

## **Elizabeth Leonard** **Star Teacher**

Throughout my high school career at North Gaston, I have been fortunate enough to have had Mrs. Leonard. Mrs. Leonard was my honors chemistry teacher junior year, and is currently my AP chemistry teacher. Although she has the job title of a teacher, on behalf of all of her students, I say that she is so much more than a teacher, but a friend.

Mrs. Leonard, my friend, never failed to go above and beyond for the majority of her students. Whether this measure called for staying after school, making extra copies or taking extra steps that most teachers wouldn't take, she never hesitated. Beyond her actions of helping her students, she also had this infectious, fun attitude. It didn't matter if it was a Monday morning or a Friday afternoon, she made the time in class fun and memorable. Although we had a great time in her classroom, she knew when it was time to reign things in to become more serious and learn. I have never had a teacher that has had so much fun in her classroom, but also had so much control simultaneously.

For me personally, Mrs. Leonard served as a listening ear and a shoulder to lean on when times were tough. Sometimes, I found it easier to talk to her about things on my mind than I did my own friends because she was such an attentive listener and knew what to say. Whether she was listening to me ramble on about happenings at school or funny family stories, she always made me feel like she was interested and that I was important. She was a friend that I knew I could always come to a little before third period and share what was going on in my everyday life and how I was doing. Throughout these conversations, we came to develop a friendship that was unique – a friendship that would encourage, not harm, strengthen, and not weaken.

I am so lucky to be able to call Mrs. Elizabeth Leonard my teacher, but most importantly, my friend. Thank you Mrs. Leonard for constantly encouraging and motivating me and other students around me to better ourselves and expand our knowledge.

**Carter Rushing**  
**North Gaston High School**  
**Star Student 2018**



**Gaston County Schools**