

Jared has been working in the Clear Creek Amana school district since August 2010, he has worked tirelessly to make his elementary program one to be modeled. Throughout the year he utilizes activities and lessons from a variety of curriculums such as SPARK, Physical Best, and OPEN. He also supplements those with other ideas from Twitter, Voxer, and Facebook to learn new ways to improve his craft as a teacher and a leader. As a leader in the area for using technology, he has taught other educators about the benefits of using some of his favorites like using his projector to display the GIFs he has created, BAM Video Delay, SeeSaw, Google Forms, and his Gopher FitStep Pro pedometers.

Jared has increased the value of his program and the quality of his teaching by implementing new ideas all year long that go beyond his classes. These include a free Family Fit Night at his school, organizing a summer program called Active Minds that aims to integrate physical activity with spelling, math facts, grammar identification and geography; and he also put together a bicycle safety event and an Adapted Family Fit Day. During the school day, teachers can also use Brain Booster physical activity videos he has created to keep the students active all day long.

Jared has stated that *“The reason why I love teaching elementary physical education so much is because I get to focus on skills, fitness, and fun! I know that if I can help my students improve their skill level and have a little fun doing it, they will be more likely to use those skills in activities outside of school and it will lead to lifelong physical literacy.”*

As one of his letters of recommendation stated, “He has a passion for his craft that is unmatched by any other and is fully deserving of this honor.”

As educators we love to see our students be successful. It makes us feel proud. I have had the privilege to witness Jared’s passion for his craft when he was a student in my Elementary PE Methods and Secondary PE Methods classes at Coe College. Little did I know 5 years later he would be interviewing ME for a job in the Clear Creek Amana school district and that I would have the honor of teaching alongside of him, learning from HIM, and being inspired to be a better teacher. And now I am proud to stand beside him and introduce him to all of you and now ask that you join me in congratulating Jared on being selected as this year’s state of Iowa Elementary PE Teacher of the Year.