



➤ Provincial Winner

Excellence in Special Needs Teaching

Name: Ms Jasmin Joy Meyer
School: Dorothea Special School, Cloetesville, Stellenbosch
District: Cape Winelands Education District

Ms Jasmin Joy Meyer is a dedicated special needs educator who believes in the inclusion of the community as part of the difference she makes in her job. She is a well-rounded teacher with clear integration strategies and accommodation of all learners on various levels in her classroom. It is evident that she integrates values as part of the curriculum and strives to use values to make an impact on education. Besides this, she is actively involved in community charity drives. When she runs in marathons, she donates the entry-fee to charities. As part of outreach to other schools, she involves her own and other schools in performing arts and special day events. In her duty as a caring teacher, she started an after-care programme for vulnerable children, which is now part of the school's daily running.

In her class she integrates the learning styles of all her learners for optimal learning. Differentiation is a key element for making special needs teaching benefitting the needs of all the learners in her class, she believes. In addition to this, she is the iPad champion in their Apple certified school and uses iPad programs daily to improve her teaching. Technology and assistive devices are not only used in her teaching but is integrated into record keeping as well. She is a reflective teacher who believes in the power of

leading others. As grade and subject head, she mentors other teachers in her role.

Ms Meyer is committed to new ideas in education. She came up with novel ideas such as the “wedge wobble cushion” to improve seating and posture in her class. She also incorporates occupational therapy in her class as part of her teaching. Spandex bands are used on chairs for stabilising learners for seating. She believes that, despite learners’ disabilities, anything is possible. Hence, she started using coding and robotics in her special needs school.

She is a big sports fanatic and as part of her love for sport, she arranges for learners from a special needs school to partake in the KFC mini-cricket festival as well. As part of the preparations for the festival, she is coaching mini-cricket and arranges for donations for the cause. Involvement of stakeholders as part of career guidance is important to her. Besides this, ongoing involvement of parents in and outside the classroom is part of her teaching pedagogy. A lack of funds has led to her effectively using recyclable goods in the context of the school community to strengthen her teaching. She regularly attends professional development courses to develop her calling. We conclude, based on these experiences and expertise, together with the verified scores that she is our outstanding winner and will represent the Western Cape for Excellence in Special Needs Teaching category at national level.



Western Cape
Government

FOR YOU

Education