

Teacher of The Year
Name: Stephanie Monroe
Years of Service: 14

Stephanie Monroe represents the essence of Midvale. She grew up in this community, giving her a unique insight to both the beauty and the challenges that our students face. With this insight, she provides a creative outlet through dance, empowerment to make change through ELA, and a mentorship for young leaders through Latinos in Action (LIA). Her constant advocacy reshapes the lives of students who pass through her programs by providing opportunities that build confidence in both individual and cultural identity.

It seems oversimplifying to say that Stephanie's Teaching philosophy is to provide relevant learning experiences that encourage critical and creative thinking. Her students are consistently able to explore issues of real world significance and identify how they, as an individual, fit in to making the world a more fair and just place for all people.

Stephanie provides ongoing support of all the teachers in our school. Her obvious leadership role on the building leadership team provides a voice for both students and teachers who need to be represented. What is less obvious, is the constant unofficial mentorship and support of teachers entering our unique school. As a colleague in my first few years of teaching, her willingness to listen to my difficulties and give advice was invaluable to my confidence and growth as an educator. I know for a fact that many other members of the faculty have had similar experiences, leading many of us to view Stephanie as role model for successful teaching that truly has a lasting impact on the lives of students.

The clearest word that comes to mind when considering Stephanie's influence on Midvale is, without a doubt, empowerment. She challenges those around her to not only recognize the many opportunities and injustices present in society, but to also recognize each person's ability to make change in the lives of those around them. Her empowerment of others is sincere and passionate without sugar coating to reality of the hard work, struggle, and grit necessary to make real change. She can always be counted on to speak for those who's voice isn't being heard and helps those around her find strength in their voice as well. Stephanie's leadership embeds strength, compassion, and global activism into the climate and culture of our school.

Congratulations Mrs. Monroe, Midvale Middle appreciates and loves you!