



Teacher of the Year

Karen Round

When asked which teacher at Gonzaga Preparatory School I believed should be nominated for Teacher of the year, I thought of all the teachers who had spent their time investing in me and in my fellow classmates. I am extremely appreciative of everyone that has taught me and been my advocate over my 4 years at Prep. Our teachers were placed in a position they never thought they would be in over the last few years. Trying to get teenagers to fully engage in a class in person was challenging enough... then came covid. All the Gonzaga Prep teachers rose to the occasion to teach classes online. Selecting just one teacher from this mix of wonderful people is challenging, however there is a teacher whom I believe is most assuredly worthy of the title "Teacher of the Year".

This teacher has served as a great role model for me since the first day I met her. She so my interest in a subject I've always wanted to study in college. I knew I liked this subject, but this teacher taught me that I actually LOVE it. Even though the class was primarily taught over zoom, she helped us stay engaged. While it was hard to sit in one place all day and stare at a screen, I always looked forward to this class. I have several friends outside of Gonzaga Prep that say they didn't learn a thing while their classes were taught over zoom. This was not the case for me. I know this teacher spent hours preparing material to deliver in the new way. Her invested time is why I not only learned, but why I had a fire lit from within.

Beyond academics, I never once had doubts that she cared for me as a student and a person. I went through some rough times my junior year. I think the isolation and stress of Covid likely got to us all. This teacher was more than understanding. On days that were particularly bad, her open-door policy came in very handy. On several occasions I would pop in to talk to her, to dialogue about things that were stressing me. Feeling heard and like I had someone on my side brought me relief. I am extremely grateful that she made herself available, not only to answer academic related questions, but to be a listening ear. I honestly didn't want to leave her class once I moved on to my senior year.

I think high school is a challenging time for most students and I believe that teachers like this one that go that extra mile are what often saves us. It is with much gratitude that I would like to announce my teacher of the year is Ms. Karen Round.

