

For this project, I interviewed each of our school-level Teacher of the Year winners, giving them the opportunity to share their personal stories, passion for teaching, and the impact they've had on students and the school community. Teachers were encouraged to speak freely about what they love most about their work, and they were invited to select a few students—either current or recent—to offer their thoughts on how the teacher has influenced their lives. These interviews were posted on Facebook and Instagram in the weeks leading up to our annual Teacher of the Year Banquet. During the banquet, each winner's video was played on a large screen as their name was called, showcasing the heartfelt moments as they walked forward to receive their plaque and have their photo taken with the superintendent. While the district has always published photos of the winners, I wanted to create a more personal and emotional connection with the community. By capturing the passion and dedication in the eyes of these exceptional teachers and showcasing their genuine connections with students, the videos brought the emotional depth of their work to life. Slow-motion footage and intimate moments were used to emphasize the true essence of teaching, moving beyond a simple recognition to a meaningful portrayal of their commitment. Additionally, a special video was created for our District Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Evans. This video was a surprise for her, premiering at the annual Teacher of the Year Banquet before being shared online. The video featured heartfelt tributes from her principal, daughter, and husband, highlighting the qualities that make Mrs. Evans an exceptional educator. This tribute offered a personal, behind-the-scenes look at the influence she has had not just in the classroom, but on those closest to her. The series was designed to support effective communication by providing a platform for these educators to share their stories in a way that was authentic, emotional, and engaging. The videos offered a deeper connection with the audience, allowing families, colleagues, and the wider community to see the human side of education—the dedication, love, and care that teachers bring to their work every day. Through this series, we were able to recognize these teachers in a meaningful and memorable way, celebrating their impact on students and their schools beyond just a photo or plaque. The outcome of this project was twofold: It not only created a lasting tribute to our Teacher of the Year winners but also fostered a sense of pride and recognition within the school community. The videos were

well-received by the public, sparking conversations about the importance of teaching and the incredible educators shaping the future.