

Educator of the Year Nominee:

Dana Seyer



Dana Seyer

Dana Seyer has been an educator for 23 years, 18 of which have been in service of the Sullivan School District. As an English teacher and instructional coach, she has worked to help students see their potential and understand the value of striving to reach personal learning goals that will drive all future success. In a similar way, she supports teachers in finding ways to grow and to positively impact student learning. It is her greatest ambition for every student and teacher to feel equipped with the tools needed to soar. Additionally, Dana works with students in the WEB program to develop leadership ability and positive character in 8th grade students. Outside of school, she is actively involved in St. Anthony Parish, specifically as a PSR teacher. She also leads the Kim Dill Memorial Scholarship committee, working to raise funds to support high school seniors with a scholarship each spring. Dana is passionate about supporting students in their efforts to become positive and active citizens who make the world around them a better place for everyone. She believes that “every student deserves the opportunity to see themselves as a learner and leader, and it is through their success that the entire community is enriched.”

Name: Dana Seyer



Name: Dana Seyer

Business/Organization Affiliation: Sullivan School District/Sullivan Middle School

Title: Instructional Coach for Sullivan Middle School E-mail: seyerd@sullivan eagles.org

City: Sullivan State: Missouri Zip Code: 63080

Business Phone: 573-468-5171 Business FAX: 573-860-2326

Home Address: 659 Tessa Dr.

City: Sullivan State: Missouri Zip Code: 63080

Home Phone: 573-225-8936 Home FAX: N/A

1. Major achievements through professional projects with which you or your organization have been involved, including dates and positions held.

I was the English language arts PLC coach (Professional Learning Communities) for Sullivan Middle School for three years from 2014-2016. During this time I worked with my team to develop curriculum units to support reading, writing, and effective communication instruction for middle school students. I worked on our building leadership team to develop and implement initiatives to support growth and achievement for all students.

I have been in my current position as an instructional coach since 2017. As an instructional coach I work with all teacher teams to develop impactful curriculum, instructional activities, and assessments to drive student achievement. One of my most important roles is in facilitating the placement of students in intervention groups to close instructional achievement gaps. I work closely with teachers to plan intervention and enrichment classes with lessons and activities that both push students to grow and to support development of essential skills. My biggest passion and driving force as an educator and in my role as instructional coach is ensuring that all students leave SMS with the literacy skills needed to succeed both in high school and the outside world.

I serve on the Professional Development Committee for Sullivan School District. I have been a representative for the middle school since 2019. I also served on this committee at the beginning of my tenure at Sullivan Middle School for several years. As part of my

work with this committee, I design and coordinate professional development for teachers at the middle school as well as supporting district driven professional development opportunities. I have many opportunities as an instructional coach to explore professional learning and bring back best practices to share with my colleagues.

I have been the WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) coordinator at Sullivan Middle School since 2006. The WEB program works to build strong leadership ability in our 8th grade students and partners 8th grade WEB leaders with incoming 6th grade students to smooth their transition from elementary to middle school. As the WEB coordinator, I train WEB leaders and help them develop the necessary leadership skills to support not only our 6th grade students but all school community members. It is essential for students to develop strong character and leadership skills. I am passionate about the work that I do in this role, as it consistently helps students discover their greatness. Over the years, I have seen students discover qualities within themselves that they previously didn't realize they possessed. The WEB program lights a fire in students that drives their future success. I support this program and students involved by organizing fundraisers and school/community events, such as Kid's Night Out. These activities give students opportunities to grow as leaders and become invested in our community.

2. Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions held.

I have been an active member of St. Anthony Parish in Sullivan, MO since 2005. I support both the church and St. Anthony school by participating in community fundraisers such as the dinner auction and parish festival. Additionally, I have been involved in the Parish School Religion (PSR) program as a teacher for the last 3.5 years.

I have been a leader on the Kim Dill Memorial Scholarship Foundation since the Fall of 2018. During that time I have helped organize fundraisers that have enabled the foundation to award scholarships to five Sullivan High School seniors. We plan to award our sixth scholarship this spring. This is an honor that I hope to continue for many years to come.

3. Awards, recognition, or honors received.

I earned my Reading Specialist Certification from Southeast Missouri State University in 2014, and I earned my Education Specialist degree focused on reading instruction from Arkansas State University in 2022. I completed both of these degree programs, graduating with honors. In 2023,

In the fall of 2023, I was awarded the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award for Sullivan School District.

4. Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work and visit, citing any role models and motivating factors.

I moved to Sullivan in 2005 when I began teaching at Sullivan Middle School. I immediately felt connected to the community because it reminded me of the community in Southeast Missouri where I grew up. The things that make Sullivan a beautiful place to live are the community members and the collaborative relationships that consistently work to make Sullivan a thriving community. I immediately saw a place where people are hardworking and want the best for their families. The Sullivan community is full of citizens who are willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that future generations are better off than the one that came before.

In my time at Sullivan Middle School, I have been blessed to work with two teachers who modeled the importance of developing student leaders with strong character. They also instilled the importance of being an active member of the community and helping students to see the value of investing in their community. Kim Dill was both a teaching colleague and my building administrator. She had a passion for pushing students to become lifelong learners. Her personal motto was “Knowledge is Power.” She showed me the importance of building strong relationships with the community, specifically businesses. She was a dedicated advocate for our students, and she understood that it takes the whole community to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and personal character traits needed for them to experience success in life. I have also benefited greatly from working with Tina Sohn. Tina intuitively understands what students need in order to reach their full potential. She constantly challenges students to grow and be the best version of themselves. I see the opportunities that she develops for her students to interact with the community and to take a proactive role in making the Sullivan community a better, more beautiful place. Both of these ladies have influenced how I interact with students and my personal goals for education and educational leadership. I strive to emulate them, and it is my hope to impact the community in the same positive ways that I have witnessed in their actions.

February 16, 2024,

To Whom It May Concern:

Dana Seyer has worked at Sullivan Middle School for the last 18 years as an 8th grade ELA teacher and instructional coach. She has also taught reading intervention classes to grades 6-8 and serves as the WEB coordinator. Dana is dedicated and hardworking, going above and beyond the call of duty in pursuing excellence. She takes initiative to determine areas of need with minimal guidance. She has supported teachers in increasing student achievement, including those with a wide range of ability, due to her skills in differentiation, instructional knowledge, and flexibility. Dana puts her whole heart into teaching. She works hard to raise the bar academically for all students, ensuring that every student leaves our middle school on the pathway to academic proficiency.

Dana is constantly growing as an educator by attending professional development and taking graduate classes. Her constant learning impacts her teaching in how she has improved instruction. She is a researcher of different strategies to implement for instruction. She is always updated about the latest instructional technologies and teaching methodologies. Dana is extremely organized and focused on continuously learning and developing best practices to manage routine activities both efficiently and effectively. She inspires others in the building to be lifelong learners and regularly looks for ways to not only improve the instruction in the classroom but also across our school.

For the staff, Dana makes sure that we set high standards for students so they can grow to be successful leaders putting forth their best effort. Dana acts as a mentor to teachers, connecting and collaborating. She is always available to give advice and problem-solve. She has a wonderful understanding of the different departments at the middle school. Dana is an active listener who provides individualized feedback to every teacher/student concerning their strong and weak points. She brings a high level of energy, insight, and expertise to all of the committees on which she serves. Finally, outside of the school, Dana is actively involved in her community by teaching young children in her church. Dana has a calling to be an educator and highly deserves the Sullivan Area Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina Sohn". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Tina Sohn



Dana Seyer <seyerd@sullivan eagles.org>

Congratulations – You're an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient!

1 message

FH-Emerson Excellence In Teaching <Emerson.ExcellenceInTeaching@fleishman.com>

Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 7:00 AM



Good morning -

I am pleased to inform you that you have been selected as one of Emerson's 2023 **Excellence in Teaching Award** recipients. You are among almost 100 teachers from across the St. Louis metropolitan area who are being recognized this year through our program as examples of truly outstanding educational excellence.

