

Wichita Public Schools  
December 2023

*Good Apple  
Award*





*The Wichita Public Schools Board of Education is proud to recognize the December 2023 Good Apple Award honorees and thank them for their dedication to our students and our district.*

*The Board established this award program 42 years ago and allows schools and administrative support centers to select and recognize employees, volunteers and partners who provide exemplary service and support our mission.*

*School principals provided these brief excerpts from their Good Apple recipients' nomination materials.*

*For more information about the Wichita Public Schools Good Apple Award program, visit [www.usd259.org/goodapple](http://www.usd259.org/goodapple).*

**Good Apple Honorees were acknowledged for their dedication to our Strategic Plan and were noted for directly aligning with one of the following categories:**

**VISION**



Their work this semester directly aligns with the district's vision. Wichita Public Schools will be the district of choice in our region, where all students and staff are empowered to dream, believe and achieve.

**MISSION**



Their work this semester directly aligns with the district's mission. Wichita Public Schools prepares all students to achieve college, career and life readiness through an innovative and rigorous educational experience.

**SHARED BELIEFS**



Their work this semester directly aligns with the district's shared beliefs. Our shared beliefs include student success, safety and belonging, family and community collaboration, visionary leadership, civic engagement and equity and diversity.

**STRATEGIC PLAN  
THEME**



Their work this semester directly aligns with this year's strategic plan theme of being WPSPROUD.

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Allen  
Elementary  
School



**Brianna Uhrmacher**  
Teacher

Brianna continues to show growth through reflection and learning from colleagues. Building relationships and a great amount of patience is the key to her building strong connections with students - even those who are hardest to connect with. She has been flexible and changed grade levels three years in a row and has been up for the challenge of learning a new curriculum and collaborating with staff.



**Kim Welch**  
Pre-K Teacher

Mrs. Welch is everything that a Pre-K teacher should be. She is patient and kind, but also has high expectations for all students and structures her classroom for student success. Her classroom is highly structured and changes frequently to align to her curriculum themes, which the kids love. Kim adores her students and shows this by getting to know them, having fun with them, and supporting them as they work to learn foundational academic and social-emotional skills.



### **Allen Elementary School Team**

**Kendra Whippo**

Social Worker

**Melinda Schauf**

Psychologist

**Karen Bombardier**

Speech Language Pathologist

**Savannah Richardson**

Counselor

**Susan Scheffer**

Speech Language Pathologist

**Heather Sells**

Nurse

Allison  
Traditional  
Magnet Middle  
School



**Lori George**

Science Teacher

Our Child Study Team members are true advocates for all students. They are tireless in their efforts to support students and collaborate with teachers to help children achieve success. They are always available and willing to help our staff, families, and our students. They truly are the best support team in USD259! We are so grateful for their work!

This school year, Ms. George, has stepped in as the interim 8th Grade Team Leader. She has shown her leadership ability by taking on tasks that are beyond her normal duties as a classroom teacher. Ms. George has created a culture of belonging in her team and utilizes Fair Practice when making decisions and working towards common goals of the team.



**Ellen Awe**

SPED Teacher

During her time as a special education language arts teacher at Allison Traditional Magnet Middle School, Ellen has gone above and beyond for her students. She creates engaging lessons that get her students excited to learn and work in her classroom. Ellen knows each of her students' achievement levels and plans individualized work that is just challenging enough to push them forward in their learning and help them grow academically.



**Jenna McGovern**

Instructional Coach

I have worked alongside Jenna McGovern for 3 years and every year she astounds me with her passion for igniting our teachers' reasons for this profession, as well as for making our students feel safe and secure. She also helps keep the building running on the day-to-day business of students and staff alike. Her seamless execution of her job can sometimes go overlooked.

Jenna strives to make Professional Learning a true resource for teachers looking to improve their craft.

Alvin E. Morris  
Administrative  
Center



### **AMAC Team**

**Gina Wiedemann**  
Benefit Analyst  
**Boni Burkhart**  
Supervisor Employee Health and  
Disability Programs  
**Nicole Heizelman**  
Employee Health, Wellness and  
Disability Tech  
**Alexis Summers**  
Retirement Specialist  
**Douglas Mumma**  
Risk Compliance Analyst  
**Jeana Melton**  
Employee Health Tech  
**Sandra Cruz**  
Work Comp Claims Adjuster  
**Terry Fields**  
Benefit and Budget Assistant  
**Nathan Werner**  
Work Comp Assistant

This team works tirelessly on their goals to provide the district employees with the tools they need to understand and utilize their benefits. They consistently seek to empower employees to advocate for themselves and not leave any benefit unused. They have helped design Hootie the Owl to help spread the message during in-services, open enrollments, newsletters and personal employee dialogues. They have also worked out new ways to be more inclusive with enrollment materials by including Spanish translated benefit guides and an audio-narrated guidebook. The district is in great hands having a team such as this caring for their benefits.



**Veronica Gillette**  
Parent Involvement Worker –  
Native American Program

Veronica is heavily involved in her program whether it is visiting students in a building for tutoring or helping to plan the next activity or fellowship night. She works hard to include families and encourages them to engage in the community around them. She is head of the AMAC Social Committee and looks for new ways to show appreciation to all the employees at AMAC. She is not only involved with WPS, but is also a smiling face in the community working on diversity, equity and inclusion. She is a powerful supporter and will give 110% in any adventure she joins.



**Ali Flores**  
Administrative Assistant

Ali is always willing to help and do what it takes to make the professional development clinics run smoothly. This includes everything from making copies to decorating tables, buying and putting out snacks and drinks. This is no small task since our clinics range from 50 to 100 participants each time. She is a real collaborator spanning across many departments.

