regular basis to refine their curriculum. She has also participated in a variety of professional development opportunities over the years at the school, district and state level. In addition, she has served as a member of the School Improvement Team for many years and was also a part of the Grade Reporting Committee that recently crafted our new Learner Quality standards. Her participation in professional development opportunities has allowed her to continue to learn and grow as an educator.

In the words of her students:

“She *always* encourages us to try our best, and to never give up. We have each made so much progress in her class this year, and I have never learned more interesting information in a science class.”

“One of my favorite things about her is that she makes learning *fun*.”

“She puts forth one hundred percent of her effort towards us, and that shows just how magnificent she really is. All in all, I think that my classmates and I all agree that Mrs. Saran is an *amazing* teacher, and that we wouldn’t be where we are today without her.”

Please join me in congratulating our 2016-2017 ASFMS Teacher of the Year, Rekha Saran!