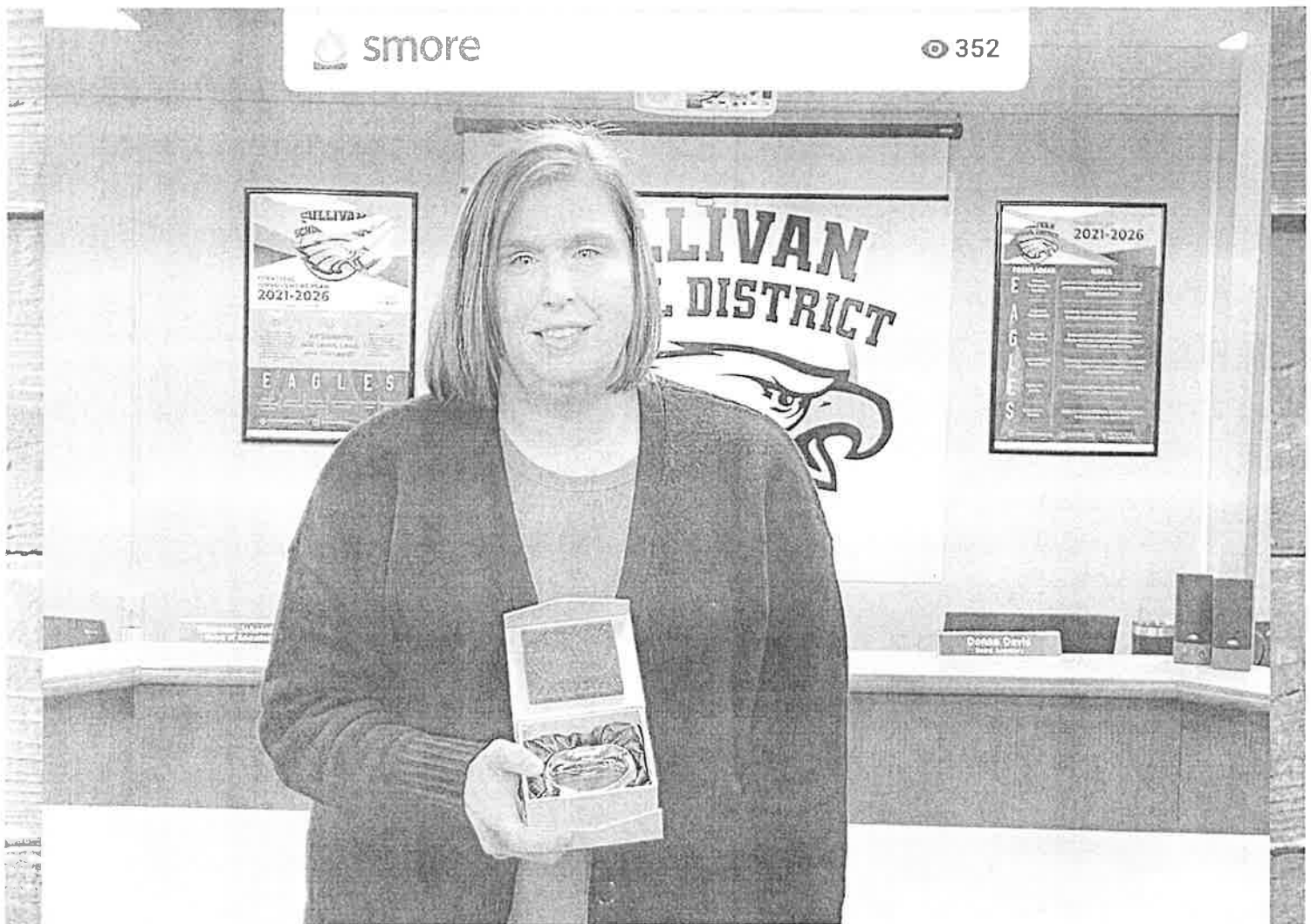
The Emerson Excellence in Teaching Awards, now in its 34th year, is one of the St. Louis region's most recognized teacher recognition programs. Emerson is proud to sponsor this program as a way of helping the St. Louis community express our collective admiration and gratitude for your dedication to teaching our area's students.

In November, we will have the Excellence in Teaching Award certificates from Emerson delivered to your school address. There will a separate delivery that includes an engraved crystal apple paperweight.

If you have any questions, please contact Shelby Kennedy at (417) 527-5413 or shelby.kennedy@fleishman.com.

We thank you for the vital role you and other outstanding teachers play in our St. Louis community!

