

Veronica Hamilton Johnson Spring ISD Claughton Middle School Teacher of the Year

by Maxine Session

Teaching is hard work and some teachers never grow to be anything better than mediocre. They do the bare minimum required and very little more. The great teachers, however, work tirelessly to create a challenging, nurturing environment for their students. Great teaching seems to have less to do with our knowledge and skills than with our attitude toward our students, our subject, and our work

This time each year teachers and students are counting the days to the end of school. Veronica Hamilton Johnson is excited and just simply bubbling over with energy. She has been named "Spring ISD Claughton Middle School Teacher of the year for 2015, demonstrating that she is one of those teachers who works tirelessly to create a challenging environment, in other words she has demonstrated to be "the best among the rest"

A Rusk High School graduate, she began her teaching career at Jacksonville Middle school and went from there to Hogg Middle School Tyler ISD, six years, to Spring ISD and now she is celebrating eighteen years as an educator.

Her next endeavor is to fulfill her lifetime dream as a counselor and eventually open her own practice assisting at risk teenage girls.

Veronica had this to say about teaching, "Being an educator is not a "teach from your seat job", it requires you to be up, close and personal with kids. I summarize my teaching experience as a play ground of adventure, wins, losses and mostly a life-long relationship that will never end. There is not any other job in the world that will allow you to be a school mom, leader, coach, comedian, singer, dancer, preacher/witch (my kids lingo) an advocate, disciplinarian and most of all an encourager.

If you are looking for these characteristics, then teaching would be your best fit.

What I contribute to my success in teaching is the past and present people in my life.

First of all, God gets all the glory. He is my comforter, joy, healer, mind regulator, provider, counselor, disciplinarian, smile and most of all the love of my life. As a Father, he sent many remarkable women that constantly play a big part in my life. My hard working/praying mother, supportive and humble grandmothers, selflessness sister/aunts and my life-long friend Daphne Session that showed me it could be done. I am truly grateful to God, my husband, family and friends for supporting me in this journey.

My favorite quote is Jeremiah 29:11.....I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

With those words embedded in my heart, I pray that I will be able to help someone along the way to believe that there is hope through Jesus Christ.

Also, my siblings, cousins, children's Godparents and close friends that made me feel as if I could walk on water motivated me to reach further.

Lastly, the three men in my life: my husband, stepdad and grandfather that provided me all the necessities and even desires of my heart : shelter, food, finances and un conditional love to reach any goal I set my mind to.

My success with children over the past years is being able to watch my



The Johnson family - Aerial, Floyd, Kyzler and Veronica

students graduate from high school and now college. Also, watching students in my classroom read and mock my teaching to other students that are struggling. My heart is overjoyed watching that kid that states at the beginning of the year, "I'm shy and I don't want to participate,"

Now, that student is leading discussions. The best part of my career is making it my business that kids know that I love them unconditionally.

Even that kid with behavior issues that speaks and hugs you at the end of day when earlier you ripped him a good one with a consequence, but he still knows you care."

Mrs. Johnson graduated from Stephen F. Austin with a Bachelor of Science Degree in education and a Masters Degree in Counseling from Prairie View A & M University. Veronica Johnson, the daughter of Callie and Charles Wayne) Dearman of Rusk.