

Augusta Raa Middle School – Home of the Rams

Dr. Small, Principal
Mr. Cowart, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Van Camp, Asst. Principal
Mr. Thompson, Dean



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Dear Selection Committee:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Ms. Trikia White as the 2019-20 Leon County Schools Teacher of the Year. I have had the opportunity to observe and work with Ms. White over the course of the past three school years as the principal at Raa Middle School. Ms. White is a hard worker who is dedicated to performing and perfecting her craft as an educator. She has worked diligently this year as our Reading Coach, 8th Grade Team Leader, and a Language Arts Teacher. She is the type of teacher that makes every day of learning a full student-centered production from the time students walk through the door. It is not uncommon for me to walk into her classroom to find her simultaneously facilitating a small group lesson while having a one-on-one dialog with a student about their performance data, and also reassuring students working independently of their ability to succeed. She often kicks-off each unit or lesson with interesting facts and stories to spark dialog with her students and make practical connections to their background knowledge.

Moreover, this year Ms. White took on the task of becoming our Reading Coach. Adding this type of responsibility to a full-time teaching schedule and commitments to serve as the leader of our 8th Grade Team was no easy ask, but she has risen to the challenge like a champion and has been respected by her colleagues as a vital source of information and practical experience. She has worked this year to revamp our school-wide implantation of reading intervention programs, spearheaded a before school computer lab and remediation schedule, and organized a co-teaching framework that has allowed her to utilize her knowledge of reading strategies to benefit our content area teachers on interdisciplinary planning and instruction.

Ms. White has also served as a district trainer and instructor for Foundations of Language and Cognition Reading Endorsement Course. She has a heart for not only ensuring that students are equipped for success and have equitable access to needed information, but she also works to ensure that the quality of our instructional staff is as strong as possible. From helping to orchestrate school-wide PBIS celebrations for students without discipline referrals to developing ways of work and diverse strategies to assist students with benchmark mastery for earning quality points, Ms. White is no stranger to finding solutions that build character and success in our students. In short, Ms. White is a teacher who leads by example and has never lowered the bar for herself in order to achieve excellence. Furthermore, she is an advocate for struggling youth and has used her knowledge and training pertaining to meeting all students needs to enhance the learning process for all students she comes in contact with. This is evident in her consecutive years of student performance scores that have topped the charts even when tasked with serving our below grade level readers.

I am excited about the opportunities that have presented themselves before Ms. White this year as a nominee for Leon County Schools Teacher of the Year. I believe she has the energy, knowledge, academic qualifications, administrative experience, and skills to lead and set examples for future school leaders. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss with you more of her potential contributions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher Small
Proud Principal

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