

RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWS RELEASE

May 7, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jackie Hinrichs Named Riverview Gardens Teacher of the Year

Jackie Hinrichs, a third-grade teacher at Glasgow Elementary, is Riverview Gardens School District's 2009-10 Teacher of the Year. She will represent the district in the Missouri Teacher of the Year program.

Hinrichs has spent the last eight of her 15 years as an educator in the Riverview Gardens School District. She taught fifth grade at Glasgow from 2002 through 2009 and then moved to teaching third graders in the 2009-10 school year.

Prior to her tenure in RGSD, Hinrichs taught science for grades five through eight in a small school in Illinois. She earned a bachelor's in psychology from Bradley University and a bachelor's in elementary education from McKendree College.

Glasgow's principal, Staci Price, describes Hinrichs as an enthusiastic, master teacher who knows how to get her students hooked on a topic by engaging them in an activity that allows them to explore and then apply their new skills. Hinrichs is genuine in building positive relationships with her students and cares about the entire school community.

"Ms. Hinrichs is one of the purest examples of an exemplary teacher that I've witnessed in my 19 years as an educator," said Price. "When you walk into her classroom, you can expect 100 percent of her students to be actively involved in a wide range of activities that meets the needs of all learners."

Hinrichs says she is honored to represent Riverview Gardens in the Missouri Teacher of the Year Program. She was inspired by an elementary teacher who taught her in a two-room schoolhouse in rural Illinois.

Hinrichs describes her teaching philosophy in four words: "All students can learn." Witnessing students succeed is the crux of her passion for teaching.

"It's so important to find ways of reaching each student and making that light bulb go on," says Hinrichs. "The key for me is to plan ahead with alternate lessons that create success and not waiting for students to encounter problems."

Hinrichs' classroom is rarely quiet because she believes in cooperative learning and hands-on activities. "When I ask a question to the class, I encourage my kids to discuss it with a partner or small group. I find that even the shy, intimidated student feels less anxious and participates more freely. This kind of learning helps turn on their brains. Also, busy students are less likely to make poor behavior choices."

--30--

Natalie Thomas, Ph.D.
Co-Superintendent
Riverview Gardens School District
1370 Northumberland Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63137
(314) 869-2505 ext 2417
(Cell) 800-3374

Rhonda M. Key, Ph.D.
Co-Superintendent
Riverview Gardens School District
1370 Northumberland Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63137
(314) 869-2505 ext. 2415
(Cell) 809-1516

