

Superintendent surprises five finalists for Gaston County Teacher of the Year



Caughey

Five employees in Gaston County Schools got a big surprise recently when Superintendent of Schools W. Jeffrey Booker showed up to announce their selection as a finalist for Gaston County Teacher of the Year.

Booker and representatives of the human resources staff stopped in at Bessemer City Primary School, W.C. Friday Middle School, Gaston County Virtual Academy, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy, and South Point High School on December 17 to share the good news. The finalists said the surprise announcement was like an early Christmas present as their administrators, students, and colleagues cheered for them and offered congratulatory remarks.

The five finalists for 2022-2023 Gaston County Teacher of the Year are:

▪ **Alexandria Caughey of Bessemer City Primary School.** Caughey teaches first grade and has been a teacher for five years. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Belmont Abbey College.

▪ **Allie Kleinheinz of Hawks Nest STEAM Academy.** Kleinheinz is a fourth grade teacher and has been teaching for six years. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from UNC-Chapel Hill and is currently pursuing a master's certificate in elementary mathematics at UNC-Charlotte.

▪ **Steven Loudon of W.C. Friday Middle School.** Loudon is a seventh grade math teacher and has been in the



Kleinheinz



Loudon



Reid



Waters

education profession for 15 years. He earned a Bachelor of Science in biblical studies and youth ministry from Emmaus Bible College in Iowa, a Master of Arts in Teaching (elementary education) from UNC-Charlotte, and a master's in school administration from UNC-Charlotte.

▪ **Britnee Reid of Gaston County Virtual Academy.** For the past two years, Reid has taught science virtually for grades 6-8. She has been in education for nine years. She earned a Bachelor of Science in elementary education - secondary science from Appalachian State University.

▪ **Heather Ulep Waters of South Point High School.** Waters is an exceptional children's teacher (general and adapted curriculum). She has been at South Point for seven years and taught at Webb Street School for six years. Waters attended Mount Olive College and earned a Bachelor of Arts in special education - general curriculum from UNC-Charlotte.

The 2022-2023 Gaston County Teacher of the Year will be named in May as part of the Gaston County Schools Excellence in Education program, which is sponsored by Truist. The current Gaston County Teacher of the Year for 2021-2022 is Staci Nezezon of Pinewood Elementary School.

The five finalists will be interviewed for a special program on Spectrum Cable Channel 21 (the Education Station for Gaston County Schools) that will air in February.

Marching Band Fanfare performances provide must-see TV on Channel 21

Are you looking for some must-see TV? Then, make sure to tune in to Spectrum Channel 21 for the 2021 Gaston County Schools Marching Band Fanfare.

The marching band performances are featured in two episodes. The first one airs this week (January 10-16) at 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. each day. It features the high school bands from Ashbrook, North Gaston, South Point, and Forestview. The Highland School of Technology band kicks off the first episode by performing the national anthem.

The second episode airs the week of January 17-23 at the same times and features the high school bands from Hunter Huss, Bessemer City, Cherryville, East Gaston, and Stuart W. Cramer. The episodes also will be available on the Gaston County Schools YouTube channel, and they will re-air on Channel 21 the weeks of January 31 and February 7.

The 2021 edition of the Gaston County Schools Marching Band Fanfare was held on Saturday, October 30 at Stuart W. Cramer High School. The performances were recorded by the Communications Department and edited into two TV programs.

The Marching Band Fanfare is an annual event for Gaston County Schools. It gives the high school bands an opportunity to come together to showcase their football game halftime performances. The event was first recorded for broadcast on Channel 21 in 2019. The fanfare was not held in 2020 because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The high school band directors collaborate to make the event happen every year. It is hosted currently by the band booster club at Stuart W. Cramer High School, and band director Kameron Radford is the coordinator.

The Marching Band Fanfare was revived in 2007 after a 16-year hiatus. It was a fun event for band students and directors for years, but it ended in 1991 perhaps due to lack of funds, time, or interest. Since its return, the program has been hosted by East Gaston, North Gaston, Bessemer City, Cherryville, and Stuart W. Cramer.

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GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS THE GASTON GAZETTE

The *"Do the Right Thing"* program honors young people in our community who distinguish themselves by their commendable actions. These students have exhibited outstanding attitudes, accomplishments, and efforts that make them positive role models for their peers.

Award Winners for January 2022

Seth Lahmann

NEW HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent: Tracy Parker

Seth Lahmann, a fifth grader, is very observant and always looking out for others. One time, while his class was watching a movie during lunch, Seth noticed that another student near the front of the room seemed to be choking, and he went to check on her. By drawing the teacher's attention to her, he was able to get adults to come to her aid. Everything turned out fine, thanks to his quick action and care for a classmate. Seth is a great example of a 'Do the Right Thing' student as he shows compassion and concern for his classmates and goes above and beyond to help others when he can.



Alaisha McCorkle

RANKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parents: Ashley Mashaw and Chapz McCorkle

Fifth grader Alaisha McCorkle shows kindness without being prompted. She is selfless and does the right thing, even when no one is looking. Alaisha has a classmate who needs additional support on a daily basis. She has taken it upon herself to help write down assignments and notes and to help when her teacher is assisting other students. She does this without expecting anything in return, all while not wanting to draw extra attention to her classmate or herself. Her caring personality and thoughtfulness toward others sets her apart from her peers and provides a great example of what it means to be a good friend.



Lanisha Lindsay

GRIER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Parents: Brandon Lindsay and Nustashia Tuttle

Eighth grader Lanisha Lindsay is a respectful, responsible, and dedicated student. She always offers to help her classmates and teachers without being asked. There are countless times when she has taken it upon herself to sweep the classroom, collect other students' trash, and get everyone lined up with transitioning between classes. Lanisha completes all of her work on time and demonstrates excellent behavior, serving as a role model for other students in her classes. Her motivation, willingness to help, and striving to be an all-around good student are some of Lanisha's most admirable qualities.



Kadin Beaver

CHERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Parents: Buster and Ashley Beaver

Senior Kadin Beaver consistently goes above and beyond what is expected of him. He is kind, courteous, helpful, and compassionate. Kadin has a strong work ethic and exemplary character. Last semester, he was instrumental in the football team visiting the local elementary school to greet students as they arrived at school. His efforts helped to build a bond with the young students, who look up to the football players and see them as hometown stars. Kadin is the kind of student who goes out of his way to make others feel comfortable in every situation. He is a true leader and will be successful in all that he does.



Through the Newspapers in Education (NIE) program, The Gazette and Gaston County Schools are proud to recognize outstanding students for "doing the right thing." The students go beyond expectations to exhibit character education traits such as responsibility, generosity, caring, perseverance, respect, and cooperation. The monthly winners will be honored during a special program at the end of the school year.