Anderson  
Elementary  
School



### **Anderson Elementary School**

#### **Team**

**Deb Olien**

Social Worker

**Danica Burke**

Psychologist

**Carly Zielke**

Social Worker

**Suzanne Cross**

Counselor

**Katrina Quinones**

Speech Language Pathologist

**Gina Pearce**

Behavior Interventionist

**Angela Fowler**

Nurse

The Anderson CST models championing for students and the belief that all students can learn and grow. The Anderson CST takes care of the hearts of students and staff through their work.

Beech  
Elementary  
School



### **Beech Elementary School Team**

**Chantal Copper**

Administrative Assistant

**Lindsey Mork**

Administrative Assistant

**Nayeli Quintana**

Administrative Assistant

This team surpasses expectations on a daily basis. Each member of the team is new to their position and they do an amazing job providing excellent customer service to our students, staff, parents and community. These ladies are an invaluable part of our Beech Family!



**Valerie Ortiz**

Reading Intervention Teacher

As a new member to the Beech Family this year, Valerie has wasted no time getting to know students and staff. She has built great relationships. She regularly shares her expertise in supporting students, planning with staff and helping to engage our families. Thanks for all you do, Valerie!



**Marla Sharpe**

Social Worker

Marla is a veteran member of the Beech staff. Through her years at Beech, she has welcomed new families and has supported all of our students and families with needed resources. Marla is always willing to help out whenever and wherever there is a need. Thanks for everything you do!

Benton  
Elementary  
School



**Amy Love**  
5th Grade Teacher and Latchkey  
Director

Amy is a long-time Bobcat, mentoring, inspiring, and educating hundreds of students as a 5th grade teacher. Her commitment to our families, students, and colleagues has established her as a person of legacy in this building. Amy always puts students first and does whatever it takes to make an impact.



**Addie Schroeder**  
Counselor

Addie has an unwavering heart for all kids. She is a critical team member who helps to provide support, care, guidance, and comforting safety to our Bobcats. She advocates for equity and addresses the needs of the whole child to help them grow confidently into their future. Love you, Ms. Addie!



**Benton Elementary School**

**Team**

**Joe Fugit**  
Head Custodian  
**Destiny Elias**  
Night Custodian

Joe and Destiny are a dream team! While both are new to our building, they have quickly become a special part of our school community. Despite the challenges of a huge summer construction project, Joe and Destiny worked tirelessly to prepare the building in so many ways for our staff and students.

Black  
Traditional  
Magnet  
Elementary School



**Crystal Belt**  
Paraprofessional

Crystal is all about student success! When she walks into the classroom, she is geared up and ready to help all students. If we have students who may be struggling, she sits next to them and really ensures they are learning. Crystal is constantly monitoring to see who might need a little extra support. She comes in ready to contribute with her ideas, help with on-task behaviors or giving students a break to refocus. Crystal has many years of experience, which is a benefit for all students and staff at Black TM.



**Bill Nester-Brown**  
Long-Term Substitute, Art

Bill Nester-Brown is a long-term substitute for us now for a second year but in a totally different area! He is very involved not only in his position as Art teacher but also among our school community. Bills works Latchkey, helps engage families during events, supervises recess and just really knows our students. The artwork for all grades is amazing, he is a huge value for our building and support of our magnet theme, Project-Based Learning. Thanks for showing your #PandaPride

Caldwell  
Elementary  
School



**Karla Hagerman**  
Paraprofessional

Karla has been part of the Caldwell family for many years. She understands the families and students that she serves. She uses the strategies that are presented to her in professional development so that the students she works with have a high level of learning. She ensures that the teachers are aware of how the students are learning and what they need next in order to grow. The students know that Ms. Karla will always love them. Thank you for all you have done for Caldwell.



**Tim Coltrain**  
Physical Education Teacher

Tim loves Caldwell. He comes to work every day with the attitude that he can make a students' day more enjoyable. His passion for P.E. is clearly seen through his dedication to give students as many opportunities to move throughout the school year. Behind the scenes he has worked hard making sure Caldwell students have access to healthy new experiences like the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program. Caldwell is lucky to have a teacher like Tim and his desire to help our kids be healthy and successful.



**Shannon Banta**  
4th Grade Teacher

Shannon is a great example of a teacher who provides rigorous educational experiences for her students. She meets her students where they are at, but still has high expectations. She plans engaging and rigorous lessons that challenge and support her students' needs. Shannon cares deeply for her students and makes building a safe, trusting and positive environment a priority. Caldwell wouldn't be the same without Mrs. Banta.

Chester I.  
Lewis  
Academic  
Learning Center



**Melisa Patterson**  
Business Teacher

Brand new to The Chet, business teacher Melisa Patterson has already made big, positive differences in our school. Making a seamless transition from teaching elementary to teaching high school, her first task was substantial: she developed curricula for four classes, providing additional curricula for students to individualize their learning. Most importantly, though, Melisa works beautifully with students. She has been the consummate "great hire," and Chester Lewis is glad to have her as part of the family.

Chisolm  
Trail  
Elementary  
School



**Andrea Zimmerman**  
Social Worker

Andrea Zimmerman's contributions to our school community have been invaluable, and they exemplify our district's shared beliefs. Her passion, dedication, and commitment to our students and community is often so much work behind the scenes that the impact is hard to put into words. She will always be the last person to ask for help and praise and she deserves it all!

