



P R E S E N T S T H E

# TEACHER OF THE MONTH



## Jawan Wiltz New Orleans' loss is Garland ISD's gain

Devastating as it was to lose her home to Hurricane Katrina, Jawan

GISD, and last year was named Teacher of the Year at her campus. The Sachse Chamber of Commerce named her Teacher of the Year as well.

She says these accolades "confirm that I'm where I'm meant to be."

Wiltz discovered that silver linings really do exist. This sixth-grade science teacher found a new home – and a fulfilling career – at Hudson Middle School, and has been enriching young lives ever since, says her school's principal, Michelle Bounds.

"She's absolutely amazing," Ms. Bounds says of Ms. Wiltz. "When I interviewed her, her passion for kids was so obvious."

Ms. Wiltz opens her students' eyes to the wonders of science through her own experiences. During the ten years that she taught at a private school in New Orleans, Ms. Wiltz supplemented that income working at a hospital medical lab. She shares stories of that lab work with her students, making science come alive for them and showing them the practical applications of their studies.

The child of two educators, Ms. Wiltz says her parents discouraged her from teaching. But she says it was always her first love: "When I would get home from school, I would set my dolls around and teach them everything I had learned that day," she says.

When she graduated from Xavier University, she followed her parents' advice and went to work as a medical technician. But her desire to teach was so strong that she eventually found a teaching job and simply did both jobs full-time, working as a teacher during the day and as a med tech after school until 1 a.m.

Now that she has a job as a public school teacher, Ms. Wiltz says she doesn't need the med-tech job to make ends meet. As a result, she has that much more energy to pour into her teaching career, and it certainly is paying off. She was voted Rookie of the Year her first year in

Ms. Bounds couldn't agree more. She says not only is Ms. Wiltz an inspiring teacher, but she also leads the school's student council and uses that position to teach the kids to discover the value of serving others. Under Ms. Wiltz's guidance, the student council led the effort to raise \$1,800 for a foundation that provides funds for teachers, and they also held a dance that raised over \$800 for the March of Dimes.

Ms. Wiltz also mentors student teachers, and Ms. Bounds says that role has a profound effect on them.

"Every day, every period, she strives to teach from bell to bell, using every moment. Along with that, she instills in the students a love for learning and they love her for that. She makes them feel good about what they're doing," Ms. Bounds says. "The kids love her and respect her."

Ms. Wiltz's commitment to her profession is obvious, Ms. Bounds says. "She's always willing to come in early and to stay late. Often she's the last one to leave the building at night."

Her teaching style reflects that commitment to her students. "If I have to come in dressed in a clown suit and do cartwheels to illustrate a lesson I would," she says, laughing. "I remember my favorite teachers and what made their classes inviting, and I try to share that with my students."

Congratulations to Jawan Wiltz, a dedicated, inspiring professional, and a terrific addition to the Hudson Middle School staff.



*Always there when you need us!*

[www.garlandpower-light.org](http://www.garlandpower-light.org)