



### **Jeffares Named TPSD Parent Of The Year**

TUPELO, Miss. — She works fulltime as an engineer. She travels with her job. And she’s quite active in the community.

Yet when it comes to volunteering at Carver Elementary, she somehow manages to fit it in her overwhelming schedule.

Non-stop all the time? Yes. But she wouldn’t have it any other way.

On Friday, Kimberly Jeffares entered the doors at Carver thinking she was going to assist with a school project. Instead, as she walked through the media center doors, she was greeted by students and staff congratulating her for being named the 2019 Tupelo Public School District Parent of the Year.

It was then her daughter, Lea, presented her with flowers and a card.

“It is an honor to represent our school district,” the 2003 Tupelo High School graduate said. “This award encourages to me to keep serving and supporting our school district, students and staff. I’m lost for words and not so great with the spotlight. I’m not sure I’m deserving of this award because there are so many amazing parents at Carver who have helped me this year.”

Jeffares, who is also the PTO president, was scheduled to be at Mississippi State for a meeting with the Mechanical Engineering Department. However, a lot of behind-the-scenes work unfolded to make sure she remained in Tupelo to receive this recognition rather than make the business trip to Starkville.

“My dad was so persistent that I needed to stay and work at the office rather than go to that meeting,” she said with a laugh. “I thought it was odd. Now I know why he didn’t want me at the meeting.”

Most of her time at Carver is spent organizing fundraisers. To date, \$19,572 has been raised with the money going toward behavior incentives, parent engagement activities, various student incentives, school improvements, accelerated reader incentives and more.

She also worked diligently with others to help create Santa’s Workshop, a program created by PTO Vice-President Kelly Gregory that brought Santa Clause to the school this past December. There was an arts and crafts area for the students to build gingerbread houses, complete with live music, and an area to enjoy snacks.

She and other volunteers are currently working on a Love-Run and Canvases For Carver to raise money for P.E., music and art programs.

Within the classroom, Jeffares has started a Fellowship for Christian Students and is a reader for Integrity Time. She’s also a member of the TPSD Parent Advisory Group, and during her “free time” she coaches her daughter’s park and rec soccer team.

“When I think of the qualities of one being named Parent of the Year, Mrs. Jeffares is an excellent choice,” Carver principal Christy Carroll said. “She is kind, caring, always willing to help, inclusive of other parents and committed to our students and making Carver a better place now for our students, families and community and in the future for those to come. When needed, we can always count on her. She has truly made Carver a better place with her positive energy and joy. We are so proud for her and our school community.”

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