Sincerely,



Emerson Award Winner~Dana Seyer

Dana Seyer was chosen to be the 2023 Emerson Award winner by the faculty and staff of Sullivan Middle School. Dana has dedicated the last 18 years to the growth and success of the students and her teacher colleagues. Her former colleague, principal, and friend once said, "Knowledge is power. The more you know, the more you grow!" Dana has taken those words to heart! She is dedicated and hardworking, pursuing excellence above and beyond the call of duty. She takes the initiative to determine areas of need with minimal guidance. She has supported teachers in increasing student achievement, including those with a wide range of abilities, due to her vast range of instructional knowledge and know-how. She works hard to raise the bar academically, ensuring that every student leaves our middle school on the pathway to academic proficiency. Dana is constantly growing as an educator. Her constant drive for knowledge significantly impacts her ability to improve instruction in the classroom. She inspires others in our building to be lifelong learners and regularly looks for ways to enhance instruction in the classroom and across our school. Dana makes sure that high standards are set for students so they can grow to be successful leaders. Dana acts as a mentor to teachers. She is always available to give advice and problem-solve. Dana is an active listener and is always willing to provide feedback to every teacher or student. She brings a high level of energy, insight, and expertise to all the committees she serves. Dana Seyer epitomizes what the Emerson Award is all about. Sullivan Middle School is incredibly proud of her. Congratulations Dana, you are so deserving of this prestigious award!

For Sullivan Primary Students Grades K-2

ARTS & CRAFTS
COOKIE DECORATING
STORY TIME
GAMES
DANCE PARTY
MOVIE & POPCORN



\$15 per child
Space is limited
Only 100 student
spots
will be available

LOCATED AT
SULLIVAN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL

Contact Dana Seyer with questions

seyerd@sullivan eagles.org

573-468-5171 ext. 2030

KIDS

N I G H T O U T

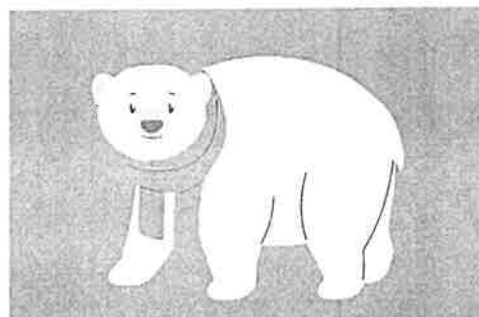
ONLINE REGISTRATION
MUST BE COMPLETED BY
NOVEMBER 29 USING THE
QR CODE OR LINK BELOW.



bit.ly/SMSKNO122023reg

FROM
6PM TO 8PM

Drop off at 5:30
Pick up at 8:00



FRIDAY

1

DECEMBER

Drop off and Pick up MUST be the same person

kids night out

for Sullivan Primary Students

Grades K-2

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023

- Arts & Crafts
- Cookie Decorating
- Story Time
- Games
- Dance Party
- Movie & Popcorn

Cost:
\$10/child

Located at

Sullivan Middle School

6:00-8:00 PM

Drop off: 5:45 PM Pick up: 8:00PM

Enter through front doors

Drop off & Pick up must be the same person

**ONLINE REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY FEBRUARY 8
USING THE QR CODE OR LINK BELOW.**

bit.ly/smskno23



Contact Dana Seyer with questions
seyerd@sullivan eagles.org
573-468-5171 ext. 2030

Educator of the Year Nominee:

Clarisa Hulsey



Clarisa Hulsey, Sullivan High School, Life Skills Special Education Teacher 9-12 grades.

