



NEWS

Bladen native tabbed Teacher of the Year

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Katie Tatum, a Bladen native, was named the Franklin County School's Teacher of the Year for 2007-08.

Tatum, a science teacher at Terrel Lane Middle School in Louisburg, has earned more than \$20,000 in grants in her three years of teaching and is extremely grateful for earning her latest accolade. In the past three years, Tatum's name has become synonymous with education grants at Terrell Lane.

The eighth-grade science teacher is known for her ability to earn grants, and her most recent grant created a buzz when she earned a \$10,000 from the Toshiba America Foundation.

"Kids look forward to this, and they really get excited. The students really like to do stuff and get involved," said Tatum of the grant.

Tatum's recent class project introduced students to the role that chemistry plays in their daily lives, from innocuous materials such as cosmetics and cologne to dangerous substances including cigarettes and drugs. The grant money allowed Tatum and students to study several chemical reactions that take place in the human body, including respiration and digestion. Students used plants to study the harmful effects of certain substances, and they shared their findings in a school-wide smoke free campaign.

Tatum received the Wake Electric Bright Idea Grant earlier.

Tatum, who has been teaching for four years, is very pleased with her teaching situation at Terrell Lane and hopes her students continue to enjoy her class. Part of the project included an in-depth report to Toshiba outlining how the money was actually used.

In all, Tatum has secured seven grants for herself since coming to T.L.M.S. three years ago and has helped the school get seven additional grants.

Tatum is a graduate of East Bladen High School in Elizabethtown.