

**2009 Flint Area Science Fair  
“Teacher of Year”  
Michael Jewell  
of St. John the Evangelist Fenton**



The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Flint Area (Regional) Science & Engineering Fair recognized Michael Jewell, Science teacher at St John the Evangelist School in Fenton, as its “2009 Teacher of the Year”. Nominations for Teacher of the Year come from parents, students, and colleagues and are reviewed by a selection committee of members of the Science Fair Board and the prior year’s recipient.

Mike Jewell has found a wonderfully rewarding “second career” as a science teacher. “Immediately after my Kidney/Pancreas transplant from the University of Michigan I began to look for something to do to give back to the community and to “balance” my life from the great gift I was given—the gift of life.” With a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State Mike had a very successful career as an engineer until forced to stop in 1987 due to health complications from being diabetic since age 10. After several years on dialysis he received his life saving transplant and then completed a Masters Degree in Education.

His association with the Flint Area Science Fair began when he answered an email while working at Fenton High School and became a judge. He found he loved the Science Fair and brought that idea to St. John the Evangelist School with gusto. St John has over 150 students in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade participating in their school fair that lasts two days. Encouraging students to then participate in the Flint Area Science Fair has become standard practice and resulted in many children getting further recognition for their interests and effort.

Parents agree—many nominated Mr. Jewell for the award with such comments as “He has fostered a love of science in the middle school students at St. Johns school. He makes science interesting and relevant to the students, which encourages more active participation in the classroom and with projects.” “The excitement from the labs and mini-competitions he puts on are a good challenge for students to work together in teams and present their findings and failures with the whole class. He encourages students to use the scientific thought process to analyze their experiments.” “Our School families will remember these Science Fairs for the rest of their lives!”

Mr. Jewell and his wife Ronda have three sons and seven grandchildren. “Much of the success I have enjoyed in life comes from four sources: first my father; second my absolute belief in the Creator; third my wonderfully supportive wife, and lastly my upbringing as a Native American” said Mr. Jewell. Mike love to say “Science is fun, pass it around!”  
Congratulations Mr. Jewell!