



# PRESENTS THE TEACHER OF THE MONTH



## Joy Roseberry Teacher follows in relatives' footsteps to carry on "family business"

"I knew I wanted to

be a teacher when I was in second grade. I grew up in a family of teachers and it always interested me," says Joy Roseberry, a kindergarten teacher now in her ninth year at Centerville Elementary, and this month's recipient of Garland ISD's Teacher of the Month.

With a father who served as a school superintendent, a mother employed in the schools, and several aunts who worked as teachers, Mrs. Roseberry's decision may have seemed to be based in genetics.

But fate certainly played a part too. As the wife of a minister, "we moved frequently, but anywhere we happened to be, a spot as a kindergarten teacher was available," she says. With 24 years of experience, Mrs. Roseberry has spent all those years but one as a kindergarten teacher – and that one exception saw her in a first-grade classroom.

Mrs. Roseberry admits that many of her professional peers can't imagine taking on the age group she specializes in – and adores.

Kindergarten is a unique teaching experience, she adds, in that it sets the stage for future learning. "We introduce students to almost everything, and seeing those little light bulbs go on is so rewarding," Mrs. Roseberry says. "They need a lot of training, but they're loving and sweet."

In nearly a quarter of a century in the classroom, Mrs. Roseberry says she has seen a dramatic shift in the focus of kindergarten curriculum. "We do a lot of one-on-one testing now, checking them at the first of the year and then throughout the year, because there are certain goals

we have to reach. The curriculum is harder even in kindergarten, because the students are expected to be ready for first grade.

By engaging her students through a variety of methods, including music, art, and movement, she delivers the curriculum to her students in an age-appropriate, entertaining way. The challenge comes in recognizing that "we have all different levels of students, and all kinds of behaviors. We have to bring them into a cohesive group" so learning can occur. "We have to reach those students that have to be raised to grade level," she says, "but somewhere it all falls together. Behavior sorts out, they learn how school works and what's expected of them."

Without a doubt, Mrs. Roseberry has risen to the challenges of teaching kindergarten, and her students are well prepared for elementary school because of her efforts.

She was recognized most recently last year when she was named Teacher of the Year at Centerville.

She was also chosen as the "Regular Educator of the Year" by the Centerville Special Education Department, then went on to district and won there as well.

Mrs. Roseberry credits the Garland ISD's great teacher support system for her success as a teacher. "We get lots of training to help cope with more paperwork and more testing. Garland is the biggest district I've been in, and I'm very impressed. It's a great place to work, and I'm really happy here. The support from the district and the rest of the faculty and staff here is just great. I can't think of anything else I'd rather do," Mrs. Roseberry says.

Spoken like a deserving Teacher of the Month award recipient.



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