

## Chinook's Edge teacher Sarah Steinbach receives Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence

**For Immediate Release, October 5, 2023:**

On World Teachers' Day it is a special honor for Chinook's Edge School Division to announce that Sarah Steinbach, a teacher at Ecole H.J. Cody School in Sylvan Lake, is a recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. Steinbach is among a few dozen teachers across Canada receiving the award.

"To even be nominated was an honor," said Sarah Steinbach. "The nomination included letters from colleagues and students, and reading their words was incredibly emotional. It has since profoundly impacted how I see myself as an educator, and is a constant reminder of the privilege us teachers have in the opportunity to impact those around us. Finding out I was a recipient felt unreal, but is a very exciting and proud moment in my career."

"We are so proud of Sarah and this accomplishment. The award is well deserved," said Alex Lambert, Principal, Ecole H.J. Cody School. "Sarah is an exceptionally strong teacher. She cares deeply about her students, creates a fun, relevant, innovative, and rich learning environment, and is always seeking to improve her practice for the benefit of her students. Sarah is a master teacher who has fully dedicated herself to enriching the lives of every student she teaches. She makes kids feel seen and valued and she makes learning interesting. Sarah loves science, she loves kids, and she is empowering our youth to better our future by continuing their studies in science."

Masai Pummings, an H.J. Cody student who wrote a letter of support for the nomination, said, "Ms. Steinbach is not someone who can be easily summarized in two pages; you cannot boil down the good that she brings into a persuasive essay. Like many others, my life is forever impacted by the presence of Sarah Steinbach and we will thrive as citizens because of her. Sarah not only raised her two children to be good humans, but she has raised ten years of highschoolers to be better people."

Steinbach teaches Science, Biology, Forensic Science, and Physical Education to students in Grades 9 to 12. She is known for her use of current technology. One of Steinbach's most digitally innovative projects, according to Lambert, was having her Forensic Science class create Crime Scene podcasts, even uploading the final product to Spotify or Apple Music. Lambert also praises Steinbach's skill at connecting learning to the real world, such as with research topics in her Biology 30 class that include reproductive technology advancements and COVID 19's impact on sexual health care. Outside of the classroom, Steinbach has coached the school's volleyball team, and is often found attending her students' extracurricular events at school and in the community.

"I am a firm believer that there is not another profession out there that brings the type of joy and laughter that teaching does," said Steinbach. "I love education because somehow we navigate the ever changing challenges, and in that process, we get to grow alongside our learners, bettering our practice with each new group of students."

"Congratulations to Sarah and a heartfelt thank you for the dedication you've shown to your students," said Kurt Sacher, Superintendent, Chinook's Edge School Division. "Thank you to all of our teachers on World Teachers' Day, for sharing a love of learning with your students and for helping each one feel valued, supported, welcome and excited to learn."

-30-

*MEDIA: For more information please contact*

**Laurette Woodward, Communications** (403) 227-7085 / cell (403) 507-1805

For more information about the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/science/researchfunding/researchawards/prime-ministers-awards.html>