
welcome

7th Annual PANTHERS OF PRESTIGE



Academic Awards Banquet Event

It is our privilege to honor the top twenty graduates of the Lufkin Independent School District. We recognize these young men and women for their high scholastic achievement, earning the highest grade point averages among the 2020 LHS graduating class. They also distinguish themselves by participating in extracurricular school activities and in providing service to others in our community. Setting high standards and goals for themselves and through hard work, they have successfully achieved beyond the norm. For their superior achievements, we proudly name these young scholars as our 2020 Panthers of Prestige.

We are also proud to recognize twenty outstanding educators. Each graduate chose the teacher he or she wished to honor as a Teacher of Influence in their personal success. These educators excel in sharing their knowledge, wisdom and guidance to further the quest for learning and the desire for excellence. They represent the teachers of LISD who have gone above and beyond to educate our students.

The Lufkin ISD Education Foundation Board thanks Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson, LLP for their generous underwriting of this event. We are grateful that they share our vision of providing teachers the resources to enrich the academic experience for our students and to produce academically outstanding students such as the ones we honor tonight.

Thank you, Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson, LLP,
for your support!



Lufkin ISD
EDUCATION
Foundation

United for a Stronger Academic Foundation

Lufkin ISD Education Foundation's mission is to provide opportunities for excellence in education, promote innovation in teaching, and partner with the community to enhance the quality of education for all students of the Lufkin Independent School District.



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7th Annual
PANTHERS OF PRESTIGE
Academic Awards Banquet Event

Welcome

Demetress Harrell, Education Foundation President

Grants in Action Video

LISD Education Foundation's Mission and Accomplishments

Vercie McMullen, Executive Director, LISD Education Foundation

2020 Top LISD Graduate Presentation to their Educator of Influence

Thanks & Closing Remarks

Demetress Harrell

Top 20 Graduating Seniors,

On behalf of the Lufkin Education Foundation, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to each of you, on your impressive academic achievements. You represent your senior class with magnificent honor and we are tremendously elated by your remarkable devotion to education.

We recognize this year has presented a series of unprecedented events, however we want you to know that we will never allow anything to overshadow your exceptional accomplishments. I want to encourage you to continue to seek the gold standard during your college career and to realize you are our great leaders of tomorrow.

While this 2020 year has not afforded you all of your hearts desires with celebrations and year end activities, please know that you're family, friends, school, community and our Foundation members are extremely proud of you. We mark this year as a success and your courageous adaptive character has been highly complimented.

Top 20 Seniors, may your future present many rich rewards and grant you the impeccable opportunities to excel beyond measure. As you envision navigating your college journey, take a moment to reflect on the wonderful memories you have created over the last twelve years. It is those cherished memories that define your commitment to reach this level and we commend your excellence.

Congratulations,

Demetress Harrell
 Lufkin ISD Education Foundation President



Lufkin ISD
EDUCATION
Foundation

PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Andrew B. Adams II

Awards and Activities:

- Robotics Lead Programmer/Statistician
- Computer Science
- STEM Academy
- National Honor Society
- Class Favorite (Sophomore, Junior, Senior years)
- UIL Mathematics and Computer Science
- AP Scholar with Distinction
- Lockheed Martin Internship

The Future:

Rice University
Major: Computer Science

Mrs. Kerr:

Taking your algebra class helped me to learn to love math, so much that I made a significant effort to take every math class I could to build up to taking calculus 2, a class that stretches my brain every day. I've loved having you as a teacher.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Dayna Kerr

Calculus and Computer Science

- Bachelor of Science in Physics - SFASU
- Master of Science in Mathematics Teaching - SFASU
- 9 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

My philosophy is that the classroom should be a safe place to make mistakes and learn from them. Every student should have equal access to the opportunity to learn. I believe it is my job to foster imagination, creativity, and exploration to pique the curiosity of the students and hopefully make them lifelong learners.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Logan J. Armstrong