- 1. Major achievements through professional projects with which you or your organization have been involved, including dates and positions held.** *The development of an inclusive culture within the Sullivan Schools is what I perceive as my major achievement, my project being the Annual Special Olympics Unified Track Meet at SHS. 10 years ago, I had an idea to initiate a FULLY Unified Special Olympics Track Meet at Sullivan High School. I had no idea how much work it would take, but I did know if I could get a yes to proceed, and with the right team of people we, not I, could make it happen. I had an idea and needed a team. The staff and faculty jumped on board that first year and we never looked back. This event was at the time, and I believe, still is the only fully unidentified track meet in Missouri. Fully Unified means that all events are conducted by a Special Olympics athlete and a typically developing peer (student) at the same time. Their scores are averaged and they medal together. This idea has grown into an event that is anticipated yearly by the student body. They beg to be Unified Partners; they ALL look forward to it. This event has grown outside of the school walls also; with our community supporting us by participating in the annual Turkey Trott that Anytime Fitness so loyally dedicates to us. Without the support of this major network, Anytime Fitness (Maggie West-Heidbrink), the community runners for the Turkey Trott, Sullivan School Administration from the top down make this event possible, this expansion of understanding and natural growth of a culture that is evident every day not just on track meet day would not be possible. Yes, I had an idea, but I would not have accomplished any of it without the team I am surrounded by. I also spend my days working with our most exceptional learners working through social and academic situations daily. Teaching them how to become as independent as possible; may it be learning to make a simple recipe or practicing the skills necessary to hold a job is what I do daily. Their independence and acceptance are my life goals. Acceptance in action and the growth and development of independence are what I strive for. I may not have a lot of visible awards but watching my students walk across the stage each year is an award we have earned together year in and year out.*
- 2. Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions held.** *I am a 9-12 Life Skills Special Education Teacher at Sullivan High School. I am in my 11th year of teaching Life Skills. Along with teaching, I am the Special Olympics Volunteer Coach at Sullivan High School for Bowling and Track. I manage, oversee, coordinate, and supervise our events and meets. I am one of the founding developers and a continued member of the planning team for the Unified Special Olympics Track Meet that we hold yearly at SHS, this year will be our 9th annual event. I was the Co-Sponsor for the Class of 2020, which was a rodeo of a graduation year; and am currently Co-Sponsor for the Class of 2024. I am a member of First Assembly of God Church in Sullivan, where I volunteer in the nursery.*
- 3. Awards, recognition, or honors received.** *2017 VFW Post 3987, Teacher of the Year for grades 9-12. Tin Man Award DSFC (Developmental Services of Franklin County).*
- 4. Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work, and visit, citing any role models and motivating factors.** *The importance of making Sullivan an even more beautiful place to live, work, and visit is highlighted in the inclusive experiences we as a community can share, a feeling of*

Clarisa Hulsey, Sullivan High School, Life Skills Special Education Teacher 9-12 grades.

belonging, and a sense of pride in being Eagles. These things are all assets that make Sullivan a more beautiful place where people will be willing to invest their time, which is the most valuable of all things in our community, schools, businesses, and activities. Once an EAGLE always an EAGLE is a motto that we should all have an opportunity to feel pride in saying. Ever since being a student in Mary Weidenhaff's class as a student at Sullivan High School learning and absorbing what community, inclusion, knowledge, and hard work can do, I developed a desire to represent and advocate for our non-typical learners.

One Paragraph Summary

I have devoted most of my career to working with those who have developmental disabilities, attempting to help them find inclusivity in the world along with independence and freedom. I found the perfect spot at Sullivan High School teaching Life Skills Special Education where I get to live out my dream, by working daily with students with varying disabilities. I also get to work with typical learners and our staff and faculty, who are eager to help improve and encourage inclusivity within our school community which transfers over to our beautiful town; the community of Sullivan. Before working at Sullivan High School I worked at Developmental Services Franklin County where I helped to develop a behavioral day program that has continued to grow and offer people with developmental disabilities an opportunity to gain independence.

Tin Man Award

A Testimonial for a Developmental Services Good Deed Doer

Not many people start a new job in a program so new it doesn't exist yet. Clarisa Hulseley stepped out of her comfort zone to become the first staff in DSFC's new Behavioral Support Program before she could even meet the client. Although she knew she would be working with an aggressive young man with Autism, she had no idea what the extent of the challenge would be. Clarisa persevered daily in her difficult assignment. She kept a strong, positive and professional attitude and provided a consistent and enhanced environment to teach new skills and behaviors. She showed great perseverance and resolve to do the work needed to make a difference in a young man's life by chipping away one day, one moment, and one behavior at a time. Scratches and bruises were just part of the package, but Clarisa never said, "I don't get paid enough for this." She continued doing what was necessary for the client's good.

Clarisa is an example of the dedication, vision and strength of will that is necessary to be a success in this field. We are proud to be working with her and honor her today with the Tin Man Award.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 3987

Presents

Teacher of the Year

For Grades 9-12

To

Clarissa Hulse

February 28th, 2017



Comrade

Alan Padgett

President

Rob Carter





Educator of the Year Nominee:

Macy Wehmeyer



Macy Wehmeyer

Macy Wehmeyer was born and raised in the Sullivan community. She believes that Sullivan is a special place where community support is evident daily. Macy is currently a third-grade special education teacher for the Sullivan School District. This is her fourth year teaching special education, in which three of those years have been for the Sullivan School District. Within this role, Macy's focus is providing individualized education for students with Learning Disabilities in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. Special education is a passion for Macy, and she recently completed her master's degree as an educational diagnostician to further her interest in this area. She continuously seeks out opportunities to better support the learning needs of her students with disabilities to ensure their educational, behavioral, social, and emotional success. In addition to her professional work, Macy participates in numerous fundraising events within the Sullivan community, donating her homemade desserts throughout the year, and serving in a variety of capacities with events hosted by the Team Kaden Foundation.





ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Major achievements through professional projects with which you or your organization have been involved, including dates and positions held.

Degrees: Special Education/Cross Categorical (Bachelor's degree) 2020
MSEd Educational Diagnostician 2021-2023
Teaching: 1 year Bourbon Middle School Special Education 2020-2021
3 years 3rd grade special education at Sullivan Elementary 2021-present

2. Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions held.

Team Kaden Foundation volunteer for the past 10 years supporting children in medical need in the Sullivan area.
Grade level safety committee member @ Sullivan Elementary
Made by Mary dessert donations to those in need in the community

3. Awards, recognition, or honors received.

B.S. Special Education/Cross Categorical - magna cum laude
Selected for an Accelerated Master's in Autism Spectrum Disorder at Missouri State University (2019)
Dr. James Thornsberry Memorial Scholarship (2016) - Education Emphasis

4. Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work and visit, citing any role models and motivating factors.

I have grown up in Sullivan all of my life. As a child, I was able to attend St. Anthony's, Spring Bluff, and Sullivan High School, which is where I met many role models in my life. Sullivan has always held a special place in my heart because the support the community gives to those in need. When I received my teaching degree, I knew I wanted to give back to the community that showed me so much support through school, sports, and extra curricular activities.

Educator of the Year Nominee:

Jason Volkman





Jason Volkmann has been an educator for 15 years. His entire teaching career has been dedicated to Sullivan School District, with 3 years as a Paraprofessional in a Special Education classroom and 12 years as a Middle School Science teacher. In addition to his classroom duties and committee involvement, Jason developed and instructs an Outdoor Skills class. This class develops at-risk middle school young men who don't have a constant male figure in their lives and the focus is to build positive relationships with outdoor experiences, such as hunters education certifications, building their own fishing rods, basic outdoor cooking, etc. Jason has been active in his daughter's school activities and has served in a variety of duties within the church as Youth Leader, Mexico Mission Trip Leader, and Upward Basketball Coach. Jason's philosophy is that he believes in order to develop successful students, both inside of the classroom and outside, that educators have to first develop a relationship with their students. When a relationship is built between the teacher and student, you will see students succeed and grow.

Jason Volkmann

1. Major achievements through professional projects with which you or your organization have been involved, including dates and positions held.

- Building Leadership Team - 2017 - Present
- 7th grade PLC Chairperson for Science Department - 2017 - Present
- Lighthouse Committee Chair 7th grade - 2017 - 2020
- Acting Administrator when Administrators are out of the building for multiple days - 2022
- Acting Administrator at Middle School evening sporting events - 2023 - Present
- Outdoor Skills Sullivan Board of Education Recognition - 2021

2. Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions held.

- Former active leader with the youth group at Sullivan Christian Church
- Chaperone on a mission trip to Juarez, Mexico with Sullivan Christian Church
- Basketball coach with Upward Basketball Program

3. Awards, recognition, or honors received.

- Outdoor Skills Sullivan Board of Education Recognition - This is a class that targets at-risk middle school-aged boys who don't have a constant male figure in their lives to expose them to outdoor experiences. This class focuses on building positive relationships as well as teaching them how to build their own fishing rods and go fishing, completing their hunter education certification, Missouri tree identification, basic outdoor cooking, tying knots, and constructing a primitive shelter.

4. Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to work and visit, citing any role models and motivating factors.

Being a lifelong resident of the Sullivan area, I attended Spring Bluff School and graduated from Sullivan High School in 1991. I have always had a passion for giving back to the community I grew up in. My wife, Lisa, and I felt that growing up in a small town would be a great place to raise a family with the many opportunities here in Sullivan.

Growing up in a family of educators who began their teaching careers in this area, I as well as my daughter, have followed in the footsteps of those before me. I had the wonderful opportunity at Spring Bluff School District to be influenced by Mark Mason, a Sullivan native and retired science teacher. He has been a constant presence in my life and a role model who has also played a huge factor in molding me into pursuing a career in teaching. He introduced me to the value of relationships with students should be a high priority.