

## **Payton Cole** **Star Teacher**

Mr. Cole, the adjective I would use to describe you is inspirational. Your work ethic is impeccable. You put your heart into all your courses, promoting the importance of doing what you love and being persistent at what you do. It is clear that you have served a great purpose to every one who has been privileged to be your student.

As a teacher, you have given knowledge, but, as a person, you have given hope to so many young lives. Your advice and compassion go further than just having the title of Star Teacher. You are a star person. The way you push, encourage, and love all of your students is what our education system needs the most.

Being a virtual student was challenging in itself, but the way you kept my classmates and me engaged helped us to not feel so isolated. I remember you always telling us to go outside more. Well, Mr. Cole, I'm outside now. I'm out in the world using the confidence that you have given me to pursue my dreams.

You have helped me gain an appreciation for writing, reading, and life itself, all of which I never valued before. Your motivational quotes and deep class discussions provided me with an awareness that I could never find in any textbook. You have taught me the importance of gratitude and how to work hard everyday in order to obtain success in every aspect of life, not just in the classroom.

Thank you, Mr. Cole, for being my teacher, but even more so my inspiration. As my journey in life is just beginning, I promise I won't forget to look back and remember all the things you have taught me, especially how to always strive to be a good person in a world full of Macbeths.

**Reagan Martin**  
**Gaston Virtual Academy**  
**Star Student 2023**

