



Nomination Essay for Ryan Stein
Submitted by: Catherine McSorley, parent of student
Region 5

Ryan Stein is the model for passionate and innovative 21st century teaching. He has brought life, creativity, and ignited a desire for learning, unlike any teacher I have encountered. Quite frankly, his website, http://teachers.henrico.k12.va.us/pinchbeck/stein_r/Site/ss_web.html, demonstrates it better than any assembly of words can, but I will do my best to convey how truly incredible he is as a teacher.

December provides good examples of how he passionately worked to integrate language arts and social studies to help his diverse students learn and truly understand the American Revolution. In addition to the kids reading historic novels on the subject and creating their own history books online using Mixbook.com, they also went on a voluntary field trip to St. John's Church on a Sunday to hear Patrick Henry's speech re-enacted. They wrote and prepared a play about the American Revolution. After completing a book about a period figure, Johnny Tremain, they were invited to stay after school and watch a movie about him and enjoy popcorn. Mr. Stein's commitment to teaching is clearly illustrated by the fact that he offers the kids additional learning on his own time because his passion for it overflows.

His innovation and creativity in the classroom are second to none. He wrote song lyrics for the different events in history for the kids to learn and help them remember key

points. The kids enjoy the songs and ultimately dress in character to create dance videos about history MVPs. The website offers great examples of this innovative way to engage students in learning, and it works! The use of Mixbook.com by the kids is another great example of how they build their own history books and creatively tell the story. The children also held mock trials earlier in the year to debate issues between the colonists and the Indians at Jamestown.

As a parent, I am able to be more involved in my child's education by watching the videos online that the children have created and attending the play produced by the children about the American Revolution. I have read the Mix book that my child has created thus far and am amazed by her learning and her inspiration that he has clearly nurtured. I am invited in to work with reading groups so that children can receive more attention to learning.

When I read about this teacher recognition, I stopped what I was doing to nominate Ryan Stein. Words on my behalf do not do justice to the real passion, commitment, innovation, creativity, and involvement that actively is a part of his nature and classroom every day. I sincerely urge you to view his website and consider how one teacher is not only inspiring, but transforming diverse young students at Pinchbeck Elementary every day.