

2006 HONOREE

Megan Sexton

Frederick A. Breyer School, Cincinnati, OH
Special Needs Education • K-12th Grade



Years Teaching: 8

Average Class Size: 8

Classes Taught Per Day: 4

School's % of ESL Students: N/A

School Type: Public, County

Type of Class: Teams

“As a teacher and advocate for people with severe physical and developmental disabilities, I feel it is my opportunity and my responsibility to provide as many real-life experiences for my students as possible; therefore my classroom transforms into a different street, climate, or even a figment of someone’s imagination each day of the school year. For many of my students, accessing things in their community, their homes, and even on the table in front of them may be strictly limited by their disabilities, so I am compelled to present these experiences in exaggerated yet personalized ways each day. I firmly and passionately believe that each person has the right to experience the magical and uncommon experiences that many of us take for granted. I consider it mandatory that my students try things like the taste of exotic spices of Indian food, the magical sound of the voice and poetry of Maya Angelou, the spins and energy of Irish dancing, the rush of amusement park rides, the excitement of sitting at the stadium during the bottom of the ninth at a baseball game, or even just the simple yet marvelous feeling of meeting a friend for the first time.”

“I commit myself each day to bringing out into the open what is wonderful and attractive about each of these individuals. Ultimately, my philosophy of both teaching and my own daily living is that we determine our individual fulfillment and life experience by making



choices, but we can only begin to make those choices if we know our preferences and have experienced all our options. I get the amazing opportunity of sharing what makes so many students, staff, families, and even myself happy and motivated to interact every single day.”

“To make school challenging, relevant, and meaningful for children who fall out of range in functioning and ability, it takes out-of-the-box thinking fired by passion, love, and devotion for this unique group of special needs children, which is why Ms. Megan Sexton is such a special teacher. Ms. Sexton’s in-school and extra-curricular multi-sensory-based activities always focus on confidence-building, self-determination, and provide dignity. For her innovations, love and devotion, and amazing ability to rally the support of the school and local community, Megan Sexton is one in a million.”

– Donna Saul,
parent of current student

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

PTA Educator of the Year - Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation/
Developmental Disabilities (2005-2006) • Hamilton County Joanne
Schreiner Outstanding Achievement Team Effort Award (2003)