Christa  
McAuliffe  
Academy



**Clarissa Leidholt**  
Nurse

Nurse Leidholt has been ready at a moment's notice for multiple medical emergencies this school year. She remains calm while attending to the person in need and directing others. Every day she takes care of over 800 children with a wide variety of needs. Most days, she can be found in after school, in her office, putting in extra time due to the tremendous workload at CMA.



**Nate Black-Prim**  
Head Custodian

Nate has been short a team member for over half a year. He has taken on extra hours in order to ensure that our students come to a clean building every day. He has gone above and beyond to provide excellent customer service to our staff and students!

Cleaveland  
Traditional  
College and  
Career Readiness  
Magnet Elementary  
School



**Cathy Dugan**  
Social Worker

Cleaveland is extremely fortunate to have Cathy Dugan as our Social Worker. She works hard to help provide what each student needs to be successful. She is very thorough in her reports and is a valuable resource in our school community. It's clear that she genuinely cares about the success of our students and works hard to make sure their individual needs are met. Cathy has a wide range of abilities, and her skill set continues to astonish us. Thank you Cathy for all that you do to support students, staff, and families at Cleaveland.



**Erika Bates-Lytle**  
Paraprofessional

Erika has earned a Good Apple for her incredible work with the students and staff at Cleaveland. Her willingness to do whatever is necessary to help student achievement has been nothing short of amazing. She is willing to help in any situation and does so with a positive attitude. Students love and respect her. She makes them feel safe while teaching them academic and life skills to be successful. Erika gives them grace, guidance, and love every day!



**Amanda Butler**  
Pre-K Teacher

Amanda always has a positive attitude no matter what situation arises. She doesn't back down from any challenge that is put in front of her. She jumps in and helps with anything and everything around the building. She makes each student feel welcomed and part of the class community. The relationships she has built with students and families has increased the love of learning in her classroom.



**Michael Bagwell**  
Custodian

Mike has worked tirelessly throughout our construction project to move entire classrooms again and again, to support the learning of students. Mike has built relationships with staff and students and often jumps in to help when students need extra support. He is responsive when needed and goes above and beyond to provide what is needed with a positive attitude!



**Deborah Reed-Johnson**  
Paraprofessional

Deborah is dedicated to her students. She is firm but loving, patient and kind. Deborah helps her students understand the expectations in the classroom. She steps in wherever needed and always has a smile. She also has a great laugh! She cares about the students and they know it. Cloud Elementary is blessed to have Deborah as a paraprofessional at our school.



**Meghan Gonzalez**  
ESOL Teacher

Meghan is very knowledgeable and resourceful. She takes on jobs no one else wants, without being asked. Meghan is in charge of our school's Facebook page and takes initiative to include as many school activities as possible. She also serves on the Building Committee and coordinates our Yearbook. She is passionate about Cloud, its students and its staff. Cloud Elementary is very blessed to have Meghan as a teacher and a leader in our school.



**Robert Lacy**  
Intervention Specialist -  
Behavior Health School Liaison

Robert Lacy is an exceptional behavior interventionist at Coleman, dedicated to supporting students with challenging behaviors. He's patient, kind, and empathetic, fostering inclusivity and teamwork. His presence is a blessing, making him an invaluable asset to our school community.



**Jennifer Follis**  
Library Clerk

Jennifer Follis has made remarkable contributions at Coleman. Her positive presence, dedication to students' success, and her impact on the library program have enriched our school. She's a true embodiment of our shared values, engaging with both students and staff. We're fortunate to have her as part of our community.



**Coleman Team**  
**Todd Lewis**  
Parent Volunteer  
**Anne Lewis**  
Parent Volunteer

Anne and Todd Lewis contribute significantly to our school. Anne is a devoted CPO member and academic league coach. She assists students and volunteers in math intervention. Todd forges valuable community partnerships, supports school projects, and organizes fundraisers and family nights. Their combined efforts make a lasting impact.

College Hill  
Elementary  
School



**Trisha Jones**  
Instructional Coach

Trish is always positive and willing to lend a helping hand. She is supportive and jumps into action to help problem solve while staying solution focused. Trish is dedicated to both student and staff success. She goes above and beyond to support student achievement, planning, and collaborating in our school community!



**Madison Orton**  
Psychologist

Madison goes above and beyond in her daily responsibilities and is always there to help when anything is needed. She not only is knowledgeable and contributes to the success of the Child Study Team, she also helps to support teachers with behaviors and brainstorming in the problem solving process. She is willing to share and model strategies, she is patient, and she truly believes in the success of every child. Madison puts students first and helps to build a sense of belonging for all students in the building!

Curtis  
Middle School



**Curtis Middle School Team**  
**Gary Riley**  
Student Support Advocate  
**Hattie Collins**  
Behavior Interventionist

Mr. Riley and Ms. Collins have taken our Student Support Team by force! They've taken the lead in support of our students with greatest needs as it relates to behavior, attendance, and grades. However, they've also helped to implement programs that increase student belonging and voice through their leadership of our Curtis Cultural Council. Their presence has completely shifted the intangibles of climate and culture in our school.

Dunbar  
Support  
Center –  
Multilingual  
Education Services



**Mirta Hamersky**  
Migrant Advocate

Mirta supports our growing influx of migrant families by assisting them on the completion the National Certification of Eligibility(COE). She supports our families by qualifying them for our WPS program in order to receive educational guidance, health resources and wrap around supports when needed. Since July 1st she has completed over 25 COEs for our district which is very time consuming. Mirta always does more than what is asked of her. She is a team player who always has kids at the heart of her work.



