

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT:**

Sauk Prairie School District  
Cliff H. Thompson, Superintendent  
213 Maple Street – Sauk City, WI 53583  
608-643-5990



Jenna McCann, Teacher – Merrimac Community Charter School  
School Facebook account: [www.facebook.com/MCCS.2006](http://www.facebook.com/MCCS.2006)  
608-513-9105

**Merrimac Community Charter School Wins  
National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award**



Each year the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the National Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium recognizes five exceptional teachers or schools by presenting them with the Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award. This competitive program recognizes a select group of teachers for their successful efforts in teaching agricultural concepts in their curriculum. The team of teachers at Merrimac Community Charter School, an elementary school within the Sauk Prairie School District, won the Wisconsin state level award in the spring of 2013 and was one of five honorees selected for the national prize this summer.

The team of honored teachers includes Jamie Christianson, Tracy Haupt, Jenna McCann, Kathy Thompson, and Nancy Toberman. Sid Malek and Heidi Larsen serve as lead teachers for the school. This team of teachers incorporates study of agriculture and the environment by raising a school garden, maintaining hydroponic gardens within the school facility, composting, studying and practicing vermiculture, sharing responsibility for animal care, and many other activities determined by the season of the year.

Recipients of the distinguished award receive an honorarium of \$500 and up to \$1,500 for travel related expenses to the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference. The five teachers from Merrimac attended the conference and received the national award from June 25 – 28, 2013 in Minneapolis, MN.

**ABOUT MERRIMAC COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL:**

Merrimac Community Charter School is a public charter school that combines the principles of community education with multi-age instruction. It is a project-based, community-based K-5 elementary school located in the Sauk Prairie School District. The school supports, educates and inspires children through community and project-based learning opportunities and multi-age interactions. The curriculum is inspired by and derived from the diverse area that the school serves; utilizing local history, culture and the natural resources surrounding Merrimac. This allows the classroom to move beyond the immediate school grounds.

*Photos are available upon request and on the Merrimac Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/MCCS.2006](http://www.facebook.com/MCCS.2006)*