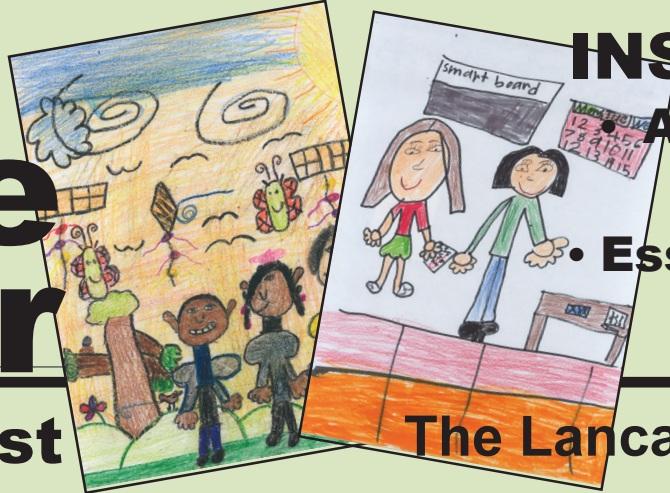


# My Favorite Teacher

Essay & Art Contest



## INSIDE

Art – 2nd & 3rd winners

Grades K-2

• Essay – 1st-3rd winners

Grades 3-5, 6-8 & 9-12

The Lancaster News • May 6, 2012



**The Student**

**Andrew Mayhew**

Grade 2, Indian Land Elementary



**The Teacher**

**Amanda Davis**

Grade 2, Indian Land Elementary



## Inside

His love for his profession shines through

Margaret Huggins .....Page 3

She taught us how to become leaders

Anna Sims ..... Page 3

He gives everyone equal chances to perform

Isabella Edwards .....Page 3

He gives you a sense of belonging

Grace Trumpower .....Page 4

He likes to hear what the class has to say

Amber Wade ..... Page 4

She knew how to brighten your day

Maya Mayfield.....Page 4

She is kind and good at teaching

Austin Bailey.....Page 5

She helps us understand things

Sara Mungo.....Page 5

She finds ways to make her students laugh

Analeigh Horne .....Page 5

She made sure everyone understood

Nicole Hudson.....Page 6

She loves all her students equally

Kelsey Carter.....Page 6

She's a teacher who stands out the most

Kennedy Johnson.....Page 6

Art contest winners

Andrew Mayhew ..... Cover

Jaron Strevenson.....Page 7

Lucy Wooldridge.....Page 7

Taylor Clark.....Page 7

# A car ride that changes my life

A week after I graduate from high school, I'm in Coach Randolph Potts' car on the way to Wingate.

We're going to meet with the college's president – and I'm pretty nervous.

I'd always figured I'd maybe go to USCL after high school – leaving the state for college wasn't something I ever thought about.

My parents hadn't gone to college, but they valued education. It was USCL or the mill, I figured.

But that's before Coach Potts and my principal come up to me after graduation – and ask me to take a trip that totally changes the course of my life and my children's lives – and probably even my grandchildren's lives.



That night, these two men give me the greatest gift educators can give a child. They give me a vision for a life my limited experiences could never have imagined.

And they go out of their way to put me on a track that can lead me to that life.

I find out later, that right after the Wingate president speaks at our class' graduation, they go up to him and tell him I'm a young man his school needs to find a way to help.

They tell him I'm a good student, a pretty good basketball player and a person who, with a little help, can succeed in college.

That's when he tells them to bring me over the next week to see if Wingate can help.

Now three educators are going out of their way to help me – without my even asking. Pretty amazing.

Coach Potts had helped me – like a lot of other students – since the day I walked into Indian Land High.

He coached me in football, basketball and baseball and taught me a lot about setting goals and working hard to achieve them, about the importance of being prepared, about how to win and lose with class.

And he pushed me in academics, too.

When he found out I was taking a study hall instead of his chemistry class, he got someone to cover his class, came to find me and talked me into dropping the study hall and adding chemistry.

He knew something I didn't, something he didn't even mention to me when he was arm-twisting me into that chemistry class – colleges expect college-bound high school students to take chemistry.

And obviously, long before he met with the Wingate president on my graduation day, he was already trying to figure out a way to arm-twist me into college.

A few hours after our ride to Wingate, Coach Potts and I are on our way home.

And I'm riding home with Wingate paid for – something my parents just couldn't have afforded. I'm going out of state to college in the fall.

I'm going on a half academic scholarship and a half basketball scholarship – if I make the team.

And the things that trip make possible for me are just too mind-boggling to comprehend.

