

Rachel Miller
2024 Runner-Up
Crystal River High School, Citrus County

“The integration of Tampa Bay Times articles directly related to our curriculum allowed students to grasp how academic concepts manifest in real-world scenarios, enhancing their comprehension and engagement.”

Rachel is an English Honors teacher for the Health Academy at Crystal River High School in Citrus County.

Rachel was chosen as a 2024 Runner-Up for using the Tampa Bay Times to help our community’s future doctors, nurses, dentists, EMTs and veterinarians see how academic concepts apply to real-world situations.

Rachel created a new, week-long project for her health academy sophomores to research health topics, create a lesson plan and then teach it to Kindergarten students in their community.

First, they used the Tampa Bay Times, NIE curriculum supplements and other resources to research health topics.

Then, they collaboratively planned a comprehensive, standards-aligned lesson plan, and created age-appropriate PowerPoint presentations with engaging activities.

Finally, they visited Kindergarten classrooms and taught their lesson plan to their “Kinder buddies.”

Rachel writes, “(NIE resources) serve as a valuable resource for students to learn about health-related topics such as nutrition, exercise, hygiene, science and public health initiatives.

By incorporating these articles into the lessons, students can see how academic concepts apply to real-world situations, enhancing their understanding and engagement with the material... By taking on the role of teachers and educating their kinder buddies about health and wellness, high school students deepen their own understanding of the subject while developing important skills such as communication, leadership, and empathy.”

Rachel was also recognized as a Runner-Up in the 2023 NIE Teacher of the Year contest.

