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## Corbin makes award-winning difference in the classroom

ANDREW CRITCHELOW The News-Enterprise

Aug 26, 2020



Corbin recently received a Teachers Who Made a Difference award from the University of Kentucky College of Education.

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Elementary Sc

Dawn Corbin has demonstrated an award-winning passion for the students she serves at Morningside Elementary.

An Emotional Behavior Disorder teacher at the school, Corbin was a recipient of the University of Kentucky College of Education's Teachers Who Made a Difference award this year.

Amelia Abell, a special education teacher at Morningside, nominated Corbin for the award. She said Corbin makes a clear and lasting impact on her students.

“Kids in middle school that she has served come down and see her still,” she said. “...They’re so thankful that she’d been able to make a difference in their lives.”

A resident of Green County, Corbin holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Western Kentucky University and holds a master’s degree in special education from Campbellsville University.

After graduating from WKU, Corbin said she initially wanted to pursue a career serving juveniles with behavioral issues. She said upon learning about the role of Emotional Behavior Disorder teachers, she applied to earn her master’s degree.

After earning her master’s in 2007, Corbin was hired by Elizabethtown Independent Schools for a part-time position at T.K. Stone Middle School. A few weeks later, she was offered a full-time position at Morningside, where she has worked ever since.

Corbin said one of the most rewarding aspects of her job is witnessing the progress students make throughout the school year.

“I fall head over heels for them every year,” she said.

In addition to her role as an EBD teacher, Corbin also operates the Positive Approach to Student Success program at Morningside and serves on the school’s Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports committee.

Corbin also serves as a co-sponsor for the Friends Club at Morningside. Open only to fifth-grade students, members of the club interact with special needs students at the school.

Club members engage with their special needs peers by eating lunch with them, joining them for recess, helping them with school assignments and more. Club members make crafts for special needs students, and school counselors talk to club members about topics such as positive relationships and bullying.

“It’s created more of an acceptance of our low-incidence kids, more of an understanding of those who are non-verbal,” Corbin said.

On the district level, Corbin serves as the EBD lead, mentoring fellow EBD teachers within the Elizabethtown Independent School district. She said she also recently accepted a spot on a new district committee that addresses disproportionality in special education discipline.

Corbin is one of three Safe Crisis Management trainers in the district, instructing others on deescalation tactics during crisis situations when dealing with EBD students.

Throughout her tenure at Morningside, Corbin said she has built many positive relationships with teachers at the school. She said because of these relationships, teachers now feel more prepared to work with EBD students in the classroom.

Corbin said these positive relationships, along with her passion for her students, has kept her at Morningside over the years.

“I don’t think I would ever leave unless I felt like God was telling me I have to,” she said. “I love my school family.”

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