I meet my future wife Susan at college, a girl who pushes me to do more than just finish

two years at Wingate.

I get a bachelor's in math education, then a master's.

I teach math. I coach – not just football and basketball, but tennis, a sport I know absolutely nothing about.

I become an assistant principal, a principal, a district technology administrator.

I even get my doctorate and become a superintendent.

I have two sons who grow up never doubting they'll go away to college – and finish.

And it all starts with a coach and a principal and dozens of other teachers who see potential in a boy. A boy who can't fathom the great things his mind – and an education – can do for him and his family.

Wow! The difference teachers make. The futures they shape.

The drawings and essays in this publication represent hundreds of drawings and essays submitted by our students.

And as you see and read the winning entries in this year's *My Favorite Teacher Art and Essay Contest*, you'll see teachers who make a difference over and over. Teachers who help children see and experience and do things that make their futures better.

Thank you, *Lancaster News* and other businesses whose support made this contest possible.

And thank you to the thousands of parents and students who take the time to say special thank you's to teachers across our district this week.

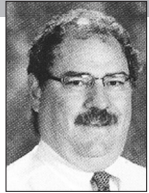
*Gene Moore*

Gene Moore  
Superintendent

# Essays from Grades 9-12

## His love for his profession shines through

### The Teacher



**Doug Young**  
Math  
Indian Land High

From proofs to the “Cookie Song,” Mr. Young has furthered my learning experience the past two years.

I first met him as a sophomore stuck in geometry class. However, my hatred for shapes was turned into a love for the subject with Doug Young’s jovial guidance.

My relationship with him continued when I was put into his pre-calculus class this year. For most juniors, this class is quite



intimidating, but I was able to breeze through with an “A” because of his passion for teaching.

Moreover, my favorite thing about Mr. Young is how he relates mathematics to real life. He tells us stories about his family and when he was a lawyer, and I feel as if the complex problems actually have a meaning to my future. He makes it a point to help each

student individually, and keep the class working together.

It is this attention to detail and genuine love for his profession that shows through in his classroom. I have to admit, I will thoroughly miss Mr. Young’s teaching next year as I move on to AP Calculus. However, I will be thanking him when my foundation for the class is made apparent through my test scores!

### The Student



**Margaret Huggins**  
Grade 11  
Indian Land High

**Janice Mathis State Farm**  
306 N. Main Street  
Lancaster, SC  
(803) 283-3371

### Lancaster County

www.lancastercountysc.net  
(803) 285-1565

### Lancaster One Medical Physical Medicine

539 No. 9 East Bypass  
Lancaster, SC  
(803) 286-5700

### Akzo Nobel Specialty Plastics

1872 Hwy. 9 By-pass W  
Lancaster, SC  
www.akzonobel.com

### Cauthen Motors

1276 Great Falls Hwy.  
Lancaster, SC  
283-4545

### The Medicine Mart, Inc.

302 N. Main Street  
Lancaster, SC  
803-286-8855

## She taught us how to become leaders

### The Teacher



**Susan Scott**  
Careers  
Buford Middle

My favorite teacher is Ms. Susan Scott, a careers teacher at Buford Middle School. She was my eighth-grade careers teacher, who not only was my teacher, but someone who was like my best friend and mentor. She was always smiling and there if you needed a friend.

Ms. Scott is someone you can give a situation to and she will have a positive outlook on



it. Ms. Scott is someone who can make an impact and it stays forever.

A great teacher is someone who is willing to listen, help and understand anything you want to learn or someone who wants to teach no matter how bad of a day she is having. She is someone who believes in her students

and tells them that they can be anything they want to be.

I had the privilege to be Ms. Scott’s Service Learning student, and I don’t think I can even begin to count how many times I heard her tell her kids not to give up. She taught us how to be leaders, and how to be confident. Ms. Scott has made an impact on my life and other lives as well.

### The Student



**Anna Sims**  
Grade 11  
Buford High

## He gives everyone equal chances to perform

### The Teacher



**Scot McGuire**  
Band director  
Andrew Jackson High

Scot McGuire is the band director at Andrew Jackson High School and he is my favorite teacher. During marching band season, in the summer to fall, we have long after-school practices where Mr. McGuire works our bodies and minds to keep us in the right shape to perform at our best.

Mr. McGuire stands out as a teacher because he tells us stories for us to relate to our



music, and this helps us to play better.

Mr. McGuire knows we have the potential to do really great things, and he pushes us to reach those goals. Not only does he push us to do our best, but Mr. McGuire helps us to see the error in our mistakes so that we can learn from them.