**Traci Langston**  
ESOL Teaching Specialist

Traci's support for ESOL bus riders extends beyond helping students directly. She also trains the USD 259 transportation department and the contractors on how to work with students. She has helped adults better understand how to use non-verbal communication, including ensuring that bus drivers have access to non-verbal cue cards. Bus drivers do not naturally get the same training as ESOL paras or teachers. With Traci sharing her knowledge of best practices, Bus drivers are equipped to serve our USD 259 ESOL students!

East  
High School



**Dunbar Team**

**Joaquin Garcia**

Technician, Migrant/ESOL/MES  
Services

**Denise Aldrich**

Technician, Migrant/ESOL/MES  
Services

This team is AMAZING! The two of them work hard to code, test, and ensure that our data is accurate and complete in order to maximize funding for our ESOL/Migrant Programs. They support families, teachers and students providing excellent customer service. They advocate for our families and help to bridge the communication gap when needed. MES is lucky to have such a dedicated team of professionals.



**Cliff Bayne**

AFJROTC Instructor

Cliff displayed a tireless commitment and a can-do attitude organizing East High's 100 Year Celebration Parade. He went above and beyond to ensure the parade's success. His efforts made the celebration unforgettable and brought immense enjoyment to the students, staff, alumni, and community.



**East High School Team**

**Brian Rhodes**

Founder of the East High  
Endowment Fund

**Gary Chilton**

Founder of the East High  
Endowment Fund

**Douglas Rupe**

Founder of the East High  
Endowment Fund

**Judy Rowe**

Founder of the East High  
Endowment Fund

This group generously founded the East High Endowment Fund to help with future needs of East High students and staff. They were also instrumental throughout the entire planning process for East High's 100 Year Celebration, helping to ensure our celebration's success.

Enterprise  
Elementary  
School



**Rebekah Austin**

Social Worker

Rebekah is a true community resource to Enterprise families and staff. She is always willing to help staff with paperwork and truly puts families first, going to their home and places of business in order to get the support and resources they need. Rebekah makes families feel like they belong to Enterprise!

Franklin  
Elementary  
School



### Enterprise Elementary Team

**Mellissa Smith**

5th Grade Teacher

**Allie Currie**

5th Grade Teacher

**Robert Castleberry**

5th Grade Teacher

**Nicole Fletcher**

PBS Teacher

These teachers are a new, dynamic team at Enterprise. Three of the four have never taught 5th grade before and are new to WPS. All have put their heart and soul in learning their new roles and making strong relationships with students and staff. Each have brought new ideas to expand the team and have made the team feel like a family to further the collaboration to make a difference in each Enterprise student.



### Jeff West

Head Custodian

Jeff was able to transition to Franklin at the beginning of the school year and hit the ground running. He is organized and thorough, Jeff is easy to get ahold of, he responds very quickly. Franklin facilities have NEVER been so well cared of. Not only is Jeff fantastic at his job, but he's also a great human! Jeff whole heartedly joined our staff, he participates in and supports building initiatives. Jeff has connected with staff and students on a personal level and is encouraging to all. His friendly face is always a welcome sight! Jeff, thank you for all that you do!



### Charissa Moriasi

Newcomers Teacher

Charissa always advocates for her students. She is helpful to newer teachers by providing tips and supports for ELL students. She always has a positive attitude and is a joy to be around for students and staff.



### Janessa Crittenden

PANDO Advocate

Janessa has been called to serve students and she does so passionately. Janessa goes above and beyond to meet families where they are and build relationships between them and the school to ensure that students have what they need to be present. The seeds Janessa plants in these young minds and hearts will help them on their journey to becoming the best version of themselves they can be. Janessa, thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with staff and students here at Franklin. You are valued beyond measure!

Gammon  
Elementary  
School



**Kaylea Decker**  
Volunteer

Kaylea Decker is one of Gammon's most amazing volunteers. As a high school student, Kaylea has a lot going on, but she still finds time to help out at Gammon weekly. There is no task she won't take on. She laminates, copies, cuts and paste and creates amazing WIG scoreboards. In addition, she is a positive role model for our elementary students. We are so grateful for her weekly contribution to the Gammon community!



**Annie Roos**  
Psychologist

Annie goes above and beyond her job to make our students feel safe and to support teachers. She splits her job between Gammon and Cessna, and I know whenever she's at Gammon, our days will be smoother.

Even when working with our most challenging students, she looks for strengths and tries to maintain positivity and grace. When meeting with our other staff and/or parents, she is very respectful and looks for a win-win whenever possible. Gammon is a better place with Annie on our team.



**Gammon Elementary School Team**  
**Joshua Ornelas**  
MA Paraprofessional K-2  
**Cariann Vlamis**  
MA Paraprofessional K-2  
**Brioanna Ellis**  
MA Paraprofessional K-2

Cariann, Joshua and Brioanna are exemplary educators faced with rapid-fire challenges in the classroom on a daily basis. They are flexible when something unexpected happens, kind to the students and are still able to maintain firm boundaries for challenging behaviors. This year they have faced even more responsibilities, yet come to work each day with a positive outlook on how to work together to help their students feel safe and loved. They even look like they enjoy it! We at Gammon are so fortunate to have them on our staff.

Gardiner  
Elementary  
School



**Bianca Bachman**  
Behavior Health School Liaison

Bianca is new to the education setting, and, was hired after school started, but that hasn't stopped her! She came in ready and willing to go above and beyond to help meet the needs of staff, students, and families. She's built great relationships with students/families and definitely has the heart of a Thunderbird!!



**Greta Carter**  
Food Service Aide

Ms. Greta works diligently to keep our kitchen clean and safe! During a recent inspection, we received ZERO violations which is to be commended! She works well with her team and has the heart of a Thunderbird!



