

This year, as always, our Teacher of the Year Committee had the difficult task of selecting a teacher to represent so many outstanding teachers at East. Because of the Vestavia Hills Rotary Club's additional annual recognition, though, we are able to select two teachers to be honored.

Allison Charles is Vestavia Hills Elementary East's Teacher of the Year for 2021-2022. Allison exemplifies the hard-working, enthusiastic qualities that we love in our teachers. As we surprised Allison with this award this morning, we told a group of 5th graders in the gym that we hoped one day they love their job as much as Ms. Charles loves hers. In fact, we know of no one who loves our school more than Allison does. She works so hard all the time, seeing every single child in the building daily, while taking on extra duties such as creating a morning broadcast, sending out carpool numbers each afternoon, serving on our Hope Institute team, taking a lead in our School of Character application, and even tossing pumpkins from our roof for a STEM challenge. You represent East in such a great way, Allison! Thank you!



Jason Cooper is Vestavia Hills Elementary East's Rotary Club Teacher of the Year for 2021-2022. Jason has shown himself to be a master teacher each year that we've worked with him. Not only does he do a great job engaging his students in the classroom, but he has a patient, kind demeanor that his students, colleagues, and the community gravitate towards. Over the past two years Jason has been asked to change grades from 2nd to 5th, then teach virtually, then change grades back to 2nd and continue to teach virtually, and then back to in-person in 5th. He agreed to do these jobs each time without complaint, and did them exceedingly well. That he has not missed a beat in his teaching effectiveness despite recent medical issues is a testimony to his grit and love for his students and our school. Thank you Jason...you are a credit to our school, and we are proud and honored to work here with you.

