

City of St. Charles School District
400 N. Sixth St.
St. Charles, Mo. 63301
Contact: Chris Bennett
publicrelations@stcharlessd.org
Phone: (636)443-4566



City of St. Charles School District teacher named St. Louis Regional Teacher of the Year

For Immediate Release

ST. CHARLES, Mo. (July 26, 2016) - The City of St. Charles School District is pleased to announce that Leah Messina, an 8th grade English Language Arts teacher at Hardin Middle School, has been named as a St. Louis Regional Teacher of the Year, a division of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education State Teacher of the Year program. Messina is one of nine area teachers to receive this distinction.

“Being chosen as the Regional Teacher of the Year is a prestigious honor and one that I hold in high regard. To be nominated by a colleague and chosen by fellow educators for this position is truly amazing,” Messina said. “I can’t begin to describe the full enormity of this honor and the impact it will have on me as I strive to become a better educator.”

A Lindenwood University alumna who’s currently working on her doctoral dissertation, Messina is going into her tenth year of teaching, spending the last four years with the district. In addition to the Regional Teacher of the Year award, Messina was named one of the district’s Outstanding Teachers of the Year back in March.

“We’ve always known that Leah is a wonderful teacher, so it’s nice to see her rewarded for her dedication and excellence,” said Dr. Jeff Marion, district superintendent.

For Messina, knowing that she’s able to make a difference in teachers’ lives, as well as students’, is the greatest reward.

“Hearing that I made a colleague want to be better was incredible to say the least. I would consider this my greatest achievement because it not only impacted the colleague and myself, but it will impact countless students in the future,” Messina said.

As Regional Teacher of the Year, Messina will have the opportunity to compete for Missouri Teacher of the Year for 2016-17. The Missouri Teacher of the Year will be announced in August 2016 and will be honored at a ceremony in Jefferson City in October 2016.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education conducts the Missouri Teacher of the Year program with financial support provided by the Boeing Company and the Monsanto Fund.

###