

Features



Dexter Chamber 2023 Educator of the Year - Jessica Jinkerson

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The Dexter Chamber of Commerce held their annual awards banquet on Friday, March 22, 2024. Since the Chamber began 80 years ago, the theme was the 1980s.

Members dressed in their best 80s themed clothing and the Elks Lodge was decorated in 80s theme!

Michael Scism, Chamber Director presented Educator of the Year.

To quote John C. Maxwell, "Students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

The genuine care that our 2023 Educator of the Year, Mrs. Jessica Jinkerson, holds for the students of T.S. Hill Middle School is no secret.

Through innovative teaching methods, she breathes life into history within the classroom. Utilizing storytelling and costumes, she transforms what can be a dry subject into an engaging and immersive experience for her students.

Even at a young age, Jessica was innovative in the way she would teach the next generation, such as using a Raggedy Ann Chalkboard to educate her younger sister on the beauty of cursive handwriting.

Jessica Jinkerson first began teaching in the Dexter School District in 2009. She has now entered her eleventh-year teaching American History at T.S. Hill Middle School.

In her classroom, Jessica can transform her students' minds from just learning about the people of hundreds of years ago, to making it exciting and relevant to our

lives today.

If you ever get the chance to enter the middle school halls, it is evident the adoration she has for her students is reciprocated. When a current student was asked their thoughts on Mrs. Jinkerson, Raegan said, “Mrs. Jinkerson makes us all excited to come to school! She’s hilarious and makes the classroom come alive.”

Jessica stands as a model of remarkable dedication and excellence in supporting her colleagues at every turn. Whether assisting with lesson planning, sharing innovative teaching strategies, or providing emotional support during challenging times, she consistently goes above and beyond. Her generosity in sharing resources and expertise has not only elevated the teaching practices of her colleagues but has also contributed to the overall success of the school.

Mrs. Jinkerson's commitment extends well beyond regular school hours – it's a familiar sight to see her at games, concerts, and various school events after hours. Jessica consistently demonstrates unwavering support and encouragement for her students' diverse interests.

As the director of the esteemed eighth-grade play, she meticulously orchestrates the entire project, infusing it with a perfect blend of passion and precision. Her efforts instill confidence, teamwork, and a genuine love for the arts in her students.

To quote Mrs. Jessica Jinkerson herself, her favorite aspect of teaching is “inspiring students to be lifelong learners and to encourage active participation within the community.”

Jessica Jinkerson is more than an exceptional educator; she's a force whose impact transcends the confines of the school walls. Dexter is undoubtedly fortunate to have such an incredible educator in our midst.

With great honor, I present the 2023 Educator of the Year award to Mrs. Jessica Jinkerson.

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Written by Dee Loflin
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