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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**WRHS Dr. Cassie Rape Named *Gifted Teacher of the Year***



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Dr. Cassie Rape, gifted education teacher at Warner Robins High School, was announced as the 2008-2009 Gervaise Wynn Perdue Gifted Teacher of the Year at the December Board of Education meeting. Rape was presented with cash awards and gifts valued at approximately \$800.

The Houston County Association for Gifted Children (HCAGC) presented her with \$555. Gifts worth more than \$245 were contributed by Ascension Design Group, Belk Matthews, Books are Fun, Longhorn Steakhouse and Priester's Pecans.

Rape has been teaching in Houston County for more than 10 ten years, with eight years at Houston County High and over two years at Warner Robins High. For six years she has worked in gifted education classes. She was nominated for the award by Steve Monday, principal of Warner Robins High School. Monday stated, "Her exemplary teaching is evidenced by the success of her students. She excels in providing innovative and challenging lessons that kindle the incisive mind of the gifted learner. She is not satisfied with mediocrity. She raises the bar in her classroom by constantly expecting only the best from her students."

On her application, Dr. Rape wrote, "Being a gifted mathematics teacher is an honor. It is an honor to be able to show mathematical harmony interwoven into our world to children who can hear the music of mathematics and can understand. It is beneficial to society because these bright children are the same ones who will build, shape, cure, and, of course, teach our future generations."

Former student Tracy Lee, Houston County High Class of 2002, Georgia Institute of Technology Class of 2005, and Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine Class of 2009, wrote, "In the classroom she is not afraid to use innovative techniques to teach... Other examples of unique tracing methods include math café and karaoke and geometry logic for gifted children using Monty Python and the Holy Grail."

MORE

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Dr. Rape has won many awards, to include the Department of Education Video Instructor for effective integration of technology in the classroom in 2004. She was also recognized in 2004 as a Disney Hand Teacher Award, named a top 100 national finalist out of 150,000 nominees.

The Gifted Teacher of the Year must demonstrate commitment to teaching gifted students, serve as an advocate for gifted education and demonstrate evidence of leadership within the school and district. Publication of original research or articles is also highlighted. Dr. Rape published an article for Columbus State University's Education magazine in 2002 that discussed the idea of treating the classroom as a collection of individuals and how lessons and projects come with choices that differentiated by student interest.

As the Houston County Gifted Teacher of the Year, Rape will automatically be nominated for the state-level award. Nominees must be:

- a member of HCAGC and the Georgia Association for Gifted Children (GAGC);
- a gifted program teacher for at least two years;
- presently teaching gifted students at least two periods of the school day; and, if selected,
- agree to attend the GAGC annual conference as a representative of Houston County.

Past Gifted Teacher of the Year winners include Sandy Gamboa (2007), Scott Daniel (2006), Jan Kirchoff (2005), Janine Davis (2004) and Peggy McCall (2003). Daniel and McCall were also named the Georgia Gifted Teacher of the Year.

Rape may be contacted by e-mail at [cassie.rape@hcbe.net](mailto:cassie.rape@hcbe.net). Jan Jacobsen serves as director of gifted education and Advanced Placement programs. She may be contacted at either [jan.jacobsen@hcbe.net](mailto:jan.jacobsen@hcbe.net) or (478) 988-6200, ext. 10393.

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