

Middle School Teacher of the Year: Katie Holmes

After receiving her teaching degree in North Carolina, Katie has taught and worked with children for 30+ years in the private and public school settings; as well as with a non-profit organization that benefited young people. She has a heart to help kids and thoroughly enjoys teaching and being in the classroom.



Four years ago, Katie chose to leave her teaching position in a local private school, and subsequently found what she considered to be a perfect fit for her family here at Palmer ISD. After a great start with the wonderful staff at the middle school, her own children, Garrett and Alex, are now concluding their 9th and 10th grade years at Palmer High School. Katie, her husband, Richard, along with their 2 children, share their home and property with 2 horses, 3 dogs, 1 cat, 1 cockatiel, and 1 hedgehog named Lily, who thoroughly enjoyed her visit to Mrs. Holmes' 7th grade reading class this school year.

When not in the classroom, Katie enjoys watching her husband compete in team-roping and hanging out with their children and friends. She and her two teenagers love to kayak, play in the creek, and do indoor rock climbing.

Katie says her main goal in the classroom is to enjoy what she does everyday, and that was absolutely true for her this school year! When promoting this kind of positive attitude in the class, she feels it brings her closer to helping students enjoy learning and with that they grow in knowledge and in character. Although knowledge is certainly the goal, Katie makes sure her classroom is also a safe place where students know they are valued not just for what they know but for who they are.

**Middle School Paraprofessional of the Year:
Cassie Nigo**



Cassie Nigo just moved into the town this past year with her family, and they love being a part of the Palmer community. Her husband is a firefighter for the city of Dallas, and her son is 2 1/2 years old. They have 2 dogs (Marley & Sweetness). They really enjoy going on hikes, attending sporting events, and spending quality time with family. :) Cassie loves art and it has always been a big part of her life. She has thoroughly enjoyed sharing it with her students this year!