

More Than A Teacher.

Mrs. Nikkel is the most caring and engaging teacher that anyone could ever have. She teaches us much more than where a comma belongs, she teaches us life lessons that we can use for many more years. Anyone who has been in her class could tell you that the class conversations are truly meaningful. Mrs. Nikkel cares for all of her students and is there for them even when it isn't a school day. She always reminds us that she gets up every morning excited to teach us. Mrs. Nikkel makes sure each of our voices are heard. She always tells us we're not special, we're unique. If everyone was special, no one would be truly special. She stretches us to help find our own uniqueness, and how we can use it to make a difference.

Mrs. Nikkel always keeps us caught up in all of our work. She tells us that it's not only about the grades, but the process to get the grade. She believes in every one of her students, no matter the situation. Mrs. Nikkel is *way more* than just a teacher. She makes every single day a blast during her class. She asks for the student's feedback on how she can do better, and if she is helping them understand because she wants to be the best she can for her students. She just wants every single student to do well and succeed with confidence every day.

She works hard to meet every student's needs, no matter what she has to do to get there. Her caring spirit radiates through to every student she comes across. She is very supportive and always makes sure we are understanding and having fun. She lets the class take the initiative to teach us to be more independent and productive. Mrs. Nikkel provides us with the tools but implies that we are in charge of our own learning destiny. Every student that has Mrs. Nikkel walks away with a deeper appreciation for language arts, and a better understanding of life.

Mrs. Nikkel is the most passionate and remarkable teacher we have ever had. She is very nice but gets the job done! Those who have had her, and those who have her now, all agree that they feel greatly impacted by her classes. She tells us it's about doing your best in all you can do. We can't think of a teacher more deserving of a teacher of the year award than Joan Nikkel who dedicated her life to making a difference for her students year in and year out.

Mrs. Nikkel has also been heavily involved in implementing Authentic Intellectual Work or AIW into Pella Schools and served as an AIW certified coach for our district. She has also served as Language Arts Department Head and lead teacher. She continues to make an impact on her students, the middle school and our entire district.