**Carmen Valtierra Rojas**  
Food Service Aide

Ms. Carmen has built great relationships with our students and staff! Recently, she took off her gloves, and came to assist with a Kindergartener who was experiencing some big emotions. She went above and beyond to help that student feel safe and successful, and has the heart of a Thunderbird!

Hamilton  
Middle  
School



**Haley Moore**  
Math Teacher

Haley is an outstanding math teacher who cares deeply about her kids. She is dedicated to fostering a strong sense of community at Hamilton Middle School and always has a positive attitude, even on the tough days. We are lucky to have her at The Ham!



**Tony Pruett**  
Pando Coordinator

Mr. Tony is consummate team player. Anytime there is a need for anything as far as escorts, dealing with minor classroom situations, to managing his lunch group, he is always there with amazing support.



**Allyssa Meyer**  
Paraprofessional

Allyssa is an amazing paraprofessional and has a very bright future as an aspiring classroom teacher. She has been instrumental in providing meaningful instruction and support in our adapted science classroom this year, and she is always willing to do whatever it takes to put kids first.



Val Mayta is a perfect example of being a flexible team player. She is a well-loved guest that regularly supports our building in a variety of capacities. Each day that she arrives at Harry Street, she comes with a smile and positive attitude - ready to serve everyone with her best foot forward. Not only does she support in a variety of ways for adults, but with students. She is extremely mindful of our students, their families and the variety of needs they bring to school. Harry Street would not be the same without the presence of Val Mayta.



Ashley Welsh serves Harry Street and USD 259 through a variety of roles. Not only is Ashley a phenomenal classroom teacher, she serves on building leadership team, is an AVID champion and recently assisted in the professional growth of a preservice teacher. Ashley lives her why everyday through the work that she commits herself to. Ashley leads by example, advocates, and takes initiative to tackle any challenge that may come her way. Harry Street is extremely fortunate to experience her love and leadership each day.



Sarah is a new member to Team Harry Street but that has not stifled her initiative in supporting students and teacher. Sarah is a true champion for all students, families, and staff members. She does not shy away from any challenge. Her problem solving and collaboration skills make her an exceptional team member for our school community. Kristen Mott is a beloved instructional coach for Team Harry Street. Kristen is a positive presence throughout our building through her relationships with staff and students. Kristen faces all barriers with the mindset that the problem will be solved with the best solution for all parties. Harry Street is grateful for Kristen and all the goodness she brings to the school community each day.

Heights  
High School



**John Close**  
Welding Teacher

Mr. Close has created an environment of excellence in Heights Welding program where the community partnerships he has created gives our students real world connections and careers that students are able to begin straight out of high school.



**Hope Wilson**  
FACS Teacher

Mrs. Hope Wilson is a Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Heights High School, but she is also our Equity Champion. Hope works tirelessly to ensure that all students at Heights are represented and seen.



**Kara Henry Fortier**  
English Teacher

Mrs. Kara Henry Fortier has rejuvenated the Heights High School Debate Team into a force to be reckoned with. She completed the 2nd Annual Monster Mash Debate Tournament, participants compete wearing costumes creating a popular tournament competitors look forward to.

Horace Mann  
Dual Language  
Magnet



**Nora Cesar de Arambula**  
LRE Paraprofessional

Ms. Nora is one of the first faces students see in the morning. She greets everyone with a smile, a fist bump, or a hug at morning drop off. Her tireless efforts, innovative strategies, and rigorous expectations make the difference. Due to Ms. Nora's high expectations, along with her loving demeanor and high levels of support, it is no wonder why a student said "Ms. Nora is truly an angel." Students and families at Horace Mann, love her.



**Alex Bumgarner**  
Physical Education Teacher

Mr. Bumgarner is an amazing PE teacher and latchkey director! He has a calm and positive demeanor that makes building positive connections with all the students look easy! He participates in schoolwide activities, is flexible, creative and reflective. He is a team player, collaborator, and values relationships with students and staff. We are lucky to have him.



**Silvia Garcia**  
Bookkeeper

Ms. Garcia wears many hats, but above all her main title is that of the “beating heart of Horace Mann.” Her bookkeeping job is second to the role she plays in making sure we are a functional family. Because of her wisdom, many look to her for advice, support, and answers. Silvia always has the best interest of students at heart. Horace Mann without Silvia would need a heart transplant, stat.

Hyde  
Leadership and  
International  
Explorations  
Magnet



**Susie Troutt**  
4th Grade Teacher

Susie is kind and caring. She makes everyone in the building feel welcomed and heard. She is helpful to the staff and patient with her students. She is the definition of generous. Generous of her time, her knowledge, and the love she gives. Susie should be the Good Apple award winner because she goes the extra mile every day - whether it's tutoring, run club, teacher in charge, or helping a teammate.



**Corie Bishop**  
Special Education Campus  
Support

Mrs. Bishop is deserving of a Good Apple for her dedication to support and grow our SPED teachers. Corie is an amazing mentor to those new to the field and goes beyond her title to ensure they are set up for success. She's also a wealth of knowledge that is always willing to step in and do what is best for a school, the staff, and the students. We appreciate Corie for the long hours and support that she has poured into Hyde!



**Hyde Magnet Team**  
**Dru Trant**  
Social Worker  
**Lindsey Davies**  
Psychologist

Dru Trant works endlessly to take care of our staff, students, and families needs, even though she is only part time in our building. She has been a mentor for new Child Study Team members, volunteers to help students and staff whenever there's a need, and she communicates so well with our families. We appreciate everything that she does at Hyde! Mrs. Davies works unfailingly long hours to ensure that each and every student has the techniques and tools they need to have a successful day. She is very effective at communication with staff, students and parents. Our school is very lucky to have Mrs. Davies on our staff list and we appreciate her every day.

