

# Principals Teacher of the Year Nomination Letter

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It is with great pleasure that I nominate Lashonda Cross for Kirkmere's 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year! Ms. Cross is an amazing educator. She teaches 6th-grade Math and Science. I have been Ms. Cross's principal for 2 years. During that time I have observed that Ms. Cross radiates passion and a zest for learning that is reflective in her commendable achievement data.

Ms. Cross is always researching and employing instructional methods that will intrigue and inspire her scholars. Ms. Cross is a beloved stakeholder. She productively supports and collaborates with her colleagues offering sound advice that will undoubtedly transform instruction and support. Ms. Cross is also in tuned with her families. She is proactive in gathering data, work samples, and evidence of participation during instruction to share during conferences and meetings.

Ms. Cross takes the time out to build a sense of community in her learning environment. She establishes norms and routines that are evident whether she is present or not. Ms. Cross is soft-spoken and nurturing. She never raises her voice or loses control. Her scholars are redirected silently with a purposeful glance. Ms. Cross's scholars love her because she acknowledges their individuality and purposefully addresses their needs. Ms. Cross stated, "I am transparent with my students. I tend to use my experiences as a platform to connect with my students, which helps with classroom management.

My son Cameron, who is in the 6th-grade keeps me abreast of any new slang, music or social media happenings. Last spring I learned all that I could about 'flipping classroom instruction'. I applied the knowledge I learned in my classroom during the school year. After a couple of weeks, I found that it wasn't the right strategy to use for the group of students that I work with this year."

Ms. Cross is also a lifelong learner. She proactively seeks out opportunities to enhance her instructional skills. Ms. Cross said, "I try to take advantage of the PD offered through the district that interests me. I enjoy researching strategies and activities (best practices) for Math and Science. I was accepted at YSU. I took a class towards my admin degree. I will continue my studies in the second half of the school year. In the meantime, I was accepted into the Radford University Impact Asset Program and have started taking a Math class until I go back to YSU."

Ms. Cross is an exceptional educator that impacts your life like no other. I am wholeheartedly convinced that she deserves this honor. I am inspired by Ms. Cross and in awe of her talents. I cannot wait until you visit Kirkmere and experience the magic that takes place in her learning environment!

Mrs. Aadrian Thomas

Principal Kirkmere Elementary

2019-2020