

2006 HONOREE

Angela Chapman

Sleepy Hill Middle School, Lakeland, FL
Middle School Science Education • 7th Grade



Years Teaching: 14

Average Class Size: 23

Classes Taught Per Day: N/A

School's % of ESL Students: 12%

School Type: Public, County

Type of Class: Teams

“Because of a very diverse population, my students bring a range of personal and academic experiences to the classroom. Typically, I have gifted, regular education, special needs, and ESOL students in one class. While we regularly read about scientists from different ethnic backgrounds, I have also responded by creating a classroom that often changes its appearance to incorporate as many learning styles as possible. One time, my classroom became a crime scene – complete with a ‘victim’ lying in a pool of blood waiting to be discovered by the rest of the class. Later, it was transformed into an archaeology field dig. My goal is to reach every child. Regardless of the mandates, I consider it a privilege to facilitate children in the process of discovery. While I hold fast to the principle that I will not sacrifice learning for the sake of higher standardized test scores, I believe that accountability and learning can co-exist. Activities and lesson plans that will engage students in the learning process are centered around the curriculum I am expected to teach, as well as around what the students and myself will be held accountable for. By engaging students in activities that are fun and personally relevant, their likelihood of success increases.”

“The best learning environment actively engages students in inquiry based learning that is relevant to daily life. I want every student in my class to feel as excited about learning science as I am,



but also to feel safe asking questions and to have the confidence to discover at their own pace. I read that students learn 10 percent of what they read, 20 percent of what they hear, 30 percent of what they see, 50 percent of what they see and hear, 60 percent of what they write, 70 percent of what they discuss, 80 percent of what they experience, and 95 percent of what they teach.”

“When I think about Mrs. Chapman, the three words that come to mind are driven, creative, and passionate. It is not enough that Mrs. Chapman has set up an atmosphere of scientific learning within her classroom – she wants her students to develop this same sense of passion and love for science that she has. It is no surprise that her students consistently score higher than other 7th graders. To motivate your students and give relevance to your subject is the mark of a great teacher and Angela Chapman is just that...a great teacher.”

— Lee Brackman, principal,
Sleepy Hill Middle School

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Teacher of the Year - Sleepy Hill Middle School (2005) • Grant Recipient - Florida Association of Science Teachers (2005) • Grant Recipient - Polk Education Foundation Teacher to Teacher Developer (2005)