

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 31, 2025
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Detroit Red Wings Recognize APS Teacher Mandi Esparza as Best in Class!

Adrian, MI—Springbrook Middle School English Language Arts teacher Mandi Esparza was recently recognized as one of Michigan's top educators through the Detroit Red Wings' Best in Class program, presented by Coca-Cola Zero Sugar and Meijer. A former student nominated Esparza, who was selected as a winner. Esparza will join other outstanding educators across the state to be celebrated for their contributions to education.

Esparza was honored at the January 14, 2025, Red Wings game. She and other awardees attended a special event at Little Caesars Arena, which featured a pregame dinner, an award presentation, and tickets to the game. Former Red Wings player Justin Abdelkader presented the awards and expressed heartfelt gratitude to the teachers who have made a lasting impact on their students.

Esparza reflected on the experience, "It was an incredible honor to be recognized alongside so many passionate educators. Sharing the evening with teachers who love their students and profession as much as I do made the experience even more special."

Springbrook Middle School Principal Adam Benschoter praised Esparza for her dedication to her students, stating, "Mandi Esparza is a dedicated and passionate educator who goes above and beyond for her students daily. Her ability to connect with students and inspire a love for learning is truly remarkable. We are incredibly proud to see her recognized by the Detroit Red Wings' Best in Class program—it's a well-deserved honor for someone who makes such a positive impact in our school community."

Superintendent Nate Parker emphasized the district's pride in its talented educators, noting, "Adrian Public Schools is fortunate to have a remarkable group of teachers, each dedicated to fostering success and growth for our students. Mandi is a shining example of the passion and commitment that define our district. Her recognition highlights her profound impact on her students, and we are incredibly proud to have her on our teaching team."

The Best in Class program honors 75 educators throughout the 2024-25 season, recognizing those who improve student achievement, use innovative teaching strategies, and make a difference in their students' lives. In April, one grand prize winner will receive a \$5,000 grant and a postgame meet-and-greet with a Red Wings player.

To learn more about Adrian Public Schools, please visit <https://www.adrianmaples.org/> or on [Facebook](#).



Former Red Wing Player Justin Abdelkade and APS Teacher Mandi Esparza



APS Teacher Mandi Esparza



Mandi Esparza with other award winners.