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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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JESSICA MAURER - BUCHANAN ELEMENTARY TEACHER PRESENTED 2023 SHAPE MICHIGAN ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR



BUCHANAN, MI - Buchanan Community Schools is delighted to announce Buchanan Community Schools Elementary Physical Education Teacher, Jessica Maurer, has been awarded the Elementary Physical Educator of the Year 2023 by SHAPE Michigan for the State.

The criterion for this award requires a strong commitment to excellence. Jessica Maurer was presented the award during the Recognition Ceremony that took place during the SHAPE-MI Professional Recognition Reception on Thursday, November 2nd in Lansing, MI.

Mrs. Maurer has introduced exciting and engaging activities to Ottawa and Moccasin Elementary School students in grades kindergarten through fourth grade. Jessica has sought numerous grant opportunities to provide students with unique experiences. Some of her accomplishments include receiving grants for rock climbing walls in both elementary buildings, the "All Kids Bike" program for kindergarteners, and roller skating for 2nd-4th grades. Her bowling unit not only teaches the game, but incorporates math skills while

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keeping score. Additionally, each year Jessica organizes the Kids Heart Challenge at Moccasin where students learn about heart healthy choices. Moccasin raised over \$3400 last year to the American Heart Association. Jessica believes that the best physical activities to teach students are ones that can be used for a lifetime, way beyond their elementary years, and promoting the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Superintendent Patricia Robinson, Ottawa Elementary Principal Stacey Denison and Moccasin Elementary Principal Michael Babcock unanimously agree, "We are proud to have Mrs. Maurer as a beacon of inspiration, shaping the future of physical education and well-being in our schools. Her unwavering commitment to excellence, innovative teaching methods, and dedication to the 'All Kids Bike' program exemplify her passion for fostering a healthy and active lifestyle among our students. Her recognition by SHAPE Michigan is a testament to the impact she has made, and we celebrate this well-deserved achievement with immense pride and gratitude."



Jessica Maurer is the 2nd from the left.