Awards and Activities:

- LHS Varsity Cheer
- LHS Varsity Tennis
- Extreme Cheer, "Top American Cheerleader"
- National Honor Society
- FCA
- Student Council Officer

The Future:

Texas A&M
Major: Biology

Mrs. Guadalupe:

I can't express how thankful I am, in English or in Spanish, for having you as my Dual Language teacher throughout high school. You have completely transformed by perspective on a language I once struggled to grasp, and helped me form a new sense of confidence within myself.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Lila Guadalupe

Spanish III, IV and V AP

- Bachelor of Business Administration in International Business
- Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish
- 5 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

As a Hispanic educator, my goal is to create interest and appreciation of the Hispanic culture. My personal goal is to create a positive, challenging, fun and energetic classroom. My hope is to motivate and help everyone express their opinion. I create an environment of mutual respect where comfortability is not an issue. To mold the student, mentally, emotionally, physically and socially is one of my achievements as an educator. I care for each student as if they were my own and teach them to meet their full potential no matter what the world throws at them. My educating career is not bounded to the four walls of my classroom, it goes beyond that.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Garin E. Ashby

Awards and Activities:

- Lufkin FFA (President, Vice-President, Sentinel)
- LHS Student Council (President, Secretary)
- LHS Swim Team Manager
- LHS Baseball Team Manager
- Angelina County 4H Horse Club (President, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Parliamentarian)
- Angelina County 4H County President
- Ignite Mentor

- LHS Band
- KYSSSED Club
- National Honor Society

The Future:

University of Texas
Major: Electrical & Computer Engineering

Mr. Eubank:

Your class really changed my life by opening my eyes to the pure pleasure of learning and I can't thank you enough for all you have done.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Truitt Eubank

Principles of Ecology, Soil Conservation, and Intro. to Natural Resources

- 2 Bachelors Degrees in Biology and Agronomy
- 3 Masters Degrees in Education, Ecology and Chemistry
- 31 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

Knowledge is the key to improving one's status. Just like the Demographic Transition starts with Education.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Hilda D. Cuello Gonzalez

Awards and Activities:

- Interact Club
- LHS Band
- Animation Club
- Ignite
- Art Club
- Dual Language
- National Honor Society
- STEM Academy
- Solo & Ensemble UIL 1st Division

- Superintendent's Honor Roll
- RYLA Camp Attendee
- National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar

The Future:

Texas A&M
Major: Nursing

Mrs. Jungmann:

Thank you for encouraging me to get out of bed early on a Saturday. Your kindness and willingness to put others before yourself have influenced me to become a nurse. I, too, want to care for others the way you have.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Suzy Jungmann

LISD STEM Coordinator

- Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University in Biology
- Masters of Education from UT Tyler in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus in STEM Education
- 15 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

My teaching philosophy is grounded in two ideas. The first is driven by a quote from Ignacio Estrada, "If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn." Teaching and education is not one size fits all. Students enter our classroom from different educational backgrounds with a variety of learning styles and interests. We cannot expect all students to learn in the same manner. Secondly, I want students to have the opportunity to give back to the community. Ben Carson says this perfectly, "Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give."



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Kaylin R. Davis

Awards and Activities:

- State Accounting Champion 2019
- Business Professional of America National Qualifier in Payroll Accounting
- National Honor Society
- IGNITE
- Key Club

The Future:

Stephen F. Austin State University
Major: Animal Science

Mrs. Holcomb:

You have been the most influential teacher I have ever had because you have shown me that I can do anything that I put my mind to. You have become like another grandmother to me.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Janice Holcomb

Accounting I, Advanced Accounting, UIL Academic Accounting Coach

- Bachelor of Business Administration, Sam Houston State University
- Masters of Business Education, Stephen F. Austin State University
- 48 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

