

## **Melanie Hawkins** **Star Teacher**

During my time at Cherryville High School, I have had quite a few teachers. Among them, the teacher that has had the biggest influence on me is Mrs. Hawkins.

I first had Mrs. Hawkins last year in AP English 11 and had her again this year in AP English 12. When she first told us that we would have to write essays every day in class, I was intimidated, to say the least, but later realized how beneficial this would be. Every day consisted of Mrs. Hawkins preparing us for the exam, whether it be by analyzing a book together, writing an essay, or practicing released multiple choice questions.

Thanks to Mrs. Hawkins, my classmates and I were able to pass the AP exam last year and are fully equipped with the skills that we need to pass it again this year. Without her teaching us these skills, I would not be as prepared to begin college as I am today.

Something I have always admired about Mrs. Hawkins is how much she truly cares about her students. Anytime someone needs advice or help with any problem, whether it be English, college, or life, she is always willing and more than happy to give it. Mrs. Hawkins also forges close bonds with her students and truly gets to know them on a personal level.

She is not simply a teacher, but a friend. Mrs. Hawkins never ceases to encourage me in my current and future academic endeavors as well as provide direction when I need it most. I admire her both as a teacher and as a person and am honored to have been in her class. I know she will continue to influence the students at Cherryville High School just like she has influenced me.

**Taylor Paputseanos**  
**Cherryville High School**  
**Star Student 2018**



**Gaston County Schools**