



News release
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Garfield Elementary teacher named district's Teacher of the Year

Kindergarten teacher, Alina Houser, honored by the school board June 9



Everett Public Schools names Alina Houser as the 2020 Teacher of the Year. Alina teaches kindergarten at Garfield Elementary, where she is known for her compassion, kindness and teaching from the heart.

Kathy Stillwell, principal, says "She takes care of each student ensuring they feel loved, cared for and safe. She makes sure school is the best part of their day! But what makes her special is, it is not just the student but the family as well. She reaches out and offers a kind heart, listening ear and works so hard to make sure every kindergartener has an advocate."

Mary Fischer, a Garfield parent who nominated Houser, felt Alina's care and compassion for her family after her daughter's dad passed away shortly before the 100th day of kindergarten. Fisher said, "She made sure my daughter was supported in the way my daughter wanted to be supported. She sent flowers and a genuinely heartfelt letter to our house. She checked in with me every day at drop-off. She asked permission before sharing the sad news with the class and lovingly helped my daughter's classmates create cards and write notes of love and support to my daughter before binding them together into a book." Alina is amazing at connecting with her kids and families and the care and connection she has for them is universal. Fischer adds, "Alina Houser is a treasure to the teaching profession and deserves deep respect and recognition for her dedication to her students."

As Everett Public Schools' *Teacher of the Year*, Houser is now among those being considered by this region's Educational Service District as the *Regional Teacher of the Year*. If she is selected for that honor, she would be among those considered for the honor of *State Teacher of the Year* and potentially the *National Teacher of the Year*.

Stillwell says, "She is all in ...no matter the challenge...no matter the situation...she rolls up her sleeves, works with her resources and supports and makes it happen! She worked through some incredible challenges this year and did so with grace, professionalism, and a ton of heart!"

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For more information:

[Kathy Reeves](#), Director of Communications, 425-385-4040