As I begin each semester in the classroom, my first goal is to help my new students to know that my classroom is a safe environment for academic and emotional growth. These goals require for me to know my subject and know my students. As a lifetime learner, I work to develop the necessary skills for lifetime learning in my students by demonstrating skills, working together practicing skills, and providing opportunities for the students to work on their own. I have completed studies on how the brain learns new material and incorporate those steps into my daily lessons. Learning is a shared experience for my students and me.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Jaxon E. Griffith

Awards and Activities:

- Lufkin Varsity Golf (all 4 years), Captain 2 years
- FCA
- National Honor Society

The Future:

Texas A&M
Major: Mathematics

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Ryan Cantrell

STEM 3, STEM 4, Aquatic Sci, AP Environmental, Environmental Sys

- Bachelors of Science in Forestry/Wildlife Management
- Masters of Science
- 5 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

My philosophy is to enrich students beyond curriculum and instruction. As a teacher that interacts with mostly Juniors and Seniors, I believe in doing everything I can to help prepare them for life after high school. Instilling strong work ethic taking pride in your work and achieving goals are the core of my philosophy. Not only does this help in preparation for after high school, but it makes implementation of curriculum more efficient.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Nicholas K. Hargroue

Awards and Activities:

- LHS Theater Program
- Accounting Team
- Literary Criticism Team
- 1st place Junior Achievement Angelina County Stock Market Challenge
- Bronze Presidential Service Award

The Future:

University of Texas
Major: Art History

Mr. Usher:

I enjoy your class very much, and enjoy being around you as a person even more. Thanks for being a great teacher, Mr. Usher.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Daniel Usher

AP United States Government and Politics

- BSIS from Stephen F. Austin State University
- M.Ed. from Stephen F. Austin State University
- 8 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

Education should always empower students to take charge of their own lives. Any content taught in schools should be brought to a personal level so students can make a connection with the material in order to construct meaning within their own life. The ultimate hope is that students will find something they are truly passionate about and better their life through it.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Alexander S. Hill

Awards and Activities:

- Drama Club/Troupe 944 (Freshman Representative, Sophomore Representative, VicePresident, President)
- Kantori (Bass Section Leader)
- National Merit Commended Scholar
- National Honor Thespian
- AP Distinguished Scholar
- Church Youth Leader
- GT Program

The Future:

University of Texas
Major: International Relations

Mrs. Tutt:

Thank you for publishing me. Thank you for believing in me. Thank you for seeing potential in me that I couldn't see.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Savanna Tutt

8th Grade English

- Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies
- 6 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

As educators, we have the privilege of interacting with diverse learners from different cultural and economic backgrounds. We not only teach the youth the basis of our curriculum but guide them toward self-discovery. Within the four walls of a standard classroom, teachers are given the opportunity to bring their disciplines to life by making connections to the real world. Through the observation of media, art, and literature, discussions amongst the participants encourage them to embrace their creative nature and develop a perception of society. Through education, students of all ages explore beneath the surface and discover the raw beauty of life.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Zachary L. Hill

Awards and Activities:

- Band (Freshman and Sophomore years)
- Drama Club - Historian (Junior year)
- Clerk (Senior year)
- Swim Team
- National Honor Society (Secretary)
- After-school theater
- Ignite Mentor
- FCA
- LPTV
- Church Youth Group Leader

- STEM Academy
- AP Scholar
- GT Program

The Future:

Texas A&M
Major: Applied Mathematical Sciences

Mrs. Perkins:

I am here today because of your belief in me and the effort you put forth in teaching me.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Elizabeth Perkins

IPC, Environmental Systems, Aquatic Science and STEM 1

- BS in Animal Science, Texas A&M University, 1983
- Teaching certification, Stephen F. Austin State University, 1984
- 17 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

I believe every student has a unique potential to enrich the world, so my desire as a teacher is to understand where a student is in their journey and move them one step forward. To this end, I seek to instill the skills necessary to navigate society, as well as a sense of wonder and responsibility for our beautiful world.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Paige E. Hoelewyn

Awards and Activities:

