

Devon Handler is recognized by the Chillicothe-Ross Community Foundation as Ross County Outstanding Educator of the Month for October.

Bringing kindness, laughter, and fun to the classroom, alongside academic excellence, Handler makes vocal music education a delight for his students at Adena Local Schools. His contagious smile, genuine joy, and authentic care demonstrate his desire to connect with students beyond the classroom. Through engaging music lessons, he keeps students moving, singing, learning, and most importantly, loving music.

Handler is well-liked by both students and colleagues. “Devon is a shining example of dedication to all of the students in our district. His genuine care is evident daily through his interactions with our children. Often, Devon will pop into classrooms in the morning just to check in with students,” commented John Balzer, Superintendent of Schools at Adena Local Schools. “Students are well-aware of his authentic care for them,” he continued. His students have described him as “the best music teacher” and “incredible” and noted that, “He always helps us with anything we need.” His colleagues appreciate his upbeat personality and willingness to volunteer and jump in wherever there is a shortage of staff.

A graduate of Capital University with a degree in vocal performance, Handler also participates with the Capital University Community Choir and serves as Assistant Director with the theater. During his summer break from teaching, Handler works at Columbus Academy Summer Experience.

“Through the generosity of the Foundation’s donors, The Ross County Educator of the Month Award provides a grant to one of Ross County’s school districts for classroom supplies and/or continuing education,” Scott Graham, the Foundation’s Executive Director, said.

Graham and Foundation Board President, Neil Coleman, presented the award to Handler and Balzer along with school principals Josh Jones and Lisa Wayland.