



**Outstanding
Early Career
Teacher**

Victoria Barka

Kerkhoven Murdock Sunburg

“Providing opportunities for my students to explore careers, to learn, to be heard, and to try new things has been one of the most rewarding and important things I have done throughout my career.”

Overview

- Victoria is fortunate to see all the 8th graders and 234 unduplicated high school students through the agriculture education program
- Expansion of to a two person department has grown enrollment in the agriculture department by 67%, reaching new students
- Hands on learning and experiences is a priority in her classroom
- Victoria enjoys sharing her passion and knowledge of the agriculture industry and incorporates this passion in to each of the lessons.

Experiential Learning

- Victoria incorporates AgriScience Fair into her 8th grade class, with large success, she had 7 students in the top three at the state judging
- All students enrolled in agriculture classes and FFA members are required to do a Work Based Learning Project (WBL) for class, which has led to successful state degree and proficiency applications
- Victoria visits 75% of her FFA members each summer to set SAE goals

Professional Growth

- Victoria has been an active member of MAAE and attends many of the conferences and professional development workshops provided
- Victoria serves as the Assistant Regional Director for Region 5, the chair of 2 CDE's within her region and is TAA and AgXplore CASE certified
- Victoria has attended MAAE Summer PD, participated in TIP, attended in the I3 retreat and will chair the State Ag Mechanics CDE

FFA Highlights

- This past year the KMS FFA Program has 68 FFA Members
- KMS also had 7 CDE Teams qualified for the State FFA Convention and was very successful in numerous proficiency areas
- KMS FFA gives back to the community by collected 300-500lbs of food for the local food drive, members run a children's barnyard and pork chop booth at the fair as well as a Farmer's Share Meal in the fall.

Partnerships

- The KMS Alumni and Boosters Club is one of the biggest supporters in significantly supporting the FFA members, but was integral in the hiring of a second agriculture teacher.
- Victoria has numerous community partnerships that assist the program such as the Swift County Dairy Producers, Kandiyohi Pork Producers, AgCountry Farm Credit Services and the Kerkhoven Banner

“Tori has been able to accomplish amazing things for our students, while maintaining that work-life balance. She is an exceptionally competent, engaging and amazing agriculture education instructor.”

~ Christa Williamson– KMS Agriculture Education Instructor

2023 MAAE Award Winner