

EDUCATION



Skintastic Joins Hernando Sun, Parents & Students in Recognizing Spring Hill Elementary's:



Teacher of the Year
Colleen Fail



School-Related
Employee of the Year:
Brianna Maier

"I am a former teacher, so I know the dedication it takes to succeed. Mrs. Tormey (SHES Principal) was my daughter's 2nd and 4th grade teacher and she is amazing."
--Janie Rushnell, Skintastic Founder

Because of Skintastic's generosity, Ms. Fail will receive \$100 for classroom supplies!

Celebrating Teachers and World Changers

A Special Series on the 2021 Teachers of the Year & School Related Employees of the Year

SPRING HILL ELEMENTARY

Spring Hill Elementary Teacher of the Year Colleen Fail 3rd Grade

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I can tell you the exact place I was when I realized that elementary education and being a teacher was the path I needed to be on. It made sense because I have always loved learning. School was always a happy place for me as a child. I almost seconded-guessed myself though because I remembered days when learning got very challenging. I remembered feeling that I would never get it despite all the effort I was putting in. Then, it was almost as though a light switched on and I could picture the teachers that were there for me to help me through those moments. They still hold a special place in my heart. My inspiration for becoming a teacher was the challenging moments and knowing that I wanted to help students through them by building trusting relationships and instilling in them that they can do it. Learning new things can be hard, but having someone in your court every step of the way can change your mindset from an "I can't do this," to an "I will be able to do this."

Where are you from and what is your educational background/experience?

I was born in Ohio, moved to Maine in elementary school, and moved down to Pinellas County, Florida as a sophomore in high school. I went to the University of Florida (Go Gators!) for both my Bachelor's and Master's degrees. I began my teaching career in Citrus County where I taught for six years before moving to Hernando. I've taught here for five years, and have been at Spring Hill Elementary for four years. I love being a SHES panther! I have taught both fifth grade and third grade.

What is your most memorable moment as a teacher?

I set out on a mission each school year to have my students fall in love with reading. There are usually some groans in the beginning when I tell my new class that they will become wild

readers. I've even had students tell me that they only read because they have to and not because they enjoy it. My most memorable moment has to do with falling in love with reading. I can vividly remember all my students on the edge of their seats as I finished a novel. In those last few chapters, I watched my students experience every emotion you can imagine from sadness all the way to joy. When I closed the book, they sat in silence and stared at me with a look of wonder in their eyes. I said the first thing that came to

my mind, I told them it had a sequel. Every single student in the classroom started cheering and asked when we could start it. I told them it didn't come out for another month. They begged me to preorder it and to not read it before I could read it with them as it came out over spring break that year. They couldn't wait to know what would happen next for our main character. This moment was so memorable to me because it was a turning point for many students that day. They saw reading as more than just something they had to do, it became something they could be passionate about, go on adventures with, learn about the world with, or just spend time enjoying. One of my goals is to relive that memorable moment each year with every new class. I love when students truly find joy in something.

What is a challenge that you've faced as a teacher and how did you solve it?

I can remember the last few minutes before dismissal on March 12, 2020. Students were saying goodbye to each other, giving hugs, and saying things like, "See you in a week! Have a great Spring Break!" Then, we got word over Spring Break we wouldn't be returning to school in person which then became the rest of our school year together. Teachers had a challenge to navigate the new waters of digital learning and still maintain a sense of normalcy for their students. This was a challenge I did not foresee happening that school year and it was a complete shift in teaching. I vowed to make sure that my students still had a wonderful experience for the rest of their school year. I scheduled live teaching sessions as well as fun weekly live sessions for us to continue building relationships and feel the joy of learning, I even invited special teachers to join us. The biggest piece to solving this challenge though was working together with my third-grade team to create engaging lessons, fun activities, and great experiences for our third graders. Solving this challenge as a team was an essential part of our success with distance learning and for our students. I love that we were able to lean on each other and make something that started as a challenge into something successful.



Colleen Fail, Spring Hill
Elementary Teacher of
the Year

Spring Hill Elementary School Related Employee of the Year Brianna Maier

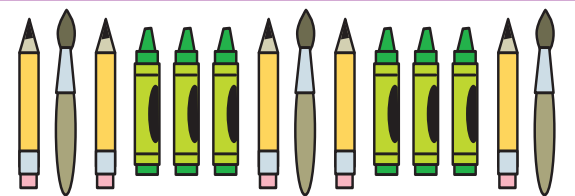
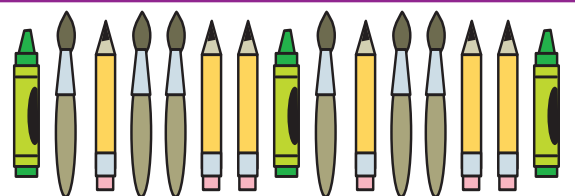
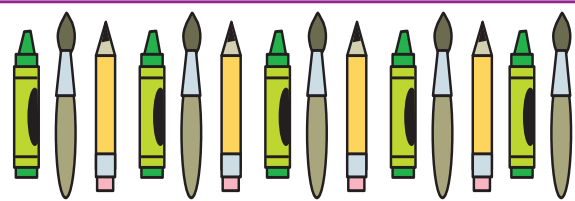


Congratulations and
Thank you for your
hard work!



THE ART OF PATTERNS:

Draw the art supply that should come next
in each row to continue the pattern.



Kid Scoop

VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
TRANSFORM

The verb **transform** means to change the form, shape or look of something.

Stacy was able to **transform** a cardboard box into a cool rocket ship with construction paper, markers and tape.

Try to use the word **transform** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Double Double Word Search

TRANSFORM
ALPHABET
CRAYONS
DOODLE
TURN
HALF
BUNNY
REWRITE
FUN
DRAW
TRY
PHONE
FACE
BLOOMS
PLAY

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

F	M	C	N	E	L	D	O	O	D
P	A	R	R	K	W	N	T	E	W
B	P	C	O	A	U	R	U	N	A
L	L	H	E	F	Y	D	R	O	R
O	A	Z	A	N	S	O	N	H	D
O	Y	B	N	L	V	N	N	P	I
M	K	U	O	J	F	T	A	S	G
S	B	E	T	I	R	W	E	R	I
W	V	A	L	P	H	A	B	E	T

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Stumped? Answers at www.kidscoop.com

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Which Am I?

Play this game with a buddy. Player one picks a story or picture in the newspaper. Player two asks "yes" or "no" questions until correctly identifying the story or picture.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Understand the main idea or message.