Outstanding Early Career Teacher

Becky Cronk
St. James High School

“I believe that my purpose as a teacher is to provide opportunities for students, the opportunity to learn, the opportunity to try something new and the opportunity to be heard.”

Overview
- Becky is fortunate to have 230 students grades 6-8 and 175 high school students through the agriculture education program in a year
- St. James runs on a trimester schedule with six classes offered each tri
- Becky serves a diverse population of students which gives her the opportunity to immerse into a ELL setting and create bilingual instruction
- Becky focuses her time and energy to create engaging and inquiry based instruction

Experiential Learning
- Becky has created an SAE choice board that allows students up to 14 different ways to completed their SAE project, with 10 hours of exper-
ence learning outside of the classroom
- Becky employs 2 students to work in the garden to manage and
harvest food for the summer lunch program
- Becky incorporates and Agriscience project for all of her 8th graders

Professional Growth
- Becky has been an active member of MAAE and attends many of the conferences and professional development workshops provided
- Becky has chaired regional level contests, participated in the I3 re-
treats, DELTA and XLR8 at the state level and attended TTK at NAAE
- Becky created the State Wide Winter Wellness Challenge for Minnesota Ag Teachers

FFA Highlights
- This past year the St. James FFA Program has 60 FFA Members
- St. James also had 6 CDE Teams qualified for the State FFA Convention and a very successful Trap Shooting team, finishing 3rd Place at State
- St. James FFA gives back to the community by adopting a road ditch, shopping for Christmas Gifts and conducting a corn drive that gives back to True Friends, St. James Fire department and EMS

Partnerships
- Becky has started an affiliated alumni chapter that started up in 2022
- Becky has partnered her classes with a District 840 Foundation in which the class provides silent auction items
- Becky has numerous community partnerships that assist the program such as, Watonwan County Corn and Soybean Producers, Taher Foods, St. James Plaindealer, and numerous area hog producers

“Ms. Cronk is a highly valued member of our school community, she is honest, dependable and incredibly hard-working and is always working to improve our school and FFA Program”
~ Mike Fugazzi—St. James Middle/High School Principal

2022 MAAE Award Winner

Banners donated by the Minnesota Farmers Union