

Palmer Elementary Teacher of the Year: Tama Garrison

I am the daughter of two educators and although I didn't appreciate it during high school, looking back, I love that my parents were on campus. I graduated from Alvarado High School with my dad as my high school counselor! I attended Baylor University for two years, met the love of my



life, Brian Garrison, at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes camp in Abilene, Texas. We married in May of 1993 and graduated from Sam Houston State University on Mother's Day 1995 with degrees in education. Our son, Caleb, is studying Digital Media Arts @ SAGU and our daughter, Emma, is a student athletic trainer, runs hurdles and triple jumps for Midlothian High School. Both begin their senior years this fall. The 2019-2020 school year ended my 21st year in public education. I have taught various grade levels in several districts including Head Start, Pre-K, kindergarten, first, and fourth grades and have loved every second. Family is my love language and learning from my class family year after year not only keeps me current in trends but allows me to invest in my students' lives and that spills over into their family life. Our classroom is a safe place to learn and be yourself with respect given and trust earned by each member.

I am humbled by this award and know that it is due to the love, encouragement, camaraderie, collaboration, and prayers of my colleagues who share life with me in the trenches of this mission field. Allyson King, and McCain Bodie ensure daily that teachers are able to make the most of every moment by fiercely providing for, protecting, and participating in each classroom. Their example of servant leadership influences the family atmosphere at Palmer Elementary School and makes it a place where students are challenged to become incredible participants in not only education but life as well.

**Palmer Elementary Paraprofessional of the Year:
Hayley Thursby**



My name is Haley Thursby. I recently got married in March and have a two year old son named Camden. I've been at Palmer ISD for most of my life as a student and a paraprofessional. I have loved getting to know all of the teachers and students at Palmer Elementary. I can't wait to get back to school to see all of their smiling faces!