



**Nomination Essay for Joseph Hicks
Submitted by: Tara Mincer, Parent**

Mr. Hicks challenges our children to work above their grade level in math in such a way that they love learning! He makes their knowledge practical and useful. He uses menus from favorite restaurants to create word problems and the children add up the check and compute the tip. They find problems using their own names or TV characters on their assignments. They enjoy working hard for him because he is so cool and relevant.

Perhaps the main reason why Mr. Hicks is a favorite teacher is his intense love of books. A huge fan of Harry Potter, he challenges the children to try reading books above their grade level. He shares his love of reading with them and inspires them to want to read more.

After school, Mr. Hicks can be found leading a group of students in a fun activity like making gingerbread houses, playing kickball or emceeding Harry Potter Quiz Bowls. I have personally seen him in attendance at summer swim meets and weekend lacrosse games! Mr. Hicks brings his wife along with him, and the children see by example a wonderful role model.

When he learned that he was expecting his first child, he shared the news through homework by using math problems to crack the code: "Mr. Hicks is going to be a dad!"

From a parent's perspective, Mr. Hicks is a joy for many more reasons. He communicates by e-mail and makes himself available to us. Several times a week, parents find e-mails on what the children did in class and what they should see as homework. We feel privileged to have had Mr. Hicks as a teacher four times, and we know he deserves a Super Teacher Award!