He does not move on in class unless everyone is at the same

place; and he is not afraid to single you out when you are wrong. He gives everyone equal chances to perform our utmost, and these chances never run dry. Granted, we take offense when he puts the spotlight on us, but in the long run, he teaches us many life lessons and we do not even realize it yet.

As a teacher, Mr. McGuire is the best and anyone would be lucky to have him as their own.

### The Student



**Isabella Edwards**  
Grade 10  
Andrew Jackson High

**Palmetto  
Tri-County  
Internal  
Medicine,  
P.A.**

201-A W. Meeting St.  
Lancaster, SC  
803-286-4666

**Auto Plus  
Insurance  
Group**

104-E Woodland  
Business Park  
Lancaster, SC  
289-1169

**LCWSD**

Lancaster County  
Water & Sewer District  
1403 Kershaw-Camden Hwy.  
Lancaster, SC  
285-6919  
www.lcwasd.org

**Lancaster  
County  
Natural Gas**

1010 Kershaw-Camden  
Hwy.  
Lancaster, SC  
285-2045

**City of  
Lancaster**

216 S. Catawba Street  
Lancaster, SC  
286-8414

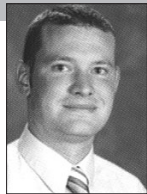
**C & C Tire  
Company**

4139 Fork Hill Road  
Kershaw, SC  
(803) 475-6241

# Essays from Grades 6-8

## He gives you the sense of belonging

**The  
Teacher**



**Scott  
Fleischman**  
Band  
Indian Land Middle

I have had many teachers, but in this essay I am going to introduce you to my favorite teacher: Scott Fleischman, Band Director.

One of the things I like best about band class is the closeness with other players. Band is similar to a sports team in that respect. Mr. Fleischman always says things like "This band is a family" or "This doesn't leave the band room." He gives you



the sense of belonging. I like the way that feels, and I think I am speaking for the rest of the band as well.

Mr. Fleischman takes pride in what he does. He knows our band can perform at a high level, and he pushes us to our full potential. We are told that the concerts we put on depend on us. That is why he encourages us to practice.

He wants us to do well, for our sake. Mr. Fleischman wants us to feel satisfied with our performances and takes it personally if we don't, as a good teacher should.

As you can see, I'm not allotted enough words to describe how much Mr. Fleischman has done for me or my school.

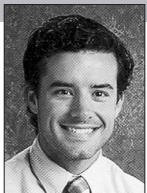
**The  
Student**



**Grace  
Trumpower**  
Grade 7  
Indian Land Middle

## He likes to hear what the class has to say

**The  
Teacher**



**Josh  
Beckham**  
Social Studies  
South Middle

Do you ever have one of those days when nothing seems to go right until you walk into your favorite teacher's room and all of a sudden everybody's mood suddenly begins to change?

My favorite teacher is Mr. Beckham. He teaches eighth-grade social studies and always finds a way to make it fun. Even if it's the most boring subject in the world, Mr. Beckham finds



an interesting way to teach it.

He always has a game for us to play to review our vocabulary in *Horsepower*. Sometimes during *Horsepower* and warm-ups, he tells us a story about something that happened to him. One time he even took us outside and let us play a basketball shooting game to help us review.

Unlike other teachers, he likes to hear what the class has to say. He even lets us help him teach in a fun way. Even though he's a funny teacher, the class still respects him and listens to what he tells them to do. My classmates and I know when it's time to have fun and when to get serious in his class. Mr. Beckham is my favorite teacher because he really tries to help us enjoy social studies.

**The  
Student**



**Amber  
Wade**  
Grade 8  
South Middle

## She knew how to brighten your day

**The  
Teacher**



**Adrian  
Deese**  
Social Studies  
South Middle

Who is your favorite teacher? I found mine last year in the sixth grade. Ms. Adrian Deese knew how to brighten your day. Mrs. Deese teaches sixth-grade social studies at South Middle School.

In Ms. Deese's classroom, there was usually never a dull moment. She made history fun and enjoyable for me. From "trashketball" to the human timeline, we learned and



had fun. Once she even let us sit on our desk and meditate as the Buddha so we could understand it better.

If one student didn't understand something, she would let them stay after school and help them. She would also let you stay late and retake a test. Mrs. Deese was very

encouraging towards her students. She always told you to follow your heart and do what's right.

I can only remember Ms. Deese being mean and yelling at us one time, and she had a good reason. I used to hate history, but Ms. Deese nearly made me fall in love with it. I will never forget her and all she taught me.