- Choir
- Art
- Outstanding Performer Award at State Solo and Ensemble
- Allstater (choir)
- Choir Club
- Choir Council President
- Gold Medal for the Houston Livestock Art Show

The Future:

Stephen F. Austin State University
Major: Music Education

Mrs. Stewart:

Going into these last years, your teaching has changed me in a way I never thought I could be. It has helped me to grow immensely, and had a lasting effect on my heart.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Nicole Stewart

Choir

- Bachelor of Music Stephen F. Austin State University
- 2 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

"Intelligence plus Character - that is the true goal of education" stated by Martin Luther King Jr. has always been at the front of my philosophy of education. In my classroom, music unites students in a way that fosters cooperative learning and teamwork. It is my goal and passion as an educator to not only create wonderful, passionate musicians but to create an environment that promotes good character as well.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



William F. Lanigan

Awards and Activities:

- Lufkin High School Band - Quartermaster (9th-12th), Head Quartermaster (12th), Band President (12th), Squad Leader (11th-12th),
- Outstanding Junior of the Year
- Freshman All Region Band
- Lufkin High School Swim Team, Regional Finalist
- UIL District 17 5A Swimming Champion in Boys 500-yard Freestyle
- Panther Growls Student Newspaper - Editor
- GT Program
- STEM Academy
- FCA
- Boy Scouts of America
- Boy Scout Order of the Arrow
- National Eagle Scout Association
- National Honor Society (President)
- "Good Citizen" Award representing Lufkin High School for Daughters of the American Revolution, VFW Post 1836
- "Voice of Democracy" Essay, 3rd Place
- National Society of High School Scholars

The Future:

Texas Tech
Major: Journalism

Mr. Little:

Thank you for always being there for me. Thank you for the amazing music education you have provided. And most importantly, thank you for demonstrating how a man should act in his walk with God.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



George Little

Band

- Bachelor's in Music from Stephen F. Austin State University
- 4 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

I believe that music is one of the most important parts of human existence. We can evoke emotions and communicate things with music that are otherwise impossible. My goals are to give students the chance to experience music making at the highest levels possible, to give students the tools they need to have a lifelong appreciation for the art form, and to do my best to provide safe place to belong while in school.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Kimberly Ly

Awards and Activities:

- Key Club Secretary
- National Honor Society
- Interact Club
- Art Club
- Student Democrat Club
- STEM Academy
- Animal Rights Club
- Yearbook

The Future:

University of Texas
Major: Biochemistry

Mr. Adams:

All the memories made at LHS are captured and preserved in the photos we take forever. Thank you for teaching me this important lesson and being able to be part of the experience.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Andy Adams

Yearbook I/II/III and Newspaper I/II

- LHS graduate (Class of 1988)
- Bachelor's degree in Journalism from UT-Arlington
- 3 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

I'm evolving as an educator, since it still feels so new to me, but I believe the best teachers are those who do the things that make their students want to learn more about the subject at hand. I believe we can create a really good yearbook – and news website – every year as long as I have students who want to be involved in the process.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Lizabeth Martinez

Awards and Activities:

- Key Club
- KYSSSED Club
- Student Council
- BPA 1st place regionals
- UIL Academics - Accounting
- National Honor Society

The Future:

Texas A&M University
Major: Accounting

Mr. Hamilton:

Through your teaching I learned more than just algebra. You taught me to be more confident with my work and to not doubt my abilities. You always believed in me and my possibilities.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Gary Hamilton

Algebra 1 Pre-AP

- BS Biology, SFA
- MS Biology, Texas Tech
- 27 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

I believe that students learn in very idiosyncratic, mysterious ways and bring personal and complicated motives to the process. As such, there is a greater degree of responsibility for learning on students and parents than is often appreciated. I do not think students learn without challenge and so, to be successful, they must be invested with diligence to accept trials and determination to overcome failures. This quality has been referred to as "grit" and defined as "perseverance and passion for long-term goals." Educators must help students summon and find where their passions lie.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Cy A. Murphy

