

## 2018 Outstanding Educator Award:



**Sarah Thompson**

**Kindergarten**

**Burroughs  
Elementary**

**Toledo Public Schools**

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Sarah Thompson earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Toledo and her Masters in Education from Bowling Green State University. Sarah has been teaching for 27 years, with 25 of those years at Toledo Burroughs Elementary Kindergarten.

Mrs. Thompson has a great commitment to the environment and a passion for instilling this ethic in her students. She follows the mantra that it's never too early to discover an appreciation for the environment and learn how to care for our resources. Sarah states, "We sing songs about reducing, reusing, and recycling and practice these things in class. We make recycled paper with Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful and schedule a school-wide puppet show about pollution. I schedule several programs with Lucas SWCD to help teach kids about taking care of our Earth, such as the Enviroscape, Stream Survivors, and Trees Are Terrific. I pass out the Lucas SWCD trees for students to plant and plant trees at home for Arbor Day. We spend a lot of time learning about the importance of trees. We learn about not picking dandelions since they provide food for bees which we need. I have many stories and activities to teach environmental responsibility such as The Wizard Of Waterville (about a man who gets people to stop littering) and Fred the Fish (who swims through various pollutants) - each pollutant is put in Fred's water until he can no longer survive in it. I recycle in the classroom and at home. We go on school Litter Patrols where we clean up the playground."

Sarah, her husband, and son take care of a six-acre rural property with a variety of animals including rabbits, turkeys, a goat, and several reptiles as well as dogs and cats. Sarah's daughter is currently attending The Ohio State University.

*~ Congratulations on a job well done! ~*

## 2018 Outstanding Cooperator Award: Zeiler Farms



- Zeiler Farms is a 1,800 acre, third-generation farm in western Lucas County with corn, soybeans, and wheat in rotation.
- They recently planted cover crops and conducted soil tests.
- Next steps: to complete a nutrient management plan and install water table management structures.

## 2018 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Award Winner: Linda & Richard Carstensen



*~ Congratulations on a job well done! ~*