

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Release Date:** Aug. 11, 2009

### **Morningside Elementary teacher named Region 13 ‘teacher of the year’**

Morningside Elementary School fifth grade teacher Madonna Binney is making history for Comal ISD as she is the district’s first-ever Teacher of the Year candidate to represent the district at the state level.

After being named Comal ISD’s Elementary Teacher of the Year in May, Binney advanced to the regional competition sponsored by the Texas Education Agency and was recently named as the Region 13 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Binney said she couldn’t believe the news when she received a phone call from her principal Jodi Cox.

“Being the first teacher from Comal ISD to reach this level is thrilling and humbling,” she said. “I know the strength of my fellow teaching associates lifted and supported me. This award is ours through excellence and ambition.”

Both Cox and former Morningside Elementary assistant principal Kevin Howell said Binney is most deserving of this recognition.

“Mrs. Binney lives the belief that all students can and will learn,” said Cox. “She has found her unique style in relating with students.”

Howell said, “The classroom is alive with colorful discussions in which she gives life to stories of success and struggle. The students see value in their lives through her dedication to the task of inspiring them to achieve. We are so proud of her.”

As Region 13 Elementary Teacher of the Year, Binney is now eligible to earn the State Teacher of the Year award. Binney said she hopes to achieve the state award so that she can show that classroom teachers are the backbone of the educational system.

“I hope to show that the integral cornerstone of teaching is the daily determination of classroom teachers to achieve student success,” she said. “Without the daily positive

influence and dedication of teachers, school would be a cold building and not the ‘home’ most children crave.”

Throughout her 20-year journey as an educator, Binney has followed one of JFK’s philosophies, “If you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem.”

And Binney has become part of the solution—one child at a time.

When teaching fourth grade, a struggling Vietnamese student named Lich Le knew little English when she joined Binney’s class. Binney made it a point to help this student in all aspects of school. Now that Le has graduated high school and attends a local university, Binney said the e-mail and phone call updates she receives on her progress are priceless.

“With so many lessons learned and taught, my purpose in education has been accomplished,” Binney said.

This is Binney’s third year teaching with Comal ISD, but over the years, her teaching career has included countless highlights. Before joining Comal ISD, Binney served as a UIL reading and writing coach and a sponsor and creator of the chess/checkers club, as well as a “People to People” sponsor, which is a national program in which students represent their school doing projects in the community. At Morningside, a school she helped open in 2008, Binney began a “Breakfast Club” in which she has helped students make great academic gains through small, focused peer groups in before-school tutoring sessions.

“Through her efforts, Mrs. Binney has made a difference here at Morningside,” said Cox. “At many times, she has been a teacher, mother and counselor for many of her students. Staff members have been able to witness the work and dedication she invested in her students. Morningside’s students and staff are better for the relationships she has nurtured here.”