

## The Bryan-College Station Eagle

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Teacher of Year loves her job

By ARENA WELCH  
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As the students in Caroline Jones' class leave her room every day, there's one thing the College Station Middle School teacher wants them to take away, and it's not homework.

"It's important to me that you do well," Jones tells her students. "But who you are is more important than what you know."

Jones, who was recently named Teacher of the Year for the region, said that theme is at the center of her teaching philosophy.

"There are more important things in life than just acquiring academic knowledge," she said.

Jones earned the Teacher of the Year title first at her campus, then at the district and Region VI levels. Now she is competing for the state Teacher of the Year designation.

Region VI encompasses about 60 school districts in Milam, Robertson, Leon, Houston, Trinity, Madison, Walker, Polk, San Jacinto, Grimes, Brazos, Burleson, Washington, Austin and Montgomery counties.

James Stegall, chairman of the board of directors for the Region VI Education Service Center, said it was apparent from her application that Jones loves teaching.

"Her approach to teaching and the way she relates to her kids and inspires them and brings them along and makes them want to learn are some of the reasons that she was chosen," he said. "She is into teaching; she really loves it."

Jones, who will begin her 13th year in the classroom this fall, teaches a TAKS math class for students who haven't passed the state-mandated exam.

She said she tries to respect her students and give them responsibility in the classroom so they are intimately involved in their own learning.

"It's about helping the kids know how they're operating and how other people are operating and trying to build a classroom cooperation and a school family," she said.

Jones attributed her success as a teacher to mentors who helped her develop and her colleagues in College Station who inspire her to strive to be better at her profession.

"Nobody goes into teaching for the money," she said. "You go in because you love kids and you want to make a difference with them."

---PHOTO BELOW---

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*Eagle Photo/Stuart Villanueva*

## Caroline Jones

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