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E'town teacher, native focuses on first grade

By ANDREW HARP THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE
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Morningside Elementary School teacher Victoria Lynn teaches on Wednesday in Elizabethtown. She earned the 2023 Elizabethtown Independent Schools WHAS-11 ExCEL Award presented by LG&E KU.

ANDREW HARP/The News-Enterprise

At Morningside Elementary School, first-grade teacher Victoria Lynn's students are listening and are focused, but she's also conversational with them.

For eight straight years, Lynn has taught first grade. She said she enjoys teaching that foundational level of education. She said she particularly enjoys teaching reading.

"I love it. They're such a fun age group," Lynn said.

Lynn earned the 2023 Elizabethtown Independent Schools WHAS-11 ExCEL Award presented by LG&E KU.

She is an Elizabethtown native, has been at Morningside Elementary School for three years and has been teaching for a total of nine years. She graduated from Elizabethtown High School.

"I went through the school system, so I'm happy to be back," Lynn said.

Lynn graduated from Western Kentucky University with her bachelor's in elementary education. Afterwards, she moved to Hopkinsville where she taught for six years. While there, she earned her master's degree in teaching at Murray State University.

After she and her husband, who is a social studies teacher at T.K. Stone Middle School, had their child, they wanted to move to Elizabethtown for the school system there.

"I knew how good the school system was here," she said. "I knew that it prepared me for college. I knew that it helped me become successful ... and I wanted the same thing for my child."

Lynn said she found out about the award while her mother was substituting at the school and was one of the people that came to give Lynn the news.

She said that, regarding the \$1,000 prize, she plans on possibly using it to purchase STEM bins that have different items in them for the students to use to solve problems and build structures during transitional moments of the school day.

"Just making the most out of every moment," she said.

Her approach to teaching is that students should feel they are in a safe place before the teaching can even begin. She said she makes sure to let them know that she cares about them, and ensures that they have their essential and emotional needs taken care of.

"That's my most important thing," she said. "When they walk out of here and they know it's a safe place and that they're loved."

Lynn said she plans on graduating with her administration degree from WKU in December. She said she loves the district, and wants to work possibly work in administration if possible. Recently, she said she was part of the committee that put together the district's new strategic plan.

"I'm very proud of our districts and how hard we're working," she said.

Ultimately, Lynn said she cares about her students, and that it's all about them.

"They have worked so hard so it's just as much a victory for me as it is a true testament of how hard they work," she said.

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