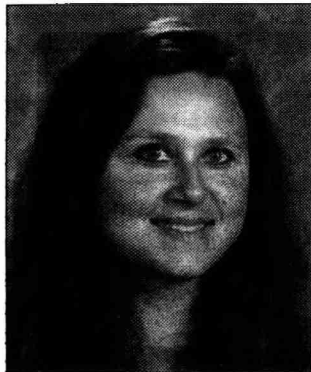


## Cherity Hunt Whitesburg Elementary



Cherity Hunt is Whitesburg Elementary's Teacher of the year.

Of her 10-year tenure, she has taught first grade at Whitesburg for five years. She is serving her second year as the school's Learning. Previously she taught kindergarten and fourth grade.

As Whitesburg's Learning Leader, she collaborates with the faculty of her school, and her goal is to promote and encourage the professional learning community at my school. "I attend monthly meetings at Central Office where we are educated and encouraged in a variety of ways to promote meaningful PLCs at our schools," she said.

She brings that information along with any resources available back to the teachers at our school. "During

this process, I have seen our school pull together more and work closer together for the benefit of our students.

As a whole school community, we are sharing the same vision and goals. We have ideas for continued growth and ways to strengthen how we teach our students."

Hunt earned her bachelor's degree from Tusculum College, and her master's degree from Western Governor's University.

Hunt begins each school year making it a priority to gather as much information as she can about each one of her students. "I use a variety of methods to gather this information," she explains. "I send home a parent questionnaire, and I incorporate many opportunities within the first few weeks of school to have meaningful conversation with my students."

Her goal is to know what they like and dislike, what their home life is like, etc. "Other valuable information is gathered to determine where my students are academically," she said. "This information is important to me so that I can begin customizing lessons that will appeal to their individual needs. I pay attention to their behavior both verbal and nonverbal during different times of the day. How they interact with

others also gives me insight on what type of personality they have and how to help them become more comfortable at school as they engage in learning."

She strives to differentiate activities and lessons to reach all her learners at their personal learning need. "I have seen this be effective across each subject area," she said, adding, "I feel this makes them feel less nervous and left out which in turn makes them comfortable in their learning environment and lends towards personal and academic growth."

To ensure that education goes beyond the classroom and to make connections with her students, Hunt tries to attend ballgames that her students play in or if they invite her to important events such as Baptisms or plays. "When they are sick and absent from school, I call to check on them and have visited some in the hospital," she said.

"Students are always excited to see their teachers in the community," Hunt mentioned. "I have noticed over the years that the personal connection that this creates shows up in the classroom in the form of a deeper bond and relationship which lends towards an even better learning environment for them."

