

June 1, 2018

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to lend support for Ms. Elise Hackl in her nomination for ISBE 'Those Who Excel' Teacher of the Year award.

As a parent of a daughter with autism, I am always aware of the educational and experiential gap that exists between special needs students and their general education peers. It is such an encouragement to encounter a teacher like Ms. Hackl, who chooses to use her talent, commitment and passion to reach children that struggle.

In the three years that Ms. Hackl has been my daughter's Adaptive Music teacher, I have seen my daughter grow in both her interest and knowledge of music and movement. My daughter, Nadia, is excited when music class is on her schedule and looks forward to seeing Ms. Hackl on the days in between. Ms. Hackl arrives with her warm, caring and energetic approach to her students, and my daughter responds as if she's been invited on an exciting adventure.

I would highly recommend Ms. Hackl for the Teacher of the Year award for all that she does to enrich the lives of kids that she teaches every day!

Sincerely,

Jan Axford
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