

Our Lake Region Union Elementary/Middle School Teacher of the Year Awardee is LINDSAY DAVIS from the Brownington Central School:



Lindsay Davis began her career in OCSU in 2010 as the middle level Science teacher at Irasburg Village School, and from the very beginning she has been a strong leader and consistent source of support for her students and fellow teachers. In addition to demonstrating her skills as a progressive, student-centered educator, Lindsay has taken on a wide range of responsibilities to help OCSU move forward, grow, and improve.

She has helped lead the work that clearly articulated our district-wide Science curriculum, facilitated for her professional learning community, served on many committees, and always offered support to her fellow teachers in any way that she can.

Over the past year, Lindsay's dedication and willingness to serve was extraordinarily demonstrated as she navigated a wide range of changes in her position. When the IVS middle school was relocated to other buildings, she was left without the teaching position she had served in for over a decade. Without hesitation, Lindsay stepped up to offer her skills, expertise, and support to teachers across OCSU in a coaching role. Her guidance for new teachers, as well as those who were seeking to shift their practice, was absolutely invaluable. Then, shortly after settling into her coaching position, she was again asked to pivot and take on another position in order to help the district, its staff, and its students. Though teaching middle level Math was a new adventure for her, Lindsay's vast knowledge and experience allowed her to seamlessly take on this role and continue to offer an education of the highest quality to her students. As she returns to the

Science classroom this Fall at Brownington Central School, I have no doubt that her list of accomplishments as an educator and leader will only continue to grow.

For all of these reasons, and many, many more, we wish to thank her for everything she has done, and will continue to do, to lead OCSU into a bright future.

Our Lake Region Union High School School Teacher of the Year is Awardee is ADRIENNE D'OLYMPIO:



Adrienne D'Olimpio is an energetic, talented teacher who challenges students to be their best, ensuring that her classes are rigorous while infusing play and joy into her classroom, engaging students and giving them opportunities to stretch and explore. Students benefit from her skill, enthusiasm and hard work, as do her colleagues, who respect her both for setting a high bar for her students and for helping students find ways to exceed expectations.

Adrienne's energetic approach to teaching supports students in engaging in Spanish even on the dreariest days. She infuses art and music into her classes, finds silly video clips to support study of the most challenging vocabulary, and provides students with layers of practice that set them up for success. Adrienne also incorporates technology smoothly, introducing students to such tools as Gimkit, Kahoot, Nearpod, Flipgrid, EDpuzzle, and StoryBoard That. Having introduced students to these tools, she shares

them with teachers, too, modeling lessons and encouraging her peers to embrace new instructional strategies.

While these showy engagement tools are compelling, and students enjoy them, the core of Adrienne's approach to teaching is also solid. Students know what they have to do and how to begin even the most onerous tasks. Adrienne tracks their progress carefully. When students struggle with new material, Adrienne tweaks lessons on the fly, adjusting in response to students' needs to ensure they meet targets and allowing them to move forward well prepared for the next challenge. She is clear and patient, tough but also friendly. Her students know she cares about them. They care about her in return.

While her classroom is a bright, lively and inviting environment, Adrienne is also well known for extending learning beyond the classroom walls. Students design and prepare meals together, publish their written work in Spanish, and participate in the Symbolic Butterfly Migration Project. They collect school supplies for schools in Mexico and video conference with their Spanish-speaking peers in Central America. For thirty years Adrienne has traveled to Mexico with student groups from the Northeast Kingdom, creating opportunities for students to practice their Spanish and study the history and culture of the Yucatan peninsula. Students learn the Maya number system and several phrases in Maya, explore the largest barrier reef in this hemisphere, and swim in cenotes. They fend for themselves in a new environment, developing independence while building community.

Outside of Lake Region, Adrienne serves an important role as the coordinator of OCSU's Mentoring Program, supporting teachers new to OCSU in settling in and learning their way around their own classrooms and our system. Adrienne has been busy breathing new life into this

program, sharing her skills with new recruits who benefit both from her knowledge of classroom management and unit design and from her commitment to modeling the instructional practices that have the most significant impact on student learning. This commitment will serve OCSU's students well for years to come, and Adrienne has involved a large number of veteran teachers in Mentoring new teachers, too, producing a cadre of thoughtful, reflective instructional coaches and leaders committed to improving classroom experiences and educational outcomes for students.