

# Post-Bulletin

## Teacher of the Month: Linda Brewner, Central Lutheran School

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By Valerie Kiger  
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It was an early encounter with a great teacher that lead Linda Brewner to know she would pursue that career as an adult.

And she pursued it with a vengeance. Since 1971, Brewner has taught at nearly every grade level below high school, was principal of a school and even started a Lutheran school in Illinois.

She has been named Post-Bulletin Newspaper in Education November Teacher of the Month.

Brewner, 57, teaches third-graders at Rochester Central Lutheran School in the mornings, and spends afternoons developing the school's marketing and technology plans as well as its technology curriculum. She has taught there since 2001.

Calling herself "seasoned and experienced," she said she does enjoy her variety of responsibilities.

"I really do love third grade. It's a place you can do a lot of hands-on learning, yet they're becoming more capable and can do some research," she said. "I think third grade is a big turning point (in personal responsibility)."

With school assignments and discipline, Brewner is a guide, helping students take ownership of their work, actions and consequences.

One parent who nominated Brewner for the Teacher of the Month award appreciates her approach.

"I love the way she shows compassion even through the discipline process. Through her discipline methods, she teaches children to be responsible for their work, their actions and their minds," said the parent, who credits Brewner with helping her son to be kinder.

Brewner said she's very focused on developing personal responsibility in children.

Every student has a job in the classroom and can earn "Brewner Bucks" to purchase rewards. Brewner tries to show each student they have strengths and talents.

"I try to have a lot of variety in what we do, so they see they might not be gifted in one way, but in other ways they may be more able," she said.

When learning about Christmas around the world, students have the chance to write a research paper, work with other students, create a flag or other projects.

A colleague said in nominating Brewner that she wants to be just like Brewner.

"She does not stint in making accommodations for the children who may have different learning styles," the fellow teacher said. "She does extra research to enhance her lessons, and she looks for ways to go above and beyond what 'the teacher's manual' suggests."

Having attended Lutheran schools herself, Brewner has taught in them throughout her career.

"We have unique freedoms that I cherish," she said. "It's just a lot of fun. It's very rewarding. Our school allows us to have a

living faith life."

Brewner said her biggest challenge is that there's never enough time to spend teaching her students.

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