

Joseph Burch has taught elementary physical education for 6 years in Pella, Iowa. He has a true passion for working with young people which shows not only in his classroom but in the time he has devoted to coaching students in extracurricular activities. He is an energetic and very hard worker who goes well beyond expectations to establish and deliver an outstanding physical education program that incorporates well planned units, developmental skills, and character building. He is dedicated to students learning and active engagement by providing a variety of experiences for his students in all areas of health and wellness. Joe is very intentional about providing learning opportunities for students at their developmental levels.

Joe has worked and continues to work with many professionals with a variety of areas to enhance opportunities for students. He has taken the time and effort to attend both national and state conventions to seek out ways to improve his teaching practices. He researches and utilizes many resources. He uses his time and energies to initiate and deliver activities outside of the gym such as the Running Club, Active Based Learning Centers and classroom Brain Breaks. The Running Club gives students the opportunity to run before and during the school day. Parents are invited to run with their child to encourage role modeling and better health for the whole family. Joe worked with other physical education staff, elementary classroom staff and partner in implementing these offering to encourage students and families to be physically and mentally active outside of the school day. He has a strong sense of cross-curricular teaching and making ideas and concepts alive in the classroom. His Oregon Trail unit for second and third graders is an example of both the insight and enjoyment he displays when collaborating with others.

The promotion of physical activity, healthy habits and quality physical education has been natural throughout Joes' career. He has made a positive impact on students and adults alike through his teaching and his own participation in recreational, sport and fitness activities.

Joe Burch is one of those people who is truly meant to be an educator. He has a passion for working with young people, which shows not only in his classroom but in the time he has devoted to extracurricular activities. He works to enhance each student's overall development as well as the development of the physical education program, the school district and the community.

Joe is an outstanding PE teacher... he has a unique ability to create a fun and safe environment not only for the students in the gym, but also for the students and teachers in the school. He is one of the best PE teachers I have worked with, states his Principal. He motivates students to be healthy and active in their lifestyle and is an excellent role model.

Ladies and Gentlemen I would like to introduce to you. The 2015 Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year... Mr. Joe Burch

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Amy Fuller Belding has been teaching at the Pella Middle School in Pella, Iowa for 9 years. Amy conducts a developmentally and age appropriate physical education program. She provides lessons and instruction that meet all learner needs.

She demonstrates and commands responsible personal and social behavior in her classroom. Her class is extremely organized and productive. All activities in her class are set up for the safety and the enjoyment of all students. Amy is a master at giving clear defined rules and regulations to keep students active and safe. She is able to address possible issues or problems with an activity before they arrive to quickly restructure a lesson if needed.

She is skilled in creating fair teams, assigning leadership roles to students who traditionally would shy away from them, and creating an environment where everyone can fully participate. She truly cares and is concerned about all students.

Amy instructs a highly reputable PEER PE Program in which many students have flourished over they years. This incredible program pairs up students who have special needs with students who are able to help them in the physical education setting. Both partners are placed in physical education class together for the entire year. It is wonderful to see the relationship that develop and continue through junior high and high school.

Without a doubt, Amy Belding serves as a positive role model as well as being sensitive to the physical and emotional needs of all students. This is a strength of Amy, and her colleagues would echo her ability and desire to serve all learner's physical and mental needs while modeling exemplary moral standards and personal character. She goes above and beyond to communicate good new home to parents about student's big and little accomplishment in class. She is proactive with her communication in order to build a bridge between home and school. Amy also communicates the celebrations in the gym classroom with the staff regularly and her colleagues appreciate her upbeat positive personality and nature;.. it is contagious!

Amy participates in district and state professional development opportunities. She provides service to the profession through advocacy; consultation, in-service training presentations and/or active membership in relate professional organizations. She is revered as a Physical Education and Health expert, and her colleagues rely heavily on her expertise however, she is extremely humble about her knowledge and accomplishments. She would say it is a team effort, and we are "better together."

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to introduce to you. The 2015 Middle school Physical Education Teacher of the Year.. Amy Fuller-Belding