



NEWS RELEASE

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Georgia group honors Creekland Middle's Opferman

A Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) administrator who has served Gwinnett children for more than two decades was recently recognized by her colleagues from across Georgia. **Susan Opferman** of **Creekland Middle** was presented with the 2011 Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year award. Annually, the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals (GASSP) recognizes assistant principals for their outstanding support of their principal and the work of the local school.

"It came as no surprise to me that Susan was chosen," expresses **Dr. Bill Kruskamp**, principal of Creekland Middle, who compliments Ms. Opferman's leadership skills. "Susan is one of those assistant principals that a principal absolutely requires for success. She comes with the full package-- the ability to lead faculty, the belief that if a job is worth doing it should be done with quality the first time around, and a deep passion for students and faculty, and teaching and learning."

GASSP received a number of nominations from throughout Georgia for this prestigious award, selecting Gwinnett's Opferman as the winner. GASSP was impressed with her leadership skills in the areas of curriculum, instruction, assessment, as well as her community involvement.

Ms. Opferman joined Gwinnett County Public Schools in 1988 as a 4th grade teacher at Sugar Hill Elementary. She also taught at Walnut Grove Elementary and at Creekland Middle before being named assistant principal in 2003. Currently wrapping up her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership, Ms. Opferman holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Florida, a master's degree in Middle Grades Education from the University of Georgia (UGA), and a specialist's degree in Education also from UGA. In addition to being certified in Leadership from UGA, Ms. Opferman also is a graduate of the school district's Quality-Plus Leader Academy.

The Gwinnett County Board of Education honored Ms. Opferman for her award during a recent School Board meeting.

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