

# PRESS RELEASE

## Lee County Public Schools

Communications Department

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Date: February 10, 2012

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SUBJECT: **DISTRICT NAMES ITS TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2012/13**

Lee County Public Schools is very proud to announce that **Dawn Voyer**, a Social Studies Teacher at **Cypress Lake Middle School**, has been named the Districts 2012/13 Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Voyer will be **SURPRISED** with a visit this morning (2/10/12) at her school. Cypress Lake Middle is located at **8901 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers**.

**\*\* Attention Media:** Reporters covering this event are asked to be at the school **NO LATER than 10:30 a.m. – Please Check In at the School’s Front Office \*\***

For the past eight years, **Dawn Voyer** has been impacting the lives of students at Cypress Lake Middle School. As a social studies teacher she has the ability to work with students in all grade levels served at the school – and she is truly doing an outstanding job.

Look at the achievement of her students and you’ll see that they consistently have the highest average on the District’s Common Core Exams and their scores exceed the state average on the reading standards portion of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). Every day her students are involved in an activity that is an application of the learning standard being taught. For Ms. Voyer, the textbook is really a reference point that provides a spring-board to the highest levels of learning.

In her class, students have become experts in coaching one another in their cooperative groups, working through simulations and role-playing – all part of the learning process. Ms. Voyer illustrates for all what great teaching looks like and the power at teacher has to influence a child.

“Dawn is the great teacher that every parent dreams of for their child and every student remembers,” said Jeananne Folaros, Principal, Cypress Lake Middle. “No matter how high the bar is set, Dawn Voyer will jump over it!”

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For Ms. Voyer, engagement and cooperative learning play a crucial role in her history classroom. Walk into her class on any given day and you'll see a room buzzing with activity and noise. Students are questioning one another, hypothesizing and analyzing information – she knows they need constant activity, engagement and interaction to bring history to life. In her class, students are encouraged to discover and explore history rather than simply read about it.

One of Ms. Voyer's best qualities as a teacher is that she keeps in mind that her students are just that – students. They are children, and while she may be teaching serious subject matter she presents it in a way so they still enjoy coming to class every day.

"I try to create lessons that reach as many students as possible at one time," Ms. Voyer said. "They get to use all of their senses – and I love hearing them say how fast the class flies by or how they can learn *and* have fun at the same time."

The following sponsors provided gifts for the Teacher of the Year:

Barbara B. Mann	2 Tickets to an Upcoming Performance
The Veranda	\$50 Gift Certificate
South Seas Island Resort	3 Day / 2 Night Stay
Harmon Photography	Two 5x7 Photos and one 8x10 Photo
Ruth Messmer Florist	Floral Arrangement
Fred's Award World	Specially Designed District Name Badge
Mark Loren Designs, Inc.	14k Gold Lapel Pin
Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre	2 Tickets for Upcoming Dinner & Show
Norman Love Chocolates	25-Piece Signature Candy Box
Seminole Gulf Railway	2 Tickets
Fresh Market	Food Basket

The other educators who were finalists for Teacher of the Year were:

- **Javier Garcia**, Spanish Teacher (grades 9-12), Cypress Lake High School;
- **Debra Horn**, Third-grade teacher, Cape Elementary School;
- **Kellen Mills**, Art Teacher, Paul L. Dunbar Middle School;
- **Theresa Morosco**, Exceptional Student Education Life Skills Teacher, Ida S. Baker High.

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