

Nichole Folkman

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217.671.6572

<https://folkmanforlibrarian.weebly.com/>

Profile

Experienced and enthusiastic literacy educator- both as a High School English teacher and as a teacher-librarian. Dedicated to the idea that students have a right to access and the ability to interact with multiple types of text from print to digital and beyond.

Professional Experience

Hartsburg-Emden High School- August 2006- present

Director of the District Library/ STEAM- 4 years (creating and running programming, purchasing and cataloging books, communicating with vendors, writing and winning grants). Started Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for my district. During COVID-19, obtained and distributed free books for every child, birth to 2020 graduates, in our district. Promote #ProjectLITComm in the school. Developed #PostcardFieldTrip curriculum to help students see the world.

High School English teacher- 13 years- grades 6-12 (Speech, English I, English II, English III, English IV, Composition, Literature, Creative Writing, 8th Grade Reading, Advanced 8th Grade Reading, Genius Hour, DEAR)

Yearbook Adviser—18 times- created and marketed 6-12th grade yearbook, sold and managed ads, fundraising and promotion within the school and community

Class Sponsor- 8 years- fundraising and planning for proms and class trips, planned and ran two proms, planned and chaperoned two senior class trips

High School Scholastic Bowl Coach- 15 years- won the first regional championship in school history

Future Educators Sponsor- 16 years- run programs for students interested in working with children, take students on field trips, set up field work and tutoring for students, fundraise and run Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and community literacy projects

Other Various Duties- Language Club Sponsor, Curriculum Committee, Literacy Leadership Team, Mission Statement Committee, Problem Solving Team, Mentor Program, WYSE/ Academic Challenge Sponsor

Staff Leadership

Literacy Leadership Team

Mentor Program—7 years with both novice and veteran teachers

Early Adopter Workshop Method/ Authentic Literacy- used choice in my classroom for more than a decade

Presenter of professional development for both high school and district-wide staff

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Professional Associations

Journalism Educators Association

Illinois Journalism Educators Association

Illinois Reading Council- presenter at annual conference

International Literacy Association

National Council for Teachers of English

National Network of State Teachers of the Year

Illinois Branch of National Network of State Teachers of the Year

Illinois Association of Teachers of English- presenter at conferences

Association of Illinois School Library Educators- presenter at conferences

Logan Country Literacy Taskforce - founding member

Donors Choose Ambassador

Illinois Library Association

Awards/ Accomplishments

VOYA Unsung Heroes Grant- 2nd place national winner of a \$12,000 grant in 2020

Teach Plus All Means All- leadership in the state-wide PLCs during remote learning during COVID, spring 2020 semester

Abe Lincoln Award Committee Chair- 2022 and 2023 lists

Abe Lincoln Award Steering Committee- 2020-2021 lists

Back to Books Grant- Illinois State Library 2018, 2020

Abe Lincoln Award Selection Committee 2018 and 2019 lists- reading committee member

Penny Kittle Book Love Foundation Grant- national winner 2017

LBSS Endowment Fund- Reader's Choice Awards Grant Winner 2017, 2018, 2020

Illinois State Teacher of the Year – Top Ten Finalist 2017

Penguin Teacher Awards for Literacy- Runner-Up 2016, 2017, and 2019

Whole community literacy project involving community members from birth through adulthood.

PNC grant winner- 2020 for reader's choice in school for kindergarten through 2nd grade

Special Recognition from the District Board of Education regarding professional presentations at national and state conferences

Education

Illinois State University

Coursework towards a school librarian certification

Millikin University- May 2006

Bachelor of Arts in English for Secondary Education