

Disney
Teacher Awards
 CELEBRATING CREATIVITY IN TEACHING

2006 HONOREE

Amanda S. Mayeaux, Kathryn Lynn Pilcher & Monique D. Wild

Dutchtown Middle School, Geismar, LA
 Interdisciplinary Team • 8th Grade



AMANDA MAYEAUX
 Years Teaching: 14
 Average Class Size: 22
 Classes Taught Per Day: 4
 School's % of ESL Students: 1%
 School Type: Public, Suburban
 Type of Class: Inclusion-teams



KATHRYN PILCHER
 Years Teaching: 2
 Average Class Size: 22
 Classes Taught Per Day: 4
 School's % of ESL Students: 1%
 School Type: Public, Suburban
 Type of Class: Inclusion-teams



MONIQUE WILD
 Years Teaching: 15
 Average Class Size: 22
 Classes Taught Per Day: 4
 School's % of ESL Students: 1%
 School Type: Public, Suburban
 Type of Class: Inclusion-teams

“Our firmly held beliefs about education are guided by the individuality of our students and our ultimate goal of creating life-long learners as we focus their learning styles to mold well-informed, thoughtful citizens who will benefit our world. Our students will impact our world and they should start now. We firmly believe that school does not begin and end with the school day or the school calendar. We begin contacting our students the year before they become our students. We send them postcards from our summer vacations, and we communicate with them beyond school hours. We firmly believe in a student-centered environment where all children feel safe and loved. We believe that teaching students to take risks provides them with a desire to succeed. We believe learning should involve activities that extend beyond the confines of our classrooms. We believe students must be actively engaged at all times so that they take ownership and pride in class activities. We believe that parents are an essential element of the learning equation. Finally, we believe that learning is a lifelong endeavor, and we are absolutely certain that every child we teach will make a difference in the world.”

“Our team approach has improved our students’ learning by changing their attitudes toward school. One student refused to go fishing with his father because he

did not want to miss school. Another has ceased crying when getting on the bus and now willingly comes to class. Our students, many of whom had their desks in the disciplinarian’s office last year, have rarely visited the office this year. Our team approach has also improved our teaching ability. We continuously critique our own methods and search out strategies that reach our students and help them to overcome their academic barriers.”

“These ladies are perfect examples of teachers who practice not only innovative techniques and strategies, but make creative choices daily in their lessons in order to reach their students and meet their needs. In addition, their students have developed pride in their accomplishments and achievements. Instead of low self-esteem, these students now know they can be successful. Just as Mickey Mouse always has a big smile on his face and always sees the very best in everyone, so do Monique Wild, Amanda Mayeaux, and Kathryn Pilcher.”

– Susan N. Jordan, assistant principal,
 Dutchtown Middle School

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Amanda S. Mayeaux: Milken Family Foundation Educator (2003) • National Middle School Teams that Make a Difference Award (2001)

Kathryn Pilcher: Member, Council for Exceptional Children • Teacher of the Year finalist (2004-2005 and 2005-2006)

Monique D. Wild: National Middle School Teams that Make a Difference Award (2001) • Dutchtown Middle School Teacher of the Year (1998) • Ascension Parish Teacher of the Year (1998) • Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers (Multiple Years)