



## Vestal Central School District

201 Main Street • Vestal NY • 13850

[www.vestal.k12.ny.us](http://www.vestal.k12.ny.us)

### **NEWS RELEASE: For immediate release**

March 21, 2024

#### **Contacts:**

Patrick J. Clarke III, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, 607-757-2221; [pjclarke@vestal.k12.ny.us](mailto:pjclarke@vestal.k12.ny.us)

Regina Felice, Public Information Coordinator, 757-2205, [rmfelice@vestal.k12.ny.us](mailto:rmfelice@vestal.k12.ny.us)

### **Vestal Central School District Elementary Teachers named New York State Master Teachers**

Vestal is proud to announce that four of its teachers have been selected for the New York State Master Teachers program facilitated through The State University of New York. We congratulate Heather Bogart, Sara Cook, Krista Little, and Molly Russell as the District's newest Master Teachers for the Southern Tier Region.

Heather Bogart began teaching in the Vestal CSD in 2007. Currently, she is a third-grade teacher at African Road Elementary School. Fourth-grade teacher Sara Cook has been with Vestal over four years and also teaches at African Road Elementary. Krista Little joined Vestal CSD in 2018, and she is a Special Education teacher at Vestal Hills Elementary. Finally, Clayton Avenue Elementary fourth-grade teacher Molly Russell has taught in Vestal schools for over 21 years.

We also want to highlight Kathryn Barney, AIS Math teacher at African Road Elementary, and Colette O'Donnell, Vestal High School Science teacher, who were selected for the program in January 2023.

Their selection brings the District's total number of Master Teachers to 29, with 19 of those having reached Master Teacher Emeritus status. We are proud to have so many of our faculty recognized for their quality and experience.

"The Master Teacher's Program enables mid-career teachers to keep growing through intensive and content-specific professional learning experiences," said Patrick Clarke, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. "Their students will benefit greatly from this work."

The New York State Master Teacher program was launched in 2013 in partnership with the State University of New York to strengthen K – 12 STEM education. The program is designed to foster growth among three domains – Knowledge of STEM Content, Knowledge of Pedagogy, or the method and practice of teaching, and Knowledge of Students, Their Families and Their Communities. Vestal Central School District's Master Teachers are part of the Southern Tier regional cohort and its partner SUNY campus is Binghamton University.

- 30 -

**CHALLENGE**

**SUPPORT**

**FOSTER**

**INVEST**