**The  
Student**



**Maya  
Mayfield**  
Grade 7  
South Middle

# Essays from Grades 3-5

## She is kind and good at teaching

### The Teacher



**Jill Nelson**

Grade 5  
Buford  
Elementary

Ms. Nelson is my favorite teacher of all the teachers I've had at Buford Elementary School. She teaches fifth-grade math and science classes.

I think Ms. Nelson is a great teacher. She draws stick people pictures to explain science lessons. I get to use the Smartboard when she's teaching math. The Smartboard and the Airliner make learning more interesting.

I learn a lot in her classes everyday.



Ms. Nelson's class is fun because she makes me laugh. When the class does something good, she will sing and dance! If someone is working on the Smartboard, she will draw a hat on their head. She tells jokes, too. Class is much better when it is fun.

It is fantastic to have a teacher who is nice and helpful. She is

always walking around to make sure we're not making mistakes while we're working. Anytime we have a question, she is ready to answer it.

Fifth grade has been a year that I have learned a lot because of Ms. Nelson. She is my favorite teacher because she makes class funny. She is kind and good at teaching. Ms. Nelson is the best teacher I have ever had!

### The Student



**Austin Bailey**

Grade 5  
Buford  
Elementary

## She helps us understand things

### The Teacher



**Jennifer Fleming**

Grade 4  
Heath Springs  
Elementary

Ms. Fleming is the best teacher in the world. She is a one-of-a-kind teacher.

She always gives us fun activities. One time, she let us make the phases of the moon with Oreo cookies. Another time, she let us make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to learn to be more accurate at what we say. We told her to put the peanut butter on the bread, so she put the jar of



peanut butter on the bread! If we are really good, we are rewarded with something. We can earn homework passes, cereal, and more. At the beginning of the year, Ms. Fleming let us sit anywhere.

She helps us understand

things. I could not understand decimals in third grade, but now it's a piece of cake.

She never yells or loses her temper. When we get too loud, she simply tells us kindly to please be quiet so we can concentrate on our work.

If you ask me, Ms. Fleming is the best teacher in the whole wide world!

### The Student



**Sara Mungo**

Grade 4  
Heath Springs  
Elementary

## She finds ways to make her students laugh

### The Teacher



**Anita Robinson**

Grade 5  
Buford  
Elementary

I have enjoyed all of my teachers from kindergarten through fifth grade so it is hard to choose just one favorite teacher. However, if I had to pick one, my favorite teacher is my fourth grade math and science teacher, Ms. Anita Robinson.

Ms. Robinson is my favorite teacher because she is extremely nice, funny and easy to talk to. Anytime I needed help with a math problem, I



felt comfortable going to her for help in explaining how to work the problem out. She made me feel like I could ask for her help without feeling like I was bothering her and felt like she wanted me to do great and make great grades.

Ms. Robinson has a sense of humor and finds ways to make her students laugh and

that makes learning fun.

Even though I am no longer in Ms. Robinson's class this year, I still stop by her classroom to talk to her and she always asks about my family. When she does this, it makes me feel special and lets me know she really cares about me.

This is why I consider Ms. Robinson my favorite teacher.

### The Student



**Ansleigh Horne**

Grade 5  
Buford  
Elementary

### Kershaw Hardware & Supplies

167 Shop Road  
Kershaw, SC  
(803-) 475-8509

### USC Lancaster

476 Hubbard Dr.  
Lancaster, SC  
313-7000  
<http://usclanaster.sc.edu>

### Bantam Chef

608 S. Hampton St.  
Kershaw, SC  
803-475-2521

### Southern Gas Company

1117 W. Meeting Street  
Lancaster, SC  
(803) 283-9911

### Mante Pediatrics

Medical Arts IV  
Lancaster, SC  
(803) 313-3846  
Chester office - (803) 385-2075

### Winona's Flowers & Gifts

3177 Pageland Hwy.  
Lancaster, SC  
803-286-0010

# Honorable Mentions

## She made sure we all understood

### The Teacher



**Debbie Williams**  
Retired

A great teacher is someone who teaches you what you need to know, is there whenever you need them and helps you to the best of their ability.

Ms. Williams fits that description perfectly. She didn't treat her students just as students, but also as friends. You could definitely tell she actually cared about every single one of her



students.

She was my sixth-grade math teacher. I thoroughly hated math, but in her class, I actually enjoyed it.

She explained everything until she made sure that everyone understood it. Most teachers just teach how they want and if you don't get it, they don't really care.

Not Ms. Williams, however. She put her heart and soul into trying to meet every student's needs.

