

I've always enjoyed working with children
to know that you were named Teacher of the Year
teaching, nursing, something in the service field, was always calling to me
Couldn't be more proud
I had a chance in high school to work as a teacher cadet in an elementary classroom
Couldn't have happened to a better person
That's what lit my spark for teaching
I love walking by her classroom. Her kids are always right in the palm of her hand. They're just right there you know that they love her.
Laura just makes everyone feel like they're important
Laura has an enormous heart.
She asked me and I told her I would come and teach
her class a little bit, it was actually about rocks. After about a minute and a half you've lost them and you can tell they're doing all kinds of things.
I learned more in that day about elementary teachers than I learned in the four years of teaching.
The fact that she could just roll into that situation
keep the students involved totally was amazing.
The students' energy, the students' excitement, the students' curiosity drives what I do in the classroom.
Laura put students first above everything else. She's constantly thinking about what her individual students need and then figuring out ways to get her students to grow and achieve
Discovering their gifts.
And they are independent and they're in charge of their learning.
and I think you're able to, as a student, do more for someone who sees the best in you.
Eighteen years ago when I was an intern teacher here and there were a lot of worksheets and students sat in rows and that's how I thought it needed to be.
But I wish I would have known then that it was okay to take some risks.
She's just such a tremendous advocate for education and
for children, those qualities make a great teacher just those alone.
She goes beyond just here in our building she goes out into our community and serves.
She goes to our Western Michigan University and serves.
I've actually taken one of her college classes, so she's been my teacher. She also teaches us.
She's the technology integration leader as well so she's teaching other staff members throughout the district.
To lead a committee, to share your expertise with teachers around you, those really give us chances to shine, to elevate our profession.
Laura is a great listener and she develops the relationships that
people are willing to talk to her and feel comfortable and confident.
Pushes all of us to think outside of the box, she's inquisitive.
There's never a point when learning ends, and there are ways that we can find answers to our questions.
That I'm always going back to school and going to professional development seek out opportunities to grow.
She wants us all to continue learning but never forces it, leads and models it.
I am surrounded by amazing educators who have so many fantastic ideas. Our administration is the same way.

It's an amazing feel to work here in Vicksburg and I can't imagine working anywhere else.
I'm really proud that she's gonna be able to represent not just Sunset Lake Elementary teachers.
But be an advocate for all teachers throughout the state of Michigan.

I mean that's just an unbelievable honor and

Every time I see an intern come into her room I just think, 'They are lucky.
They are lucky to learn from her.'

I'm so eager to gather ideas from teachers across the
state that I can bring to my own classroom and share with my own colleagues here.
My name is Laura Chang and I'm the 2018-2019 Michigan Teacher of the Year.
And I am a proud Michigan educator.

English