

# 'It's my passion'

## Q&A with Randolph County Teacher of the Year Katie Husband

**Gavin Vincent**

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Being awarded Teacher of the Year is a privilege to have earned on even the most normal school years, though the 2021 school year has been anything but. Elementary teacher Katie Husband sat down with the Courier-Tribune to discuss her award and school year at large.



**Husband**

The competition for teacher of the year included 4 other area teachers as finalists.

Husband was awarded the honor in a small ceremony in late September.

**Q: What have been some of the challenges to transitioning back to in-person school for the 20-21 school year?**

A: The biggest challenge that any teacher faces is the impact that COVID has had on students' and teachers' mental health and academic achievement. Teachers have had to completely rearrange their teaching pedagogy to meet the needs of children. This year we have the opportunity to focus more on social and emotional well being for students, which is really helping students bounce back from what they have endured since 2019. However, we are still working on the academic setback that it has caused and making sure students are successful. We will get there though, teachers and students are resilient and no matter what is thrown at us, we always overcome it.

**Q: What inspires you to teach? What are some moments this year that you can share that make the effort put into your process worth it?**

A: Teaching is the most rewarding career that anyone could ever have. You are there for the good days and the bad days. You shape children's minds and their outlook on life. The most rewarding moment this year for me personally, is the opportunity to work in an inclusive environment and seeing a child who used to be in a self-contained classroom be able to write their name successfully and transition across the school environment. The

# Husband

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kids' smiles and their moments of success take every inch of worry or doubt away.

**Q: Tell us about your career so far. What made you decide to become a teacher?**

A: This is my seventh year of teaching and my sixth year in RCSS. I have always wanted to be a teacher and loved to play teacher when I was in kindergarten with my little brother. As I got older I realized that the profession's salary is not ideal for the work and effort that teachers put in. It was then I decided to pursue a career in accounting. However, that was short-lived and I returned to college at Pfeiffer University to obtain my degree in Elementary Education. Shortly after, I attended Liberty University to obtain my masters in curriculum in special education and I am currently attending Gardner Webb University for my administration license. My hope is to one day become a principal so I can impact educators and students to be the best they can be.

**Q: What does being awarded Teacher of the Year signify for you?**

A: Honestly, I never expected it. I don't do the job I do for an award. I do it

because it is my passion and I love it. There has never been a day I dreaded coming to work. However, I am very grateful that my hard work doesn't go unnoticed and I am humbled by the opportunity to represent the wonderful things that happen at RCSS.

**Q: Has Covid-19 and its variant(s) changed anything for you in the way you approach engaging students? Has it changed how you teach?**

A: COVID has changed everything about the way I teach. It has been the most challenging obstacle in my career thus far. It has also pushed me and helped me grow as an educator. I have had the opportunity to teach hybrid and my knowledge in technology has grown leaps and bounds. But most of all, it has taught me how important it is to build relationships with families and my students. We have had to lean on each other through this time and work together as a team. As far as engaging students, I have always tried to engage my students in rigorous lessons. Now I just get the opportunity to be a Google meet star as well.

*Gavin Vincent is a storytelling and content coach with a passion for the news and social issues. Feel free to reach out regarding stories or tips to [gvincent@gannett.com](mailto:gvincent@gannett.com).*