

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 23, 2018

Rachel Duchac named 2018 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Middle School Teacher

Rachel Duchac was selected to receive Lutheran Education Association's 2018 Distinguished Lutheran Middle School Teacher award. She currently teaches sixth grade homeroom, 5-8 grade science, technology, and S.T.E.M. classes. She is also the technology coordinator and athletic director at St. John's Lutheran School in Racine, Wis. She was selected by LEA's Middle School Teachers Network leadership team.

Mrs. Duchac has a Lutheran Teacher Education degree from Concordia University, Chicago, as well as a B.S. in Secondary Education and an M.A. in Educational Technology, also from Concordia University, Chicago.

One parent, in support of Rachel's nomination, said, "Rachel has a teaching style that fits the fast-paced thinking of students so often preoccupied with mobile devices. Rachel Duchac has a firm, fair, and friendly approach that offers a stability that defines expectations as well as consequences. It is Rachel's pure, unselfish, joyful heart, her sense of empathy for every child, and her willingness to meet life according to God's will that define her....Rachel is the quintessential example of God's love expressed in a Christian woman."

Rachel's principal commented, "Rachel is the rare combination of exceptional talent meeting a tireless work ethic. Her natural talent for teaching and leadership is a gift from the Triune God....This powerful combination results in what I describe as the consummate professional."

Her pastor described Rachel this way, "...she has shown a great amount of care and dedication to the work God has given her in our school....She started and organizes our annual science fair which involves all middle school students at St. John's. She also networks with other science teachers in the United States and joins in projects between classrooms by means of the internet...[and] she organizes and oversees a four-day outdoor education unit at a nearby camp."

Rachel says of herself, "It is my goal to be able to connect with each student in order to understand their needs and help them be as successful as possible in their Christian lives. It is my calling to serve the Lord as one of His teachers. I open with devotions and prayer with my students every single morning. We spend time in prayer and Christian thought throughout the day. I am always able to connect science topics to the gifts we have been given from God—and it is my favorite part about teaching science!"

Mrs. Duchac is also very active in her community including the HALO organization, which provides for the needs of the homeless and Empty Bowls, which focuses on eliminating hunger.

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