



PRESENTS THE TEACHER OF THE MONTH



Paula Crumpley Homegrown Garland teacher continues tradition of success for high schoolers

Though Paula Crumpley has been on the staff

of Garland ISD's Rowlett High School since it opened in 1996, she sounds equally qualified to serve on the school board – or perhaps the Chamber of Commerce.

“I am a product of Garland schools and so are my kids,” Mrs. Crumpley says. “Garland could not have offered me a better education than I got.”

After receiving her bachelor's degree and teaching certification from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M-Commerce) in history and English, Mrs. Crumpley spent 22 years in the classroom. For the past two years, she has served as the campus TAKS coordinator, helping analyze data to determine strengths and weaknesses and develop and implement programs to improve the school's scores. However, Mrs. Crumpley says she isn't too concerned with numbers. “We don't go for the ranking – we go for our students' successes,” she says.

Coincidentally perhaps, those two barometers appear to parallel each other. She says Rowlett High School's TAKS coordinator program has proved to be successful: the school has ranked “either first or second” in Garland ISD high school TAKS rankings every year, and “this year we were first across the board.”

Rowlett High School is just one of three Garland high school campuses with a TAKS coordinator on staff. “It's up to each school's principal to determine what's best for the campus,” Mrs. Crumpley says.

That level of autonomy is unique among area school districts, and Mrs. Crumpley says it speaks well of the administration. “The administration building listens to any idea or plan that would be beneficial to students,” she says.

As time-consuming as her role as TAKS coordinator is, Mrs. Crumpley also serves as Rowlett High School's student activities director. Wearing that hat, Mrs. Crumpley says she schedules everything that goes on inside Rowlett High School.

“Every school activity or intra-district activity goes through my office,” she says. She also works with every extracurricular club, serves as liaison between parent clubs and the school and oversees every school fundraising project. “I stay busy, but I enjoy it,” she says.

Making the shift from classroom to front office wasn't easy for this veteran teacher. “The first couple of years out of the classroom, I was going through withdrawal, but my students still come to me with papers to look over and to talk with me,” she says, so her classroom skills remain sharp – and needed.

As a charter member of the Rowlett High School staff, Mrs. Crumpley says, “I would love for everyone to have the experience I've had here. I've never seen anyone leave here angry. This is a very caring atmosphere where what's best for the kids comes first.”

Mrs. Crumpley's adoration of her school and her school system is reciprocated, according to Dr. Marlene Hammerle, Rowlett High School principal. She says Mrs. Crumpley “is invaluable when it comes to helping to support our teachers in the classroom. Paula is also our student activities director and is responsible for scheduling all of the school, district and community activities. She is wonderful!”

“I love my job,” Mrs. Crumpley says. “I will be here until I retire. I can't imagine not being involved with the kids. They keep me young. They'll have to pry me out of here.”

Spoken like a dedicated teacher – and a deserving recipient of the Garland ISD Teacher of the Month. Congratulations, Paula Crumpley, on a well-deserved honor.



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