

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Board Members, and Mr. Superintendent.

We all enjoy and look forward to times when we are afforded the opportunity to celebrate with our students. Our primary mission as educational practitioners and leaders is to support and recognize the monumental achievements of our young people as they pursue their goals; and to reinforce and guide their efforts along the way.

The power of teamwork should never be underestimated, especially with the determination and fortitude of a group of young people that are willing to “go the extra mile” to achieve their dreams.

It is my privilege as Principal of Jasper Middle School, to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Jasper Middle School 2009 Girls’ Softball Team.

As I call your name, please come to the front of the room to be recognized:

6th Grade

24 – Anne Brown-Goolsby
5 – Cheyenne Hamby

21 – Kim Elrod
11 – Haley Howard
44 – Jessica Ray

7th Grade

8 – Makayla Payne
13 – Alexis Hill
#18 – Brooke Wilson
22 – Kayla Howard
7 – Brittany Weaver

8th Grade

10 – Layken Adkins
31 – Natalie Essary
2 – Kristin Chapman
4 – Teri Bunch
32 – Chelcy Spriggs

It is certainly a privilege and honor to present to you the 2009 JMS Girls' Softball Team. The Lady Dragons, victorious in holding the school record for the number of games won and winning this year's end-of-season tournament, have proven what solidarity and determination of teamwork can accomplish. Some of the outstanding highlights of this year's season include: **A 9 and 1 overall record**, and winning over Gilmer Middle 8 to 1 in the championships. Kayla Howard struck out **101 batters in 56 innings**. Eight players (**Kristin Chapman, Makayla Payne, Haley Howard, Layken Adkins, Kym Elrod, Alexis Hill, Teri Bunch, and Anne Brown**) finished with a batting average of **300** or higher. Two players, **Makayla Payne** and **Haley Howard**, finished with a batting average above **400**. As a team, the Lady Dragons scored **82 runs** off **91 hits, a school record**, and only had 12 errors all season long.

A team, however, does not stand alone in its merit of success. A team requires a coach, and **Coach Phillip Black** has spent many hours whipping players into shape, honing skills, and urging his team on to victory. His efforts and results have been outstanding.

All that stated, it is my distinct pleasure to present the 2009 Mountain League Championship Trophy to Mr. Phillip Black and the 2009 JMS Lady Dragons!