Awards and Activities:

- Three-year Varsity Baseball Letterman
- 1st Team All-District Pitcher
- Academic All-District
- National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar
- AP Scholar with Distinction
- National Honor Society

The Future:

Angelina College
Major: Finance

Mr. Willis:

I chose you as my educator of influence because I wanted you to know how much I, and everyone who has had the pleasure of being one of your students, appreciate everything you do.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



David Willis

Physics Pre-AP, STEM 2

- Graduate of Lufkin High School, 1991
- Bachelor of Arts in Biology, Baylor University, 1995
- Education Certification, Stephen F. Austin State University, 1998
- 22 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

My goal for education is always to prepare our students for what is next in their lives. No matter where a student is in their educational process, and no matter what their education has been up until that point, my hope and ambition is to create in them the idea that they can achieve more. I want to open their eyes to the possibility of what, "more," could be and prepare them to be ready to accomplish it.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Natalie A. Naramore

Awards and Activities:

- Swim Team
- National Honor Society
- Interact Club
- Swim Team Captain
- MVP Award 2017-2018
- Academic All-State Swimmer

The Future:

Texas University of the Ozarks
Major: Mathematics/Engineering

Mrs. Garner:

Without you, I would not have had the confidence to pursue a degree in engineering and continue down the exciting path toward a science filled life.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Addie Garner

5th Grade Science and Reading

- Bachelors' Degree Dual Major in Elementary Education 1-8th, and Special Education K-12, from Northwestern State University
- 18 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

My job as an educator is to improve the world by promoting students' self-esteem, involving their families, and the community in their growth and progress. Whether it's instruction, school climate, leadership, family engagement, or any of the other issues schools face on a daily basis. As an educator, I am responsible for providing the tools to help students improve their actions and strive to be productive members of society. I also believe that I must ensure that each student is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged, and to equip students with knowledge and skills for long-term success.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Alyssa N. Nunn

Awards and Activities:

- Drill Team Officer
- Varsity Track
- Ignite Lead Executive
- FCA
- Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy
- AP Scholar
- Black History Bowl Winner
- Superintendent Honor Roll
- Triple Jump Regional Qualifier

- 4 year Homecoming Court Representative
- National Honor Society

The Future:

University of Texas
Major: Psychology

Mr. Eubanks:

Your constant support of me and my endeavors whether in class or out of class has meant so much to me.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Danny Eubanks

10th Grade Gifted and Talented Teacher
PAP English II, AP World History, AP Art History

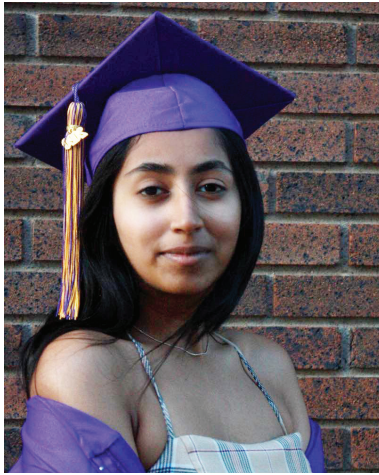
- Bachelor of Art in English and History, Stephen F. Austin State University
- Master of Art in History, Stephen F. Austin State University
- 15 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

I believe in pushing my students out of their educational comfort zones and challenging them to rise to the occasion. I also believe in encouraging them to take the knowledge that they are learning and apply it to the real world in which we live - to see how the art that we study, the history that we analyze, and the reading skills that we acquire help us to become more aware of our surroundings, to find areas where we can improve our lives, and to leave a positive impact on the lives of others.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Pooja Ramnath

Awards and Activities:

- STEM Academy
- Interact Club
- Thespian Troupe 944
- Student Council
- National Honor Society
- Solo & Ensemble UIL 1st Division
- Twirling (Freshman year)

The Future:

