

Teaching wasn't always part of the plan, but once Hannah discovered a love for working with kids as a summer swim coach, the path became clear. College education classes sealed the deal, and now (eight years later), she is an accomplished educator who has taught at Leopold Elementary and Badger Ridge Middle School and has stepped into a new role as Instructional Coach at Core Knowledge Charter School in Verona.

At the heart of Hannah's teaching philosophy is building strong, authentic connections with students and families. Whether it's learning about students' interests outside the classroom, sharing a laugh, or leaning into "cringey" humor, she believes that meaningful relationships are the foundation of a thriving classroom community.

Creativity and fun are essential elements of Hannah's work. From linking lessons to real-world thinking to helping students discover confidence in their writing, discussions, and problem-solving, she strives to make learning engaging and relevant. "Seeing students grow in confidence and discover their voices is incredibly fulfilling."

Now, as an instructional coach, Hannah is excited to support fellow teachers in honing their practice and boosting student success. "My amazing coworkers always push me to be better."

For Hannah success isn't measured only in test scores, it's in the small wins that show students are moving forward in their educational journey. And the greatest reward? When former students and families reach out years later to share how much those classroom connections meant.

When asked what she hopes students take away from their time together, her answer is simple yet powerful: "I hope that students know they can be their authentic selves and never have to apologize for it."

Receiving the Outstanding Educator Award was a surprise. "I don't think of myself as an 'outstanding educator'—I'm just having fun supporting students on their journeys!"