She made math actually not unbearable. She always came up with new and fun ways to teach us what we needed to know, unlike any teacher I had in the past. I absolutely loved Ms. Williams, and I know it would be close to impossible for everyone not to.

### The Student



**Nicole Hudson**  
Grade 10  
Buford High

### Thomas Drug Store

203 E. Marion Street  
Kershaw, SC  
803-475-9665

### Haile Gold Mine

7283 Haile Gold Mine Road  
Kershaw, SC  
803-475-1220

### Ray's Florist

318 S. Main Street  
Lancaster, SC  
(803) 283-3339

### Gus' House of Pizza

101 S. Hampton St.  
Kershaw, SC  
(803) 475-9937  
605 S. Main St.  
Lancaster, SC  
285-1552

### Kevin Robinson Heating & Air

217 N. Hampton St.  
Kershaw, SC  
(803) 475-5483

### Carolina's Literacy Network

105 W. Dunlap Street  
Lancaster, SC  
(803) 285-8805  
[www.carolinasliteracy.org](http://www.carolinasliteracy.org)

## She loves all her students equally

### The Teacher



**Hope Rollings**  
Math  
Andrew Jackson Middle

My favorite teacher is Ms. Rollings. She always makes her students laugh. She is a wonderful teacher and makes my day light up when I come to school.

Ms. Rollings likes to talk about sports and knows everything there is to know about math. She is a smart, red-headed teacher. She loves each and every one of her students equally.



Some teachers may be mean, but this one is not. It's almost like you can see a rainbow with a unicorn floating over her head because she's kind.

She is always trying to make us better at stuff we didn't understand the first time. Ms. Rollings makes us pay attention in class because she wants us to learn.

She is never negative, even if she is having a bad day. Every morning when I wake up, I never really want to go to school. Now it's not so bad because I realize she wants to help us learn. That's the kind of teacher she is.

Now that you know Ms. Rollings, you understand why I appreciate her. I think "Hope" is a good name for her because she is full of hope.

### The Student



**Kelsey Carter**  
Grade 6  
Andrew Jackson Middle

## She's a teacher who stands out the most

### The Teacher



**Nancy Vanairsdale**  
Grade 4  
North Elementary

On the first day of school, I was nervous because I wasn't sure if Ms. Vanairsdale would be mean or nice. After the first day, I noticed how nice she really was! On Revolutionary War Day, she brought in some tasty cookies that were yummy!!

One day Ms. V called me to the Smartboard. I had something good to say, but Ms. V made it a better answer.

Ms. Vanairsdale is also a great illustrator. Being an illustrator



has helped me to understand better and learn more about our lessons. Sometimes she even uses fancy words in science, math, social studies and English. Ms. V is always ready for a question. When I make mistakes, she always helps me out and helps me understand why it was incorrect. In IM-PASS, she helps each table so that we understand what's going on.

Since the school year started, I have known that Ms. V would always be there for me. She takes care of us while we are in school, which makes us all feel very special! I think that Ms. V is the best teacher in the universe and I am so lucky to have her as my teacher!!

### The Student



**Kennedy Johnson**  
Grade 4  
North Elementary

# Art Contest Winners

**The Teacher**



**Sandra Cauthen**  
Grade 1  
North Elementary

**The Student**



**Jaron Stevenson**  
Grade 1  
North Elementary



**The Teacher**

**Courtney Brooks**  
Grade 2  
Erwin Elementary



**The Student**

**Taylor Clark**  
Grade 2  
Erwin Elementary



**Children's 1st Medical Center**

901 W. Meeting St.  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
283-4200

**Sigmon Auto Glass, LLC**

1414 Lynwood Drive  
Lancaster, SC  
286-0606

**Chandler's Collision Center**

1575 Great Falls Hwy.  
Lancaster, SC  
803-285-8686

**First Citizens**

302 N. Hampton St.  
Kershaw, SC  
803-475-2380

**Morphis Pediatric Group**

112-C Woodland Drive  
Lancaster, SC  
(803) 416-5295

**The Lancaster News**

[www.thelancasternews.com](http://www.thelancasternews.com)

**The Teacher**

**Sandra Cauthen**  
Grade 1  
North Elementary



**The Student**

**Lucy Wooldridge**  
Grade 1  
North Elementary



# Thank You Teachers

In appreciation for  
all that you do, KFC has  
a special just for you.

10% Off  
Any Purchase  
until May 31st\*

\*Must present school ID for discount.

**Special Good at Both Locations:**  
1263 Greats Fall Hwy. • 285-1569  
582 Lancaster Bypass E. • 285-1656