

Kiana Smith
Smyrna High School, Smyrna School District
11 Grade
Ms. Sharon Treherne, Comprehensive Lifeskills Program

The teacher that gives her students the skills to find the “American Dream” is Mrs. Sharon Treherne. She has been teaching me for three years, since I first started high school.

Teachers are special. They chose an admirable profession by giving themselves unselfishly to their students. This is especially true of Ms. Treherne. She is devoted to her job helping kids with special needs. She is very patient helping us with our work, everyday improving our skills.

Ms. Treherne is getting us prepared for the outside world. I will be a better person with the lessons and skills she has taught me.

Ms. Treherne is kind and never loses her temper. She never gives up on me, especially in math, which I really struggle with. She is willing to explain it to me over and over again, even when it’s hard for me. She does it everyday.

Ms. Treherne is very caring towards all her students. Whenever I am upset I can talk to her because I know that she will keep it private. She gives me good advice. She makes me feel better when I am down. All of her students know they can go to her at any time. She is always a listening ear when we need her. Ms. Treherne’s dedication continues beyond the classroom. You will see her at every prom, parade, dance recital, pep rally, birthday party, or whatever we are involved in, with her camera ready. She supports us and cheers us on. She is there for our biggest and smallest accomplishments.

Ms. Treherne gives her students the “American Dream” by teaching us we can do and be anything we want, that anything is possible. She gives us confidence and self-esteem for a better, brighter, successful future. She is getting us prepared for the world beyond high school. She makes us feel important and I feel honored and privileged to have had Ms. Treherne as my teacher. I will be forever grateful.

Jenna Gray

Grade 12

Smyrna School District

Smyrna High School

The American Dream is defined as the ideals of freedom, equality, and opportunity traditionally held to be available to every American. The best teachers provide the best opportunities for their students, treat them all as equals, and push them to their fullest potential without inhibiting their creative freedoms. Over the years, I have had some not so good teachers, many average, and some great but this year I have had the pleasure of having an outstanding one! Ms. Becker (Jennifer Becker) teaches 9th grade English, CP and Honors, as well as one Creative Writing class, made up of mostly 11th & 12th grade students, which I am enrolled in. I think Ms. Becker, even as a new teacher is an exemplary role model for all teachers. Since I have been in her class, she has displayed excellent qualities inside and outside of the classroom, doing all that she can to support and encourage her students. I went to her for help with a research paper with another class and she reviewed it with me for errors and helped me improve it. On another occasion, she helped my friend deal with a personal issue & reported a wrongdoing that took place. Ms. Becker provides every opportunity for her students to reach success, she treats every student as an equal, she supports & encourages her students to work to their full potential even when they are faced with a challenge, and she is passionate about what she does, she really does her best to make sure every student is on track & she always keeps a positive attitude. She makes sure that no student that is truly trying there hardest is going to be left behind. On top of all, that she manages to make the learning fun & keeps her students engaged. She goes above and

beyond for her students. I have not known one student to not love and appreciate her. Ms. Becker does all she possibly can to advocate for the students & provide the “American dream”.

The American dream is a set of ideals in which freedom includes the opportunity for prosperity and success achieved through hard work. If I had to choose one teacher that has given me the “American Dream” it would be Mrs. Dries. She is my Family and Community Services teacher. I have had Mrs. Dries since I was a sophomore and she has been the biggest influence in my high school career. I finished my career pathway in her Early Childhood Education class my junior year and now as a senior, I am completing the Family and Community Services pathway as well. Over the years I have learned a lot from her. She has taught me about the development of children physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially. She has also taught me about how to interact with the elderly, universal design; human services careers, and resources for different stages of the family life cycle. Everything I have learned from her has helped me in my personal life and continues to do so each and everyday. Her knowledge has given me a better understanding of those that are around me and myself. Mrs. Dries is easy going and always makes my day. If I have a problem I know I can talk to her no matter what. She is very understanding, compassionate and cares about each of her students like they were her own children. She is a great role model and I give her the highest respect for doing what she does to educate our young minds. She is the reason I have made it to where I am today. In the summer, I will be attending Delaware Tech to get my associates degree for Early Childhood Education. If it wasn't for having a teacher like Mrs. Dries I don't know what I would be doing. She has given me the “American Dream” and I hope to give it to someone else when I start my teaching career.

Courtney Gordy
12th Grade
Smyrna High School

Smyrna School District
Mrs. Dries
Family and Community Services