

Grafton, Wisconsin – April 8, 2022 - Mrs. Michelle Pingel, First Grade teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School in Grafton, has been named a 2022 Herb Kohl Foundation Teacher Fellowship Award Recipient. Mrs. Pingel and St. Paul Lutheran School each will receive a \$6,000 award from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation.

The Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship recognizes educators who have been chosen for their superior ability to inspire a love of learning in their students, their ability to motivate others, and their leadership and service within and outside the classroom.

Mrs. Pingel is completing her third year of teaching at St. Paul and is in the 30th year of her teaching career. When contemplating the impact Mrs. Pingel has had on St. Paul and our families, Principal Michael Yurk said, "Michelle has such an incredible caring heart for her students. Her students know that she truly loves and cares for them. Mrs. Pingel devotes so much of herself outside of the school day, preparing lessons that are differentiated to meet the different learning needs in her classroom, tutoring individual students after school, coaching our forensics program and developing new teaching strategies to ensure our mission of being Focused on Excellence...Centered on Christ is being met."

The Herb Kohl Educational Foundation has been recognizing educational excellence annually since 1990, awarding fellowships to 100 Wisconsin teachers and matching grants to each fellow's school. Currently in its 32nd year of recognizing educational excellence, the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation, as of August 2021, has awarded a total of approximately \$29.6 million to Wisconsin educators, students, and schools.

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