

SUCCESS STORIES from Michigan City Area Schools

SUCCESS begins with Samantha Babb

... TEACHER ... COACH

...MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS SUCCESS STORY

Walk into Samantha Babb's classroom at Elston Middle School and you might find sixth graders building atoms out of cookies and frosting...or dreaming up experiments on "mystery" minerals. "I always loved science as a kid," says Samantha, who teaches both science and social studies at Elston. "It's awesome that I have an opportunity to pass that on to my students."

RIGHT AT HOME: Samantha attended Elston as a junior

high student; she's also an alumna of Marsh Elementary, Krueger Middle School, and Michigan City High School. Just down the hall from her classroom are fellow MCHS grads Stephanie Coggins and Kate Manaher; the three often collaborate on lessons and special projects. Samantha also helps oversee Elston's Green Team, an after-school club where students work on recycling and other environmental issues.

GOOD SPORT: Samantha wasn't all science in high school; she played on the girls' basketball team and was a star center fielder on the MCHS softball team, earning All-DAC recognition in 2000. At Elston, she coaches the sixth grade girls' basketball team. "I love what I do, and I love Michigan City. It's important to show students that you can grow

important to show students that you can grow up here, be successful, and stay in your hometown."

SECRET TO SUCCESS: "Watching kids grow - that keeps me motivated.

There's nothing like the feeling you get when your students ace a test and you realize, 'Hey, I taught them all this!"

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