



Agriscience
Teacher
of the
Year

Molly Kappers

Rochester

"I believe that a complete agriscience education program successfully integrates all three circles of the three-circle model of agriculture education: classroom, FFA, and SAE. Student centered, hands-on, inquiry based learning are the driving methods behind my teaching philosophy."

Overview

- Program is based out of two locations: John Marshall High School and the Career and Technical Education Center at Heintz (CTECH).
- Rochester has 1 Agriscience teacher, 1 agriculture manufacturing teacher, and serves about 200 students.
- Classes offer many options to obtain high school science credits and articulated college credits.

Experiential Learning

- CASE students must spend ten hours outside the classroom in an ag. experience program where they explore careers, research agri-science ideas, create their agricultural business, or work an ag-related job.
- Molly hopes to empower students to take learning into their own hands and is adding more inquiry based learning to her lessons. Her goal is to help students relate to what they are learning and to encourage them to ask questions. The scientific method has become a big part of her agriscience classroom, as well as in other classes.
- Veterinary Science students are required to do ten extra hours of job shadow/internship hours with a local vet.

Professional Growth

- CASE certified in Intro to AFNR, Animal Science, and Plant Science.
- Attended the Agri-Science Inquiry Institute in MN.
- Attends local events such as the Mayo Clinic Mobile Science Lab training.
- Completed her Master's Degree through the University of Minnesota.

FFA Highlights

- 100% membership through affiliate membership.
- Has students who have competed in the Agri-Science Fair and won at the state level and competed at the National Agri-Science Fair.
- Students have participated in the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute at the state and national levels.

Partnerships

- Collaborates with science teachers in her building to find out how they taught similar concepts, share equipment and resources, improve labs, and to tie the lessons from all classes together.
- Partners with Rochester Community and Technical College, Sargents Nursery and Landscaping, and with local veterinary clinics in the CTECH building and programming.
- Works with the local Soil and Water Conservation District to discuss soil health and be exposed to soil scientists and other ag professionals.

"Ever since she entered the agriculture education profession, Molly has prioritized science based instruction in agriculture. She is continually seeking ways to innovate, enhance, and ensure student success in agri-science education." – Dr. Amy Smith

2017 MAAAE Award Winner

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