

# **USD #377 Atchison County Community Schools News Release**



Effingham, KS 66023  
(913) 833-5050

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**APRIL 7, 2006**

## **KANSAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR TEAM VISITS DISTRICT**

Jennifer Gigstad, Third Grade teacher at Effingham Elementary School, and the USD 377 Elementary Teacher of the Year, 2005, hosted her fellow Kansas Teacher of the Year nominees today in a visit to our district. The state nominees are divided by region into teams for the purpose of learning about each other's districts and the innovations and strategies in place at various schools. They attend staff development activities provided by the State Department of Education and form a corps of exemplary teachers in the state.

The visitors met at Cummings Elementary School for breakfast and observations of a Reading Recovery lesson, Guided Reading lessons, and a physical education class. Following that, they joined the Pony Express activities happening at Lancaster Elementary, where a horse and rider picked up student letters to deliver to Atchison. They then journeyed to Effingham for a performance by Soundmasters at ACCHS and lunch at Effingham Elementary.

A visit to the community in the afternoon included a tour of Benedictine College, Amelia Earhart's birthplace, the Riverfront development and the Depot in Atchison.