Irving  
Elementary  
School



**Sara Batchelder**  
Instructional Coach

Sara is a top-notch coach. She always ensures teachers and kids have what they need to be successful and is willing to happily answer questions we have or to find answers if she doesn't have them. Her ability to analyze data is like no one else's. We are incredibly lucky to have her as our coach.



**Jadyn Exley**  
Title 1 Paraprofessional

Jadyn works with K-5 students. She has a calm demeanor and brings kindness and patience to every room she supports. She's taken on teaching small groups and has true professionalism with every group. Outside of her role she also volunteers for PTO and other family nights. I am proud to work with her.



**Irving Elementary Team**  
**Matthew Pacholski**  
Paraprofessional Pre-K  
**Elizabeth Beruman**  
Paraprofessional Pre-K

The Pre-K Paraprofessionals have demonstrated outstanding leadership this year. Matthew has shown an incredible ability to engage students. Elizabeth is committed to maintaining a safe and inclusive environment. They both have worked tirelessly to keep the classroom productive and safe every single day!

Isely  
Traditional  
Magnet  
Elementary School



**Samantha Raulsten**  
SPED Paraprofessional Low  
Incidence

Through multiple changes in staffing and students she has always had the best interest of the students at the heart of what she does. Samantha makes students and staff alike feel welcome and takes time to help other rooms in order to make the team successful for the benefit of all.



**Chris Griffitts**  
Paraprofessional SPED High  
Incidence

Mr. Chris's work with our Mixed Abilities students does not go unnoticed. Whether in the classroom or specials classes he ensures students are successful, safe, and accepted with their regular education peers. He shows up every day for the love of the kids.



**Isely Elementary Team**  
**Jackie Staley**  
Pre-K Paraprofessional  
**Amira Del Muro Balderes**  
Pre-K Paraprofessional

They both reflect exactly what it means to keep our school trusted and safe, and it shows as you two walk down the halls and are greeted with scream of joy and quiet finger waves. You two are a perfect image of making connections and meeting student where they are at.

Information  
Services and  
Technology



**Heidi Baxter**  
Network Services Technician

Heidi has dedicated many years exemplifying caring customer service, attention to detail, and a love of the classroom experience. From Heidi's commitment to student safety on the web, highly available and secure access to applications, protection of student and staff data, and training of new employees, she is certainly a great example of being WPSPROUD! Here are the words Heidi Baxter's peers use to describe her; Attentive, Dedicated, Willing, Irreplaceable, Diligent, Kind, Considerate, Loyal, Passionate, Professional, Helpful, Detailed, and Reliable.

Jackson  
Elementary  
School



#### IST Team

**Kristin Ford**

Instructional Technology  
Specialist

**Joshua Ehret**

Instructional Technology  
Specialist

**Tana Ruder**

Instructional Technology  
Specialist

**Laurie Newton**

Instructional Technology  
Specialist

**Clinton Dayhuff**

Instructional Technology  
Specialist

IST is thrilled to nominate the EdTech Team wholeheartedly for the Good Apple Award, a recognition they've truly earned through their exceptional contributions. Their work has been perfectly aligned with Wichita Public Schools' vision, creating opportunities for all students and staff to dream, believe, and achieve. What's truly commendable is their dedication to our district's mission of preparing students for college, careers, and life readiness through innovative education. The EdTech Team truly embodies this year's strategic plan theme of being WPSPROUD, and they've done so with a quiet dedication that's made a significant impact.



**Kari Silvernale**

Paraprofessional

Kari has been impacting students in countless ways! Ms. Kari has been piloting the 8 to Great for Students program since last Spring, teaching kids to identify their inner superpowers. She has been an integral part of our Kids Who Code program to engage students in learning something that isn't taught directly in their classroom. She works tirelessly to ensure our students are engaged and excited to be at Jackson!



**Gianna Wilson**

1st grade teacher, AVID  
Elementary Champion

Gianna is not only an amazing 1st grade teacher but she has taken on the role of our AVID Champion at Jackson. Through her learning of best practices and relational capacity, she has shared her knowledge by leading professional development several times this year already to spread the learning across the building. As a result of her teaching her colleagues, the impact of AVID is being observed in all classrooms throughout the building. Gianna is a true asset to our Jackson family!



Jardine  
STEM and  
Career  
Explorations  
Academy Middle  
School



**Elvia Figueroa Loera**  
Cafeteria Manager  
**Maria Amparan**  
Food Service Aide  
**Rosa Hermosillo**  
Nutrition Services Lead  
**Karla Morales**  
Food Services Aide  
**Petra Gonzalez**  
Food Services Aide



**Lindsey Holtry**  
Instructional Coach

Jefferson  
Elementary  
School



**Dulce Garcia**  
Substitute Teacher

Melissa is a very caring, compassionate person who doesn't always get the recognition she deserves for serving students who have a variety of needs that can be difficult to serve. Despite the challenges and behaviors in her classroom, she continues to seek ways to motivate students, ease their frustrations about school, and show compassion even when it's hard. She models forgiveness and spreads joy to others always!

Our cafeteria staff is led by Ms. Elvia Figueroa Loera. Under her leadership our students and staff are fed a variety of delicious meals. Students have commented on how good the food is! Ms. Elvia and her staff are kind, considerate, and have built great relationships with Jardine students. We are Jaguar PROUD of each one of our dedicated cafeteria staff members.

