

## **Clay County Schools Recognizes Teachers**

Research supports that consistent attendance plays a key role in students' academic and social development. To support student attendance, Clay County Schools will be recognizing two teachers each month who have demonstrated exemplary skill in getting nearly every one of their students to school every day. These teachers' classrooms will have the best attendance in the entire district, and the teachers will receive a framed certificate for display in their classrooms.

For the first and second school months, two preschool teachers from Big Otter Elementary are being honored. Teacher Stacy Marks's students scored an attendance rate of 97.36%, and teacher Stephanie Paxton's students earned an attendance rate of 96.67%.

Mrs. Marks is beginning her 15<sup>th</sup> year as a teacher for Clay County Schools, spending 10 of those years as a preschool teacher. When asked to what she attributed her students' outstanding attendance, she immediately spoke to the tremendous support she receives from her students' parents. She also provides incentives for the students, such as allowing them to add a piece to a Mr. Potato Head figurine each day the entire class has perfect attendance. A reward is given to the class when Mr. Potato Head is complete.

Ms. Paxton has been a teacher for Clay County Schools for nine years. For seven of those years, she has enjoyed working with preschool students. She attributes her students' consistent attendance to creating a positive classroom atmosphere, keeping her students actively engaged, and maintaining regular contact with each student's parents.

Congratulations to Mrs. Marks, Ms. Paxton, and their students!



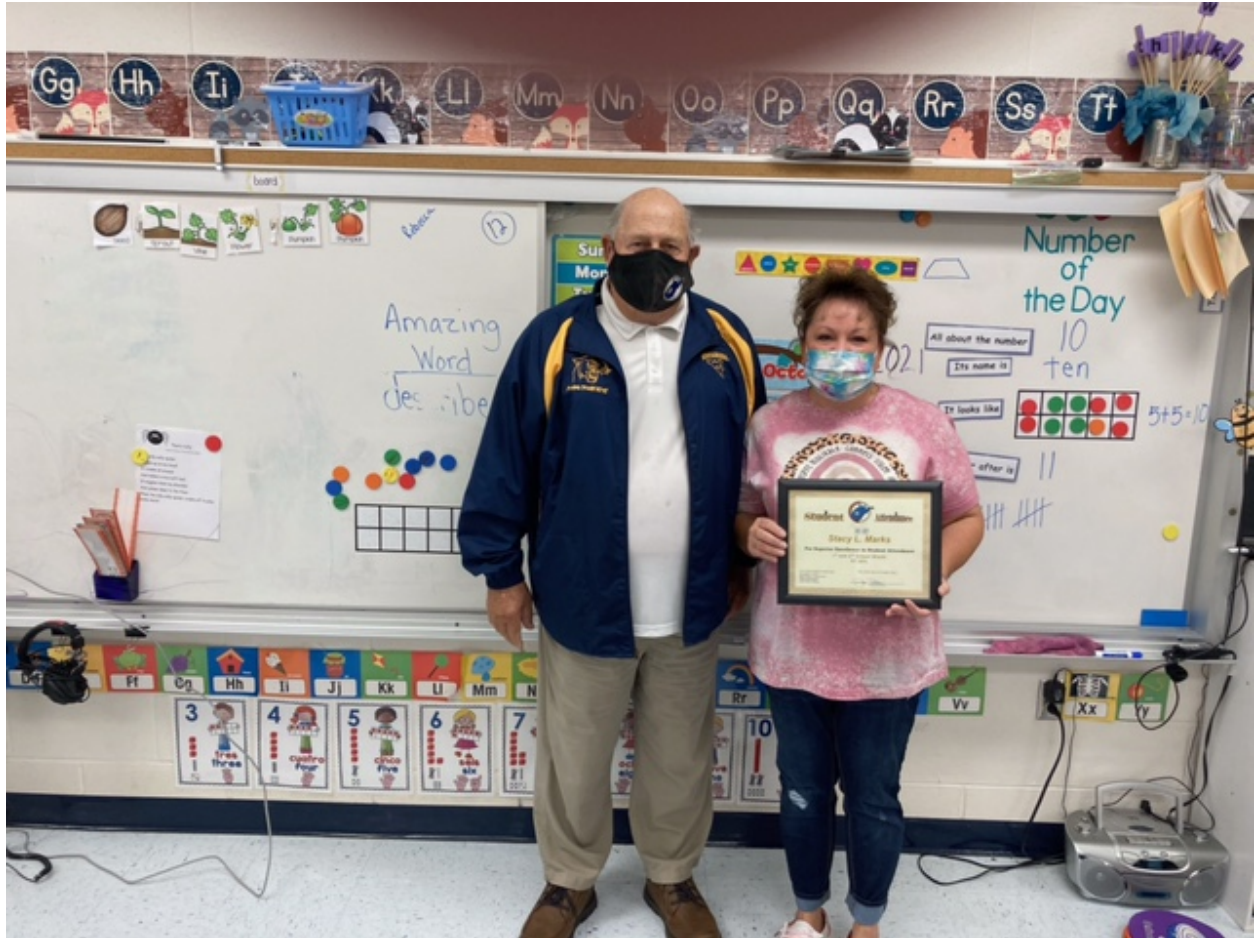
**Superintendent of Clay County Schools Joe Paxton, Preschool Teacher Ms. Stephanie Paxton, and Clay County Board of Education President Dave Mullins**





***Superintendent Joe Paxton, Board of Education President Dave Mullins, Big Otter Elementary Principal Anthony Boggs, Preschool Teacher Stephanie Paxton, classroom aide Megan Sears, and preschool students***





**Clay County Board of Education President Dave Mullins and Mrs. Stacy Marks, Preschool Teacher at Big Otter Elementary**





***Superintendent Joe Paxton, classroom aide Kimberly Christian, Board President Dave Mullins, Preschool Teacher Stacy Marks, Principal Anthony Boggs, and preschool students***