FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mrs. Erin Hodges, Assistant Principal at Douglas MacArthur Junior High in the Jonesboro School District, named the Arkansas Association of Middle Level Administrators (AAMLA) Assistant Principal of the Year

JONESBORO, AR – Mrs. Erin Hodges, Assistant Principal at Douglas MacArthur Junior High in the Jonesboro School District, was recently named the Arkansas Association of Middle Level Administrators (AAMLA) Assistant Principal of the Year. Dr. Mike Hernandez, AAEA Executive Director, Mike Mertens, AAEA Assistant Executive Director, Lenett Thrasher, AAEA Director of Operations and Learning Services, Jason Brunner, AAMLA President, and Dr. Kim Wilbanks, Superintendent of Jonesboro Public Schools, presented Mrs. Hodges with the award on December 12, 2023.

This award is given each year to an Arkansas middle level assistant principal who has succeeded in contributing to a positive and motivating environment for others and has been recognized as exhibiting exceptional leadership skills in the school community.

Mrs. Hodges has been Assistant Principal at Douglas MacArthur Junior High since 2019 and has worked during that time to build an inclusive and positive school culture where students thrive both academically and socially. Mrs. Hodges is dedicated to the education of Arkansas students and very deserving of this award as evidenced in the following comments:

"We have a philosophy at MacArthur this is simple: 'if you are not telling your school story, someone else will, and you may not like it!' With that in mind Mrs. Hodges took over our social media and they tell the best stories! We believe it is important to show all the good things going on at MacArthur that people can't see on a daily basis. All three of our platforms are active and spreading great news on a regular basis thanks to Mrs. Hodges."

Todd Rhoades, Principal, MacArthur Junior High

"Mrs. Hodges leads by example. She is always willing to go above and beyond to put in extra time for students and staff members... Mrs. Hodges supports her teachers and values their knowledge and opinion. She does a great job listening to teachers and their needs in their classroom or if they need help with a specific student. She always talks to the teacher first to figure out the situation and takes into consideration everything they have to say... Last but not least, Mrs. Hodges is knowledgeable in all aspects of the organization of the school. Her experience as a classroom teacher and facilitator makes her a better assistant principal because she understands the roles and responsibilities of everyone in the school."

Casey Jo Schatzley & Marlie Kinard, Teachers, MacArthur Junior High