

CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

FCSS Teacher of the Year

June 06, 2024

Award Recognitions





Amanda Bussey
Green Cove Springs Junior High
OUTSTANDING SOCIAL STUDIES
TEACHER OF THE YEAR
IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION



Amanda Watson
Orange Park Elementary
OUTSTANDING SOCIAL STUDIES
TEACHER OF THE YEAR
IN THE ELEMENTARY DIVISION



April Martin
Middleburg High School
OUTSTANDING SOCIAL STUDIES
TEACHER OF THE YEAR
IN THE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION



Victor Gomes
Orange Park Junior High
WARREN TRACY BEGINNING
TEACHER AWARD

CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS'
OUTSTANDING
Social Studies
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



Kendra Baum
Oakleaf Junior High
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
HISTORY AWARD

2024



Cynthia Cheatwood
Orange Park Junior High
CLAY CIVICS
CHAMPION



Denzell Davis
Clay High School
CLAY CIVICS
CHAMPION

CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS'

2024 Social Studies

TEACHERS AWARDS



Victor Gomes
Orange Park Junior High

**WARREN TRACY BEGINNING
TEACHER AWARD**



"Social studies education is essential for getting our students ready to be informed and responsible citizens. Gaining an understanding of historical events, political systems, culture, and economics helps our students to think critically and have global awareness."

CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS'

2024 Social Studies

TEACHERS AWARDS



Kendra Baum
Oakleaf Junior High

**EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
HISTORY AWARD**



"My teaching philosophy is rooted in the belief that student engagement begins with student interest. Too often students start the year telling me they dislike social studies, or it is their least favorite subject because it is boring to them. I strive to generate a renewed interest in my students and foster a love of learning for social studies. I aim to have a classroom environment that encourages student growth and inquiry, as well as a desire to learn more about a topic they discover that interests them. No matter the individual, my goal is to find what interests and motivates them and help them explore it."

CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS'

2024 *Social Studies*

TEACHERS AWARDS



Amanda Watson
Orange Park Elementary

**OUTSTANDING SOCIAL STUDIES
TEACHER OF THE YEAR
IN THE ELEMENTARY DIVISION**



"Social Studies education is important because students should be exposed to cultures beyond what they experience personally every day. We need students to learn about, understand, and appreciate cultural differences if we expect them to have meaningful interactions with people of all backgrounds in the future.

Learning about history is what makes it possible to learn from the past and plan for the future and helps build an understanding of our own government and how it was formed. Students need an understanding of history, political science, culture, and all humanities to be able to understand why it is important to be a good citizen."

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Green Cove Springs Junior High

**OUTSTANDING SOCIAL STUDIES
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"I am committed to creating a classroom environment that encourages student engagement, curiosity, and accountability for the learning process. Social studies is ideal for such an environment. Students learn to ask questions, explore ideas, substantiate with evidence, and communicate. This process requires collaboration, and through it students become more informed individuals, equipped to actively contribute to society and make a positive impact on their community."



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Middleburg High School

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"I want to create an educational environment where my students are willing to take risks and be vulnerable because vulnerability is essential to truly being successful at any level of learning and at any age. It allows us to learn through analysis and self-reflection so that we can easily spot the areas of needed growth. Because my students are so uniquely different, I try to include a wide variety of learning styles, including student collaboration, lecture/discussion, and my preferred style of hands-on lessons/activities. I also try to be sensitive to the needs of my students and sometimes those needs extend beyond the classroom."

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Cynthia Cheatwood
Orange Park Junior High

**CLAY CIVICS
CHAMPION**



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“There has never been a time in my life when Civic Education has been more important. Students must receive unbiased comprehensive instruction in the principles of federalism and the responsibilities of citizenship to prepare themselves to be thoughtful participants in society. Without understanding the checks and balances woven into the fiber of our governmental structure we are at risk of losing it. I believe that laying out the history of challenges weathered in the past can establish hope for the future. Civic education serves our students and thereby, our future.”

CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS'

2024 Social Studies

TEACHERS AWARDS



Denzell Davis
Clay High School

**CLAY CIVICS
CHAMPION**



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“Civics education allows students to understand how to make informed decisions about citizenship, democratic processes, and fundamental human rights. In order to build a strong community, we must invest good values in our future leaders. Fostering good human beings will enable a thriving society. I believe promoting good community involvement and a deep understanding of government in our students will allow us to flourish.”



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