

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Mark and Sanders named Comal ISD's Teachers of the Year**

Two Comal ISD teachers who started out in the business world but quickly learned that teaching young people is where they needed to be have been named Comal ISD's Teachers of Year. Amy Mark, a fifth-grade language arts and social studies bilingual education teacher at Arlon Seay Intermediate, and Heather Sanders, an AP calculus teacher, head volleyball coach, and assistant athletic coordinator at Canyon High, were surprised with the announcement this week.

Both teachers advance as the Comal ISD representatives to the Regional Teacher of the Year competition sponsored by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). If either or both are chosen at the regional level they automatically advance to the State Teacher of the Year program.

Mark was selected from a group of 10 elementary campus teachers of the year. She has taught for nine years with the last two being in Comal ISD. After getting a liberal arts degree she went into sales and after almost two years of "selling things I didn't care about" she determined she was absolutely miserable. She went back to college and earned another bachelor's degree at the University of Texas at San Antonio, this time in education, and never looked back on her decision. In fact, she earned a master's degree from UTSA as well. She has served on her children's PTA boards and was president of a PTA for two years.

Sanders, the Secondary Teacher of the Year, is an Austin College graduate who knew she wanted to go into accounting and earned her degree in business administration and economics. She was pursuing her MBA at The University of

Texas at Austin when she realized she was without the sport of volleyball for the first time since she was 10 and that accounting was not going to be gratifying.

Sanders has been teaching for 13 years and the last eight have been at Canyon High School. In the last two years every single one of her students has passed the TAKS test and her AP Calculus students surpassed the national average on the 2006 AP exam. Under her leadership as head volleyball coach, her teams have made the playoffs all eight years and have played for a state championship.

The remaining Campus Teachers of the Year in the Comal ISD are: Brenda Tope (Bill Brown Elementary), Connie Spearman (Memorial High), Karen Arnold (Canyon Middle), Amy Littleton (Church Hill Middle), Sheila Pfeffer (Comal Elementary), David Altenhoff (Frazier Elementary), Christi Garcia (Goodwin Primary), Amanda Partida (Hoffmann Lane Elementary), Theresa Ricker (Mt. Valley School), Patricia Lynch (Rahe Bulverde Elementary), Maria Ester Garcia (Rebecca Creek Elementary), Patricia Trice (Specht Elementary), Ronessa McDonald (Smithson Valley High), Sandy Boldway (Smithson Valley Middle), and Karen Blevins (Spring Branch Middle).

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