



Alamogordo Public Schools

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS RELEASE**

Alamogordo Public Schools Celebrates District Teacher of the Year and Campus Honorees

Thursday, June 4, 2026 - Alamogordo, NM

Alamogordo Public Schools is proud to announce Jill Clark, kindergarten teacher at North Elementary School, as the 2026 Alamogordo Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Clark was selected from a distinguished group of 14 campus Teachers of the Year, representing every school across the district. The recognition program was recently reinstated after several years and provides an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding educators who make a lasting impact on students every day.

"Bringing back the Teacher of the Year program has been a wonderful opportunity for our district," said Michael Crabtree, Superintendent. "Our teachers are the heart of our schools, and we value the incredible work they do to inspire, support, and educate our students. We are excited to recognize these outstanding educators and celebrate the difference they make in the lives of children across Alamogordo Public Schools."

Mrs. Clark expressed gratitude for the honor and the opportunity to represent her colleagues.

"I am deeply honored to have been selected as Teacher of the Year for the Alamogordo Public Schools," said Clark. "I work alongside so many dedicated educators and am humbled to be able to represent my school and the district."

Clark has served as a formal classroom teacher for 12 years. Prior to entering the profession, she homeschooled her children for 17 years while her husband served in the United States Air Force. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development from Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 2017 and joined Alamogordo Public Schools in 2019 as a four-year-old Pre-K teacher at Stepping Stones Preschool. In 2022, she earned a Master of Education in Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education from Grand Canyon University. She transferred to North Elementary in 2023, where she currently teaches kindergarten. Clark continues to learn and grow, earning a Level 3 teaching license in January 2026.

Clark says the most rewarding part of teaching is watching students grow and discover their potential.

“What I love most about being a teacher is seeing the joy on students’ faces as they learn something new and seeing them blossom throughout the year. I believe every child can succeed to their fullest potential when they feel safe, supported, and are actively engaged in their own learning.”

As the district’s Teacher of the Year, Clark has been nominated to represent Alamogordo Public Schools in the selection process for the New Mexico Teacher of the Year through the New Mexico Public Education Department.

In addition to recognizing Clark, Alamogordo Public Schools proudly honors each of its campus Teachers of the Year. These educators were selected by their peers and school communities in recognition of their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to student success.

“Each of our campus honorees exemplifies excellence in education,” Crabtree said. “Their passion, creativity, and commitment to students help make Alamogordo Public Schools a place where every child can learn, grow, and thrive. We are grateful for all they do.”

Alamogordo Public Schools congratulates Mrs. Clark and all 14 campus Teachers of the Year for their outstanding contributions to students, schools, and the community.

2026 Alamogordo Public Schools Campus Teachers of the Year

- Joyce Amaya, **Stepping Stones Pre-K**
- Sonya Wier, **Buena Vista Elementary School**
- Michelle Moore, **Desert Star Elementary School**
- Cynthia Bills, **High Rolls Mountain Park Elementary School**
- Nicholas Goodier, **Holloman Elementary School**
- Maria Reyes-Gomez, **La Luz Elementary School**
- Jill Clark, **North Elementary School**
- Sandy Lawrence, **Sierra Elementary School**
- Rachelle Hart-Montalvo, **Sunset Hills Elementary School**
- Sasha Rodriguez, **Yucca Elementary School**
- Eric Wright, **Chaparral Middle School**
- Kacie Anderson, **Holloman Middle School**
- Rudy Barbosa, **Mountain View Middle School**
- Colleen Teske, **Alamogordo High School**

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