

Alicia Carey

Teacher

Perry K-8 School

Alicia Carey changes lives. As a third grade teacher at the Perry K-8 School for the past ten years, she is devoted to her profession and the children that have the good fortune to be in her care. Her talent for helping her students think about their actions, rather than scolding or punishing them, enables her to turn their mistakes into teachable moments that create life impressions for all the students.

Alicia is a blend of determination and kindness. She refuses to let a child fail, but her ability to inspire and motivate is the reason parents and teachers admire her and children love her. She is gifted with an extraordinary ability to connect with young people and to recognize when a particular student is struggling or needs greater challenges. She frequently reaches beyond the classroom in her efforts to solicit help at home or through school channels, and will stop only when that child receives the needed support for his or her success.

Alicia's passion for learning is infectious and diverse. She leads students down life paths that give witness to strong appreciation for learning, respect of others and a desire to foster their own gifts and talents. She recognizes that every child learns differently and goes to great lengths to provide often unusual experiences for students.

One example of her creative initiatives is the partnership she has developed with the Boston Ballet. Through this program the Ballet selects boys and girls from Alicia's class to participate in a free enrichment program that makes dreams come true for many students. Some students may enjoy the physicality of the dance while others respond to the beauty of movement, but they all learn to be nimble and agile. Whatever the child's response, the transformation is always impressive as they grow in the appreciation of music and discover the joy of working with others to create something meaningful.

When funds are not available for field trips or other extra activities, Alicia spends her summer months writing grants that enable her to take her class on monthly field trips. The trips are received as reward for behavior points children earn that month for studious and collaborative behavior. Alicia creates such a positive atmosphere in the classroom that her students rarely misbehave and chance being excluded from the extra opportunities she makes possible for them.

Each day, Alicia Carey celebrates the gift children bring to the classroom. Today we celebrate the gift she brings to the Boston Schools and to her students by awarding her a 2016 Shattuck Award.

Congratulations Alicia and thank you for your extraordinary commitment to our children's futures.

