

9th - 12th Grade Category

Emily Geldmeier - English at Lincoln East High School

Nominated by Hope Shortridge, Lincoln East High School Senior

[[Hope Shortridge]]

To whomever reads this, I feel a proper introduction is due. My name is Hope Shortridge, and I am a senior at Lincoln East High School. It is with great pleasure that I would like to nominate my all-time favorite teacher and journalism advisor, Mrs. Emily Geldmeier, for this prestigious award.

Geldmeier has only been a part of my life for a few short years, but the connection we share feels like it's been a lifetime. We met going into my sophomore year, when I was worried for many reasons. It would truly be my first year of high school, considering all of the protocols in place my freshman year due to Covid. But I was also excited, because I had been accepted into the Oracle (advised by Geldmeier), East's newspaper.

From the very first day of school, it was evident how well our personalities would match. Her infectious, bubbly smile (that sadly we could only see for a few short days a week due to covid) was so inviting, and you could tell she really cared about The Oracle and all of her students. One of our weekly rituals, implemented by Geldmeier herself, was how we go around the room sharing our Rose and Thorns of our past weekend. (A process where we tell Geldmeier and the class one good thing that happened over the weekend and one not so good thing.) It is a simple factor, but I truly look forward to it every week, and I know many of my fellow staff members do as well. It has truly brought us all closer as a staff and as individuals.

We all truly look forward to doing it every Monday, and it even makes the day seem a little brighter.

She also would put out a “weekly check in” form where she would ask about similar aspects of our weekend, and offered to follow up with us if we chose. It’s little acts like these that make a teacher so special. She is the kind of teacher that leaves a lasting impact on everyone who has the pleasure of meeting her. This has stayed consistent and true over my three years with her, and it is really comforting to know how much she truly cares about all of us. She is always going the extra mile to support us in times of celebration, need, or sorrow.

For parents, when you think about the ideal person to nurture and lead your child, while also helping to develop them with proper life and communication skills, through the wild ride that is high school, Geldmeier is what you can only dream of. Time and time again she proves how she is like no other, from remembering what we have said during rose and thorn and following up the next week, keeping up with our athletes and their success at sporting events, and even when others have a small victory. She is our biggest fan, and I am her biggest fan if you couldn't tell! At the same time, she holds us accountable, and helps us put a plan in place if we have missed a deadline, or not completed our best effort on an assignment. Having an already strong relationship with someone, and then being able to trust their constructive criticism really makes you better as a person and student.

Through the skills I have gained during my time with Geldmeier and on the Oracle, I have been able to turn one of my favorite hobbies into the beginning parts of an exciting career. I am blessed to say that Mrs. Geldmeier has been there every step of the way, instilling confidence and guiding me so I can have the utmost success. All of the time and effort she puts in is evident, and it shows how amazing of a teacher she is, and I am forever grateful that she is in my life. She truly puts her all into The Oracle and all of the classes she teaches, and is constantly thinking about how she can be better. Our relationship has only flourished over these 3 years of knowing each other, and I am grateful to call her a part of my family.

She has taught me so much about how to be a better journalist, leader, person, and to always “assume the best” about someone. She has changed my life for the better, and I am going to miss her insanely next year in college. I truly believe there is no one more deserving of this recognition, and I can’t wait to (hopefully) celebrate this with her.

As Dr. Sudhir S. Balerao famously said, "A good education can change anyone. A good teacher can change everything."