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Local educator receives national award

Archdale teacher one of two in NC to get presidential honor

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The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics found its way to Randolph County thanks to the efforts of Archdale teacher Sarah Remery, this year's recipient of the prestigious

award.

A fourth-grade teacher at Trindale Elementary School, Remery is one of two teachers within the state to receive the Presidential Award in North Carolina this year. Nominated by a supervisor, Remery said receiving the award is an honor.

"Last week, out of nowhere, I found out I was the presidential awardee," Remery said.

"I was named as the math teacher. I really just couldn't believe it. I was honored to be a state finalist, at the very least, then to know that my lesson and

work was picked, it was a huge honor."

A Georgia native, Remery found her way to North Carolina while in pursuit of a teaching career.

"I grew up in Georgia and after I graduated there was a bit of a teaching recession," Remery said. "North Carolina schools start a little later than Georgia schools and they still had positions open. I just went on a whim and went to North Carolina for a full-time position."

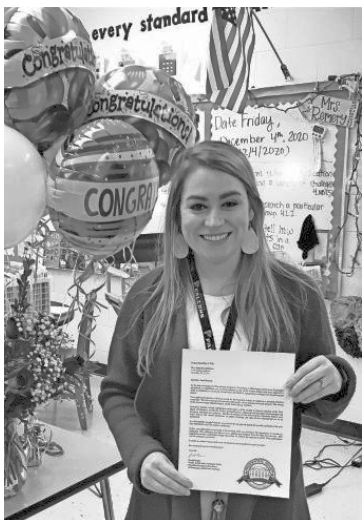
The entirety of her teaching career has focused on the fourth grade. She started in Thomasville before making the move to Randolph County.

"I don't think I realized it was going to be my new home but it has (become that)," Remery said.

While she currently works as a general instructor, there was a time when her primary focus was teaching fourth-grade math and science.

Prior to teaching and winning awards in mathematics, Remery said math was one of the subjects she found most difficult. She said the encouragement she received from multiple teachers not only gave her the confidence to succeed

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Sarah Remery recently won the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics, making her one of two teachers throughout the state to receive the honor. PROVIDED PHOTO

Award

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academically but to pursue teaching herself.

"I went to private school, at first," Remery said. "I ended up falling behind when I went to public school and I had several math teachers that really worked with me and helped to get me caught up ... and fostered my love for math. Thanks to the really good teachers that I had, I knew this was something I wanted to do for other students as well."

Harriett Gillham, was one of those teachers. Remery said Gillum not only helped her as a student, but she was also the one that suggested she start her career in North Carolina.

Gillham said she is proud, but not surprised to hear Remery was honored for her teaching.

"She was impressive from a young age," Gillham said, adding that Remery often helped her fellow classmates. "I'm not surprised that she turned out to be an outstanding teacher."

Ultimately, Remery said she wants to have the same impact on her students as Gillum had on her. She added that it's important to recognize teachers for their work.

"Teaching is that job where you have to do so much prep work," Remery said. "It's the one job that I have to make sure every portion of the job is done. To be recognized for doing a great job is a wonderful thing and I don't think teachers get a lot of recognition. If you're not in the school, if you're not in the classroom it's difficult to recognize everything the job entails."

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