

**Donna Griffith**  
**Star Teacher**

When I was going into fifth grade, I was both extremely nervous and excited because I thought I knew everything. Some of my friend's older siblings had Mrs. Griffith, as well as my older sister, so I was incredibly happy to learn that I would also get to have her as my teacher.

Mrs. Griffith taught me many things. Fifth grade is the last year of elementary school and, for an anxious kid, having a good teacher to teach them to be more confident in themselves and how to handle middle school is an important job. She was not just my teacher, but a support system for all 30 kids that she would have in her class at a time.

She comforted me when I thought a tornado was going to take me away when we were learning about cold fronts, and she let us play on the little kid playground because it was much more fun than running around in the grass.

Fifth grade seems like an insignificant grade, but kids notice when their teachers care, and Mrs. Griffith, without a doubt, did care about her students.

**Kortney Hawkins**  
**Gaston County Virtual Academy**  
**Star Student 2022**

