



# Mecklenburg County Public Schools News Release

**For Immediate Release:  
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**(Left to Right) Natalie Coronas, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education, Mark Eckler, Mona Rainey, Principal, Bluestone Middle School**

## **Mark Eckler Named Mecklenburg County Technology Teacher of the Year by the SVRTC**

**Mark Eckler is Mecklenburg County School's "SVRTC Technology Teacher Award" winner. Mark teaches Introduction to Technology, and Construction at Bluestone Middle School and has been with Mecklenburg for 21 years. He uses a large assortment of technology in his classroom every day. SMART board, Presentations, United Streaming, video tutorials, and different software programs are all tools used by Mark to enhance teaching and learning in his classroom.**

**The SMART board is an inspiring tool that is used on a daily basis to demonstrate concepts. While using computers, Mark's students can apply and practice many of the skills covered on the SOL tests. For example, Mr. Eckler uses Pitsco everyday which is software program that**

**reinforces math skills. Pitsco offers an English ruler program which helps students learn fractions to the nearest sixteenth of an inch.**

**He also uses "Reading Bar" in his classroom which helps students with reading difficulties. Students can use the "Reading Bar" to select text on a web page and have it read back to them.**

**Mr. Eckler's students love using Google SketchUp because it allows their thoughts and dreams to come alive. Not to mention, they are practicing math skills without even knowing it.**

**Eighth grade students come to class excited to use the "Pro Engineer" program to draw their CO2 race cars. When their designs are completed, they use "Visual Mill" to bring their designs to life. Visual Mill is a new technology program.**

**Mr. Eckler is using to help students cut out 3D objects in different materials such as wood, plastic, aluminum, and steel.**

**Mark is a phenomenal teacher that recognizes technology as an important component of education and uses it to receive maximum results from his students. Any student enrolled in his class is continuously engaged in learning and benefits from his expertise in the classroom.**