Lindsey is, not only, our VILS Coach and STS, but she is an integral part of the Jardine family. Lindsey goes above and beyond to insure that our teachers have the technology knowledge and capabilities to provide our students an innovative classroom experience. Lindsey is more than her title; she is a dedicated educator, who lives the WPS mission. We are Jardine PROUD of her!

Dulce Garcia has been a saving grace at Jefferson this year! She jumped right in as a long-term substitute in one of our kindergarten classrooms at the beginning of the year and has now transitioned into a long-term substitute position in one of our newcomer classrooms. Her collaboration with teams has been great and her ability to maintain fidelity to the kindergarten routines along with curriculum and instruction has been nothing short of amazing! We are so fortunate to have Dulce at Jefferson this year!



**Becky Eck**  
Pre-K Teacher

I would like to nominate Becky Eck for her hard work and dedication to our Jefferson pre-k babies. Her classroom is a hidden gem that many don't get the pleasure to see. Her fidelity to the curriculum has proven to bring success to our students moving into kindergarten in both academics and social skills. She always goes the extra mile for her team, students, and parents. She is a true leader of her "Flock"!



**Holmberg Wellness Group**  
**(Owners Greg and Mandy Holmberg)**  
Partner

Holmberg Wellness Group has supported Jefferson over the years with all our community events. They've donated candy for our Trunk or Treat night, money, and canned good donations for our Falcon Turkey Food Drive, which benefits the district's food drive, massages for staff for appreciation week, along with gloves, and hats for students in the winter. They are continuously supporting Jefferson and help us give back to our students, families, and staff. We greatly appreciate their continued support!

Joyce Focht  
Instructional  
Support Center



**Karry Lipsey**  
JFISC Security

Everyone at JFISC is thankful for Officer Lipsey because he makes a difference to all who enter. Karry has our students' safety first and is a caring mentor to EIA students. He's always helpful and kind. He keeps calm when there are difficult situations in the hearing office. Our EIA kids love him.



**Jessica Petrik**  
EIA Instructional Coach

Jessica's always willing to help. She's a role model and connects with students and families. She organizes PD and all our K12 testing. She is the definition of grace and is loved by all EIA stakeholders.



**Isaiah Henke**  
WSU Tech IST Intern

Isaiah is a great addition to the EIA family. He created a flawless enrollment and orientation process. He's always positive and helpful. He made magic in a tough position! He's a WSUT intern and a mentor to EIA students interested in tech.

Kelly Liberal  
Arts  
Elementary  
School



**Sheila Steele**  
SLP

Sheila has exhibited exceptional ability to identify and address communication needs among our students at Kelly. Her dedication to improving speech and language skills has empowered countless children to overcome obstacles and communicate effectively, greatly enhancing their academic and social experiences.



**Karen Johnson**  
Paraprofessional

Karen is so deserving she received three nominations. Karen goes above and beyond the role of a para. She volunteers providing her knowledge and expertise as our resident gardener. In addition, she helps sponsor the Kindness Club after school. In the classroom, she is constantly looking for new ways to help students succeed. She is a great role model at Kelly!



**James Harry**  
Lead Custodian

Kelly started the year short-handed and James came to the rescue! In addition to working his day shift, he worked overtime to cover the evening shift. Staff were so appreciative of the hard work he was putting in each day. James is dedicated to making sure the school is clean and classrooms are ready each day. In addition, James welcomed his new teammate and made sure to support him as he learned the job. He is greatly appreciated at Kelly!

Kensler  
Elementary  
School



**Carly Suellentrop**  
Teacher

Carly truly puts in such hard work on a daily basis to make sure all of her students feel safe and that they have a staff member they can come to for any sort of issues. She constantly is connecting with staff and collaborating with them to make sure her students succeed in every area of learning.

Linwood  
Elementary  
School



**Melissa Arredondo**  
2nd Grade Teacher

Mrs. Arredondo has done a fantastic job setting up a structured and stable learning environment this year that has allowed her to build and grow relationships with her class.



**Brandi Dalrymple**  
Paraprofessional

Mrs. Dalrymple does tremendous job of filling in for our teachers when we have shortages. You can expect Mrs. Dalrymple to step in and provide students with stellar learning.



**Lindi Cox**  
Special Education Teacher -  
Interrelated

Mrs. Cox has helped to spearhead a special education pilot program that allows Linwood to embrace all learners and truly live Linwood's belief that ALL BELONG. There is not a learner that Mrs. Cox can't reach or teach.

Marshall  
Middle  
School



**Patricia Brown**  
Data Leader

Patricia and her TheraPug, Benelli, have become incredible assets to the Marshall team. Patricia consistently goes above and beyond to support the school, offering her assistance proactively. Patricia collaborates with fellow staff members to teach new concepts, share important data, and foster a sense of camaraderie among the team. Together, Patricia and Benelli create a welcoming and safe atmosphere for our students. Benelli has formed strong bonds with both staff and students within the building, always displaying a respectful and friendly demeanor.

Mayberry  
Cultural and  
Fine Arts  
Magnet  
Middle School



**Allison Pieschl**  
Theater Teacher

Ms. Pieschl is an amazing teacher. But overall, she's an amazing person. She does everything she can to make our learning experience the best it can be. Even if she is tired or in a bad mood, she still gives it her all. She makes learning enjoyable and fun. Also, the amount of time and effort she puts into all of her classes and after school activities is insane. Ms. Pieschl's dedication to my growth as an actress and student has inspired me in so many ways. I will never truly forget the countless hours that she has dedicated to helping me and others succeed. Her kindness has made a world of difference in my life.



