



# North Cross School

## **For Immediate Release**

For more information, contact:

Whitney Aldridge

Media Relations, North Cross School

540-989-6641 ext. 303

waldrige@northcross.org

## **Lee Ann Sigmon-Farley Named Recipient of the 2015 North Cross School Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching**

**ROANOKE, VA (September 15, 2014)**— Ms. Lee Ann Sigmon-Farley, Sixth and Seventh Grade Language Arts Teacher at North Cross School, was named the 2015 recipient of the Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching at the school's Founders' Day ceremony on January 30, 2015, in the Carter Athletic Center.

Now in its fifteenth year, the Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes a faculty member who has a minimum of three years teaching experience at North Cross School, expertise in his or her field, and the ability to effectively communicate that expertise/knowledge, the desire and commitment to grow professionally, and participation in the greater School community through co-curricular activities. Nominations for the award are made by the faculty, staff, and students at North Cross School.

"Ms. Farley has a rare ability to impact her passion for reading and writing on her students in a very lasting and meaningful way," says Ed Dickenson, Director of the Middle School. "She loves working with young people, and her class is always alive with energy and ideas. She is profoundly talented at helping students to self-respect, to read with an analytical eye, and to express themselves effectively in writing and speech."

Ms. Farley has been teaching at North Cross School for 20 years. Not only does she teach reading, writing, and grammar, but she also used to be in charge of the middle school plays, taught HORIZONS (a drug awareness and self-esteem class), and organized the school spelling bees. Not to mention her love of all things "Hobbit," from homemade t-shirts about the book to private viewings of the movies, every middle school student has a fond place for this book in their heart because of Ms. Farley.

Eighth Grade Language Arts Teacher, Mrs. Robin Garrett, said, "Ms. Farley is a master at connecting with students. They all feel a sense of belonging in her classroom because she creates a community atmosphere, which is most important to middle school students."

Lee Ann earned her Bachelor's Degree from Lenoir-Rhyne College and her Master's Degree from Radford University. In addition to teaching, Ms. Farley is passionate about photography (mostly birds and flowers), her farm in Floyd, and her family, especially her daughter, Emily Farley of Virginia Beach; son, Calin Farley, his wife, Mindy, and her two grandchildren, Lola Gail and Jakeob, all of Floyd, VA.

Ms. Farley will receive a stipend in recognition of the accomplishment.

Past recipients include:

- 2014 – Fifth Grade Teacher, Victor Lamas
- 2013 – Band Director, Jimmie Donnini
- 2012 – Upper School Mathematics Teacher, Stephen Belderes
- 2011 – First Grade Teacher, Eileen Strulson
- 2010 – Middle School History Teacher, Dave Calvert (retired)
- 2009 – Middle School History Teacher, Heather Lawrence
- 2008 – Upper School History Teacher, Richard Cook
- 2007 – Upper School English Teacher, Gates DeHart (retired)
- 2006 – First Grade Teacher, Betsy Cook
- 2005 – Middle School Science Teacher, Sandy Patterson
- 2004 – Early Childhood Teacher, Temple Glenn (retired)
- 2003 – Upper School Science Teacher, Jerry Maycock (retired)
- 2002 – Middle and Upper School Latin Teacher, Margaret Grayson (retired)
- 2001 – Fifth Grade Teacher, Mary Lou Sallade (retired)

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**About North Cross School**

*North Cross School is a college-preparatory day school grounded in a strong liberal arts and science curriculum combined with exceptional co-curricular programs. The academic program, from junior kindergarten through twelfth grade, prepares students to become responsible, successful citizens by encouraging them to explore their interests and develop their talents. The school is located at 4254 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA, 24018. For more information, visit [www.northcross.org](http://www.northcross.org).*