

Carrie Wilson

Pacolet Elementary School Teacher of the Year, 2010



Educational History and Professional Development Activities

In 2007, I was selected by Spartanburg School District Three to participate in the Potential Administrator's Academy. Between the years of 2007 and 2009, I attended Converse College and received a Master's Degree in School Supervision and Leadership. I attended Winthrop University from 1997 to 2001, and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education.

I have spent my nine years of teaching in Spartanburg School District Three. I am currently a fifth grade science and language arts teacher at Pacolet Elementary School. Before moving to fifth grade, I taught second grade at Pacolet for two years. I began my career at Cowpens Elementary School, where I taught kindergarten for two years.

I am a member of the International Reading Association and the South Carolina State Science Council. I have had many opportunities to lead professional development in my school district, and on the state and national level. During the summer of 2005, I traveled with a team

from Spartanburg School District Three to Portland, Oregon, to present at the North West Evaluation Association's National Conference. I presented twice at the South Carolina's NWEA Member Conference.

I have been a National Board Certified Teacher since 2004, and am currently the chair of our school's Principal Advisory Council and a member of the School Leadership Team. I have also served as a supervisor for student teachers, and a member of the interview committee for potential professional employees.

Philosophy of Teaching

I believe that being a teacher is one of the greatest experiences one can have. My philosophy of teaching can be summarized in this phrase: *"A student will not care what you know until they know how much you care."* I model this phrase each and every day by building relationships with my students, treating them with respect, and investing in their lives. I believe that once a student knows that you are on their side, and they have your respect, they will have the desire to learn. *Sir John Lubbock, a British Archeologist said, "The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn."* It is my desire to instill in all students the love of learning, so that they believe in their potential, recognize their successes, and celebrate their achievement.

Teaching is not just a job for me; it is a mission of the heart. I believe in education for all children. All children can learn, I just have to find their interests and differentiate my techniques to match their style. That is not always easy, but it is worthwhile. I teach students that it is okay to mess up, but it is not okay to give up. It has been my desire throughout my years of teaching to look closely at my day to day experiences and to be willing to make changes.

I want to be better today than yesterday and to know that all decisions made in my classroom are based on what is best for my students.