**Carmen Sobrino**  
Spanish Teacher

Mayberry Cultural and Fine Arts Magnet Middle School is honored to recognize Mrs. Carmen Sobrino as one of our Good Apple Recipients for the 2023 Fall Semester. Mrs. Sobrino teaches Spanish and AVID. In her attempts to reach all her students, she seeks out others in the building for any hints or strategies for her students who might be struggling in her class. She wants and expects all her students to succeed. Thank you, Mrs. Sobrino, for your dedication and support to our students.



**Conway Woody**  
Head Custodian

Mayberry Cultural and Fine Arts Magnet Middle School is honored to recognize Mr. Conway Woody as one of our Good Apple Recipients for the 2023 Fall Semester. Mr. Woody is the head custodian at Mayberry and has been at Mayberry for fourteen years. This summer, Mr. Woody shined. He organized and accomplished all of the summer cleaning schedule for just himself and one other custodian (with the exception of having extra help for only a few days.) Mr. Woody is one of the most humble and hard working people we know! Thank you, Mr. Woody for your dedication to Mayberry.



**Jacque Randle**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher

Mrs. Randle's work directly aligns with the district's shared beliefs. It is very evident her passion is for our kids. She constantly goes above and beyond to ensure her students are set up for success. Engagement with her students and our families is very clearly a priority. A safe place has been created for her students to feel a sense of security and belonging. She represents our school leadership team well by setting an amazing example of a teacher leader, as well serving as model for students.

McCollom  
Elementary  
School



### McCollom Elementary School

#### Team

**Reva Hood**

Latchkey Director

**Melissa Travis**

Latchkey Director

**Bettyo Andrews**

Latchkey Team

**Aaron Bell**

Latchkey Team

**Hilda Damato**

Latchkey Team

**Melissa Norton**

Latchkey Team

**Toni Tyson**

Latchkey Team

**Gary Scherer**

Latchkey Team

**Paula Scheaffe**

Latchkey Team

**Karley Callender**

Latchkey Team

**Amber Washington**

Latchkey Team

This McCollom Latchkey Team's unwavering commitment to students, exceptional kindness, and positive attitude align seamlessly with the goals outlined in the theme of the strategic plan, WPSPROUD. Their exceptional work has played a crucial role in ensuring the safety, well-being and overall educational experience of our students. They consistently go above and beyond in their roles, putting the students' needs at the forefront of their efforts. They are not merely caretakers but role models who instill valuable life skills in our students.

McLean  
Science and  
Technology  
Magnet  
Elementary School



**Collette Atkinson**  
Volunteer

Collette is one of our wonderful PTA volunteers that is always willing to lend a hand whenever needed. She is also our Fun Night Coordinator and works with community businesses to set up nights for our community to eat together. She is a true asset to our school and we love her support.



**Charles Wilkinson**  
Volunteer

Mr. W is so committed to McLean that he volunteers his time in the morning and afternoon to assist our safety patrol. He fills in on days that our sponsor is gone and is always there to help, support, encourage, and celebrate the students and staff of McLean! Grandparents are great assets to our children and he is making a difference for his child and McLean!

**McLean Elementary Team****Ruth Binford**

Volunteer

**Donetta Carpenter**

Volunteer

**Ann Harvey**

Volunteer

**Robert Hutson**

Volunteer

**Leslie Hutson**

Volunteer

**Bridget Lemen**

Volunteer

**Karen Perry**

Volunteer

**Kayla Schenck**

Volunteer

**Kim Thornburg**

Volunteer

**Melissa Warnken**

Volunteer

Northridge Friends Church has supported our school each year with this team meeting weekly with students afterschool for a Bible Club, supplying school supplies to students, helping to celebrate our staff with treats and luncheons during conferences, and helping make our school a success!

Mead  
Middle School

**Christy Aberg**  
Library Media Specialist

We are proud to recognize Mead's fabulous librarian, Christy Aberg, for her work designing & implementing our incredible advocacy curriculum. Christy's hard work, dedication and expertise enrich our school immensely. Her enthusiasm and positive energy are an inspiration to students and staff alike.

**Michelle Fuentes**  
Reading Intervention Teacher

Mead is pleased to recognize Michelle Fuentes for her hard work crafting and implementing our new school wide advocacy curriculum. Michelle is punctual, precise and professional. Her high energy & ambitious nature contribute to her success both inside & outside of the classroom. Thank you Michelle!

Mueller  
Aerospace  
and Engineering  
Discovery Magnet  
Elementary School



**Amy Stanislowski**  
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Stan always has a positive attitude. She goes out of her way to take care of the staff she supports. When she doesn't know something she makes sure to find a way. She is always willing to learn and take on all things thrown her way. She spreads her positivity with her smile in the hallways, and makes everyone feel loved. I've never felt more valued as a para, empowered as a para, and supported as an employee overall. Her genuine spirit, drive, and passion is contagious and very heart warming. She is so good at making you feel noticed and appreciated. She's a light and an inspiration.



**Shelli Rosado**  
Paraprofessional

Shelli is always going above her duties to make sure students are getting what they need to be successful. She is very flexible and is willing to help with whatever is needed. I enjoy working with Shelli because she is very open and willing to communicate when she feels something isn't working or she asks for clarification when she isn't understanding something. She truly knows and wants what is best for each student to be successful.



**Mueller Elementary School**  
**Crystal Fowler**  
Student Success  
Paraprofessional  
**Shawn Mitchell**  
Behavior Interventionist

Behavioral Team for their outstanding work and dedication to the students and staff of Mueller. Fowler and Mitchell do a great job helping students be successful throughout their school day. They teach students how to manage their behaviors, how to self-regulate and remind them who they can or can