University of Texas
Major: Psychology/Biology

Mrs. Tatum:

I might be quiet during discussion, but Mrs. Tatum, you have sincerely influenced my life since the day I stepped into your classroom. Thank you, and I hope a million other kids can experience your influence as I have.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Shelley Tatum

English IV AP and English II

- Bachelor of Arts, Stephen F. Austin State University
- 15 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

To be educated is to be able to collect and weigh information in order to make decisions, solve problems and create the means to achieve a successful future for oneself and others. The study of language and literature are vital components of education because these studies provide both specific skills useful to success and the flexible and inventive minds necessary for creative problem solving, influence building and successful living. As an educator, my job is to provide my students with access to the materials necessary to engage in the process of becoming an educated citizen, guidance in using those materials to the students best advantage.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Amal J. Saleh

Awards and Activities:

- Band
- Robotics
- STEM Academy
- Interact Club
- Ignite
- National Honor Society

The Future:

University of Texas
Major: Biochemistry

Mrs. Thannisch:

Thank you for giving me a second chance. Not only did you help spark my love for learning and excelling at everything I put my mind to, but you also taught me to have hope for my future.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Kathy Thannisch

Director of Early Childhood Education

- B.S. in Elementary Education, Stephen F. Austin State University, 1982
- M. Ed., Stephen F. Austin State University, 1988
- 38 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

My philosophy of education can be summed up in a series of "I Believe" statements!

I believe:

- all students can learn.
- all students deserve their teacher's very best effort every single day.
- all students and their parents deserve a genuine relationship with their teacher.

If we believe in our students and their families and if we work hard every day, we have a lasting impact on the future because we are teachers!



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



David I. Sloan

Awards and Activities:

- Founder of Detention Street
- Student Council President
- National Honor Society
- Lufkin Varsity Tennis
- UIL Academic
- Rotary Youth Leadership Award
- Interact Club
- KYSSSED Club, Anchor Club

The Future:

University of Texas
Major: Business

Mrs. Fox:

Your influence nurtured in me an insistence to never give up and an understanding that anything is in one's reach if you are willing to work hard enough.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Christy Fox

Biology and AP Biology

- B.S. Biology, Northwestern State University
- M.A. Secondary Education, Stephen F. Austin
- M.S. Biological Science, Texas A&M University-Commerce
- 7 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

My philosophy of education is grounded on the idea that each student is unique and can learn. As the teacher it is my responsibility to continue to grow and self-reflect. My teaching style is based on holistic and metacognitive principles that is nurturing, supportive, collaborative, and engaged. It is the teacher's role to create a safe, creative, and judgement free environment to aid in student growth both academically and socially through the development of a well-rounded human beings who are grounded in integrity, innovation, service, and social justice. In my classroom, I hope that fuels inquisitiveness, critical thinking, experimentation that challenges their thinking and the status quo.



PANTHER OF PRESTIGE



Riley D. Thornton

Awards and Activities:

- GT
- STEM Academy
- Dual Language
- Co-Op
- National Honor Society
- UIL Math
- Youth Ministry Council
- Voice of Democracy Essay Contest Winner
- AP Scholar
- Superintendent's Honor Roll

The Future:

Texas A&M University
Major: Pre-Pharmacy

Mrs. Williams:

Not only is she a wonderful person, she is also a great teacher. You can tell Mrs. Williams really cares about her students, as she always takes our lives and other classes into account.

EDUCATOR OF INFLUENCE



Kathryn Williams

Chemistry Academic, Chemistry I-PreAP, Chemistry II-AP

- BS from Stephen F. Austin State University, Major in Biology, Minor in Chemistry
- 27 years in Lufkin ISD

Philosophy:

Students should have the opportunity to express themselves without fear of being told they are wrong. They should have multiple opportunities to practice their work without punishing them if they make mistakes. Explaining to them their mistakes, gives them the opportunity to learn from their mistakes. This is what learning is all about.





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