



***Julie Gray McCreight – Leon, KS***

“The Value of another person believing that ‘you can’ is immeasurable. Most importantly, it is contagious, meaning when someone believes in us, it is easier to believe in ourselves. To achieve this in the classroom, my educational goal and teaching philosophy is centered on teaching ‘I Can,’ incorporating why the lesson is relevant to their lives, building strong work ethic and encouraging kindness in the process!” is Julie McCreight’s response to what her educational goals are.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Oklahoma City University in May of 1988. From there, she earned her teaching certification in 7-12 Speech Communications & Drama at Wichita State University in May of 1991. She completed her Master of Arts in Communication: Emphasis in Theatre at Wichita State, as well. Her completion date for that degree was December of 1997. From 1998 to the present, she has acquired many hours of continuing education from numerous places.

Her teaching experience began in 1992 for USD #265 in Goddard. She taught High School Theatre, Advanced Theatre, Speech, Forensics, Stagecraft, GHS News, and Business Communications. Along with teaching, she directed 4 shows a year, was the International Thespian Society Troupe Director, Forensics Coach and Cheerleading Coach. From 2003 to present, Julie has been located at USD #492 Flinthills Schools where she teaches 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade Theatre, Middle School Theatre, High School Theatre, Advanced Theatre, Speech, and Forensics. She directed 2 shows a year and coached Forensics.

Mrs. McCreight has received several special recognitions. She was awarded “Most Inspirational Teacher” by Goddard High School Students in April of 1996. In 1999, she was nominated for the American High School Theatre Festival Award to perform in Edinburgh Scotland. She has been USD 492 Employee of the Month in two separate years and was the Kansas Teacher of the Year USD 492 Nominee in 2019.

Along with her teaching duties, she is involved in many ways in her community. She has served on Leadership teams, as International Thespian Society Sponsor, on the P.O.P(Power of Prayer) Committee, on the Food Service Committee, as a new teacher mentor, Junior Class Sponsor, as a curriculum committee member, coordinator and chaperone of a New York City trip for Goddard High School, and was Cheerleading Coach in which she coordinated fundraising, taught leadership, and incorporated spirit strategies throughout the school.

Several personal highlights of her career include designing a new high school theatre facility, the heartfelt synergy among actors as handicapped students joined performances, and receiving a message from a past student sharing that they had been cast in their first role on Broadway. Jeremy Boldra, Superintendent of USD #492 states that Julie “is a tremendous Servant Leader

and model in our community”. From delivery of Christmas Baskets, to “Trick or Treat so Kids can Eat” she believes in giving back. Because of her impact, we welcome her to the class of 2022.