

Extra Mile Award for Robert Waller nominated by Ruben Lopman

Mr. Waller is a first year 4th grade FAVE teacher, but a teacher of 15+ years, including teaching in Atlanta public Schools, at the high school level. I can only imagine the minds he's inspired in that time. Mr. Waller started a program called Waller Scholars. This program celebrates students who exemplify Waller's created model of Character, Academics, and Performance (C.A.P.). The program serves students across the metro Atlanta area through community service, mentorship, and intense training sessions to build academic acumen. He has inducted over 350 scholars in the past. Every year he inducts new students from his class (usually the whole class). this year his entire 4th grade class including my son will be inducted. The ceremony is held at Emory and registered officially as an organisation of Emory. It is run by the student in the class being inducted - in this case 4th graders! Former Waller Scholars attend to congratulate the inductees. The ceremony is a formal induction that highlights the achievements of students for the year.

This is just one of the above and beyond efforts that Mr. Waller does to inspire and engage his students. My son was having a lot of difficulties, and Mr. Waller took him into his mid-year and turned him around. He engaged him and redirected him and showed genuine curiosity and interest in my son and how he learned and thought. It made all the difference.

I wish every student in Decatur could be blessed by Mr. Waller's gift for teaching.