

2006 HONOREE

## Beverly McDavid

Elliott County High, Sandy Hook, KY  
Middle School Science Education • 7th Grade



**Years Teaching:** 7

**Average Class Size:** 23

**Classes Taught Per Day:** 6

**School's % of ESL Students:** 0%

**School Type:** Public, Rural

**Type of Class:** Inclusion

“Teachers need to be more aware of each of their students’ needs. How can we expect students to function in the classroom and learn the topics being presented if they are trying to deal with difficult situations in their lives? I see how important it is to know each individual student as well as possible. For example, if a student hesitates to take part in a learning activity, by knowing this student individually, I can infer potential explanations: the student may be shy and unassertive; he or she may have trouble with the mathematics of the activity; or the student may have problems at home that he or she is having trouble dealing with. These inferences can help me address the individual situation and come up with individual strategies to solve the problems.”

“Teaching is more than covering content. Learning is more than merely taking in. Assessment is more than accurate recall. I believe that no matter what curriculum is to be covered, the most important issue is the way the material is presented. Students are more likely to gain understanding of the topic when they link new information to prior knowledge, relate facts to ‘big ideas,’ explore essential questions, and apply their learning. Students learn best by doing and then having adequate time to reflect on what they have done to bring together their findings with their previous picture of the world.”



“Mrs. McDavid is the epitome of a dedicated, creative educator. Her students designed and built a wetland area and are in the process of designing a bird-friendly habitat. These learning opportunities are different from those presented by other teachers because of the degree of enthusiasm expressed by Mrs. McDavid for the subject matter. In her classroom, the excitement that she feels about the activities that she plans is evident, as well as contagious. Her students have an ‘I can do it’ attitude that carries over to other classrooms.”

– John C. Williams, superintendent,  
Elliott County Schools

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Kentucky Teacher Achievement Award (2006) • National Board for Professional Teaching Standards/Early Adolescence Science Certification (2004) • Environmental Educator of the Year - Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (2003) • Best Outdoor Classroom - Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife (2002)