



# Ohio Teacher OF THE YEAR

## State Board District 2 Mary Darr

Mary Darr teaches grades 6-8 English and social studies to gifted students at Perkins Briar Middle School in Sandusky, Ohio. In addition to her teaching duties, she advises the Perkins Briar Middle School Academic Challenge, Mock Trial, and Power of the Pen teams and is the program coordinator for the Perkins Local Schools Resident Educator mentoring program. She is also a member of the Perkins Local Schools local professional development committee, the Perkins Local Schools gifted advisory committee and the Ohio reading content advisory committee for grade 8 English language arts.

Mary received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Bowling Green State University, a master in education in literacy degree from Ashland University and certification in gifted education from Cleveland State University.

Mary was a case study subject for the book, *How Do We Know They're Getting Better? Assessment for 21st Century Minds, K-8* (Barell, 2012), a regional winner in the Ohio Middle Level Association Teacher of the Year (2011) award program and a local recipient of the Walmart Teacher of the Year (2007) award.

She is happiest when she is in the thick of a project with her students and believes that creativity, student choice and real-life problem solving are keys to motivation, perseverance and lifelong learning, traits she strives to instill in her students daily.