



Teacher of the Year

Craig Johnson

Even in a world filled with billions of people, sometimes it is difficult to come across teachers who are genuinely intelligent, kind, and inspirational. As a military child, I have relocated schools quite often which means that I've been taught by numerous teachers all over the world, but by far, this specific teacher stands out from the crowd a tremendous deal. In the past 4 years that my family has lived in the Medical Lake district, this teacher has been an incredible person to fall back on regardless of the day, time, or situation—they are *always there*.

When it comes to music, this teacher seems to know it all. They're easily able to distinguish an incorrect tone or pitch; fix an instrument without asking Google; play grade 5 music without a single slip-up; and even teach children who've never ever touched a musical instrument how to play as if they'd been playing all their life. They can name classical musical pieces but also compose arrangements themselves based on what the band needs. Anything in the musical realm and this teacher has all the answers to your questions.

This teacher never lets a student leave the room with anything less than they came with. Their kind words and genuine empathy and care for their students never wavers and ensure that students never leave the building unhappy. They are altruistic, always sacrificing their own personal time and efforts to help their students achieve accolades of their own. This teacher is the type of teacher to deliver instruments to your house during COVID so that you are able to continue practicing and developing your instrumental skills. They are the kind of person that will stay at the school building late into the night, just minutes before an audition is due, to make sure you feel confident about your submission. They are understanding, forgiving, helpful, can always lighten the mood, and knows how to make everyone laugh.

They are the type of teacher to bring snacks to the class to make sure nobody is ever hungry and also the type of teacher to count heads on the bus ten times to make sure nobody is ever left behind; who treats everyone like family.

This teacher is an inspiration to all who have the pleasure of meeting them. Not only have they impacted me, but my siblings, my peers, and everyone else around them. It only takes one conversation with this person to fall prey to their charisma and magnetic energy. They are the type of person who inspires you to go out and do great things. It is because of this teacher that I have excelled in my musical abilities, thus making it into the Washington Music Educators Association All-State Band. It is because of this person that I am the person I am today and that is why I'd like to nominate Mr. Craig Johnson as teacher of the year.

