

Riggs named District V Band Director of the Year

The District V Band and Orchestra Directors Association announced that Amanda Riggs, Assistant Director of Bands at DeRidder Junior High School and East Beauregard High School, has been named the District V Band Director of the Year.

The honor is bestowed upon a band director in the six-parish region for outstanding work on the parish, district, and state levels in the field of instrumental music, according to Eddie Joslin, Fine Arts Supervisor for Beauregard Parish. District V includes Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, and Vernon parishes.

“We are proud of Ms. Riggs and congratulate her on this much deserved honor,” he said. “She is one of our parish’s own, and she has proven to be not only an excellent addition to our instrumental music staff, but a well-respected musician and teacher by all who know her.”

Riggs is a graduate of DeRidder High School where she was a band student and member of the Ambassadors in Blue under the direction off Carolyn Herrington, Terri Gould, and Coby Coco. She attended Northwestern State University, studying clarinet under Dr. Jack Bradley, Associate Professor of clarinet and Dr. Bill Brent, Director of Creative and Performing Arts. She earned her bachelor degree in Music Education and moved to Texas to pursue a teaching career.

She taught at Henderson Middle School in Henderson, TX, serving as the Assistant Director for five years and as Head Band Director for two years. She moved to Canton, TX, in 2010, to serve as Head Band Director at Canton Junior High School and as the Assistant Band Director of Canton High School. During her three years in Canton, as the color guard instructor and woodwind teacher, her students achieved fourth and fifth places in the State Marching Contest.

Riggs decided to move back home to Beauregard Parish to serve as Assistant Band Director at East Beauregard High School. In addition, she currently serves as Assistant Band Director at DeRidder Junior High School, dividing her day between the two schools. She teaches beginning woodwinds, high school band, woodwind sectionals, jazz band, color guard, and fine arts in addition to private lessons outside the school day.

As the Assistant Band Director at EBHS, she has helped the junior and senior high school bands receive first division and sweepstakes awards in marching festivals and sweepstakes at the district and state concert festivals.

She is currently in her fifteenth year teaching music. She has a daughter, Ryleigh, and she plays with South West Jazz, a community band consisting of local band directors and musicians. She is a member of Christway Church where she volunteers with the youth group.

“I consider my job to be one of the biggest blessings of my life,” said Riggs, “because I get to share the gift of music with children and enjoy seeing their smiling faces every day.”

“I am honored, humbled, and deeply appreciative to my peers in District V to be chosen for this award,” she concluded.

