



SCOTT PHILLIPS

2024 NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Phillips has worked at Aurora his entire career starting in 2010. He has taught 7th grade math, Pre-Algebra, and a math intervention program. Phillips is also an adjunct instructor at Doane University.

In addition to his time in the classroom, Phillips is involved in the Aurora community, is a member of the National Education Association, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the Nebraska State Education Association. Phillips also coaches basketball and works as a mentor in the school.

In the classroom Phillips seemingly does the impossible, he gets his students excited about math while having fun learning it. Phillips challenges himself to consistently engage students while also allowing them to work collaboratively through the productive struggle of the learning process. He fully acknowledges math is one of the few subjects that has an emotional attachment to the confidence level of students and that often times people either love or hate math and fail to see the real-world connection. Phillips uses high energy activities, music, and games to interact with his students along with videos that show how math is used in everyday life.

"By the time students reach 7th grade they already have an emotional attachment to how math makes them feel," Phillips said in his application. "They consider themselves "good" or "bad" at math and oftentimes it's solely based on their past experiences in elementary school or misconceptions from parents. I may not be able to get every student to believe they're great at math, but I aim to see an increase in their perseverance, problem solving strategies, and ultimately their confidence in themselves."

Phillips says his main goals as Teacher of the Year will be to help promote excellence as a habit, encourage a healthy balance in life, and to not be afraid to fail but instead, let failure lead to growth. He also wants to promote the teaching profession to inspire new teachers and to remind veteran teachers why they chose to be a teacher.

Phillips has been a teacher for 13 years and earned a bachelor's degree in Middle Level Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane University.

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Nebraska Teacher of the Year



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PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY

Nebraska Department of Education

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

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Nebraska Council of School Administrators

Nebraska State Education Association

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)

University of Nebraska

Dillards Gateway Mall Lincoln

Nebraska Corn Board

*The National Teacher of the Year Program is run
by the Council of Chief State School Officers*



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Math Teacher
Aurora Middle School
Aurora, Nebraska

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

Empowering our students towards daily success is a mission that we should all continue to pursue. This interactive presentation will bring a breath of life to your teaching and allow you to experience activities first hand that you can implement in your classroom immediately. George Couros once said "if students are engaged, it doesn't mean they are empowered, but if they are empowered, they are definitely engaged." After being recognized as the 2024 Nebraska Teacher of the Year I'm eager to empower the educators that attend this session.

DO OR DO NOT, BUT THERE IS ALWAYS A WHY!

Throughout the course of a career in education, we tend to forget our original vision, mission, and purpose. The necessity of self care for teachers is at an all time high in the world. We become overtaken by the responsibilities of our job that we often forget how exciting, challenging, and purposeful teaching was in the early stages of a career. This session will help you rediscover your WHY and you'll leave with a renewed sense of purpose. You'll leave this session energized and eager to return to your classroom.



THE TEACHING TRIFECTA: HABITS, FAILURE, AND BALANCE

Discover the crucial role of positive habits, resilience in the face of failure, and maintaining work-life balance. Juggling responsibilities of a teacher, coach, husband, and father can be overwhelming. The "teaching trifecta" can empower your purpose and overall well-being. Don't just survive the school year, but thrive through these applicable takeaways. I'm eager to represent Nebraska as the 2024 Teacher of the Year and I know that you won't regret attending this session.

CULTURE: IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL LEARN!

Implementing and maintaining a culture can be a yearly struggle for any teacher. Learn how to involve parents, get students to buy in, and remain positive throughout the entirety of the school year. Culture is not a one time activity and when it's the primary focus of a classroom you'll be amazed at how much you'll be able to accomplish regarding the content you teach. Walk away empowered from this presentation with a fresh perspective on culture and a renewed purpose in your educational journey.

