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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 14, 2024



ERIN KRATKY OF BUCHANAN MIDDLE SCHOOL RECEIVES 2024 MACUL INNOVATIVE TEACHER AWARD

BUCHANAN, MI - Buchanan Community Schools proudly announces that Erin Kratky, Technology Teacher at Buchanan Middle School, has been honored with the 2024 MACUL Innovative Teacher Award by the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL), a leading non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the effective use of educational technology. Mrs. Kratky was recognized for her exemplary work on March 14 during the MACUL conference held in Grand Rapids, a premier event for educators and technology enthusiasts to explore the latest advancements and best practices in educational technology.

Erin Kratky's passion for teaching and commitment to innovation in a resource-limited and outdated computer lab have earned her the prestigious MACUL Innovative Teacher Award. The Awards Committee recognized Mrs. Kratky as an exemplary middle school technology teacher whose enthusiasm has significantly impacted her students.

Mrs. Kratky's classroom is a hub of technological creativity, where she actively embraces new technologies such as Spheros and VR headsets, incorporating them seamlessly into her curriculum. Her innovative teaching



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approach fosters an environment where students are not just taught but encouraged to experiment, develop their skills, and prepare for future opportunities.

The MACUL organization, established in 1975, aims to support and lead the effective use of educational technology in the education community. The Innovative Teacher Award is bestowed upon a PK-12 classroom teacher who effectively integrates technology to enhance teaching and learning in a Michigan classroom.

“Since joining Buchanan Middle School, Mrs. Kratky has transformed the educational experience for her students. Beyond traditional typing and Microsoft Office Skills, her curriculum includes engaging activities such as using Canva for creative projects and collaborating with English teachers to teach proper research and citation methods. Students particularly enjoy coding with Sphero robots, creating stop-motion videos with StikBot Studio 2.0, and exploring diverse careers and global locations through VR headsets. Her dedication to providing an enriching and technologically advanced educational experience, even in the face of limited resources, is truly commendable. Mrs. Kratky’s innovative approach aligns seamlessly with our commitment to fostering a passion for learning at Buchanan Middle School,” Superintendent Patricia Robinson and Buchanan Middle School Principal Shelby Beasley.

Buchanan Community Schools congratulates Erin Kratky on this well-deserved recognition and applauds her dedication to fostering innovation in education. We are proud to have her as a valuable member of our team, shaping the future of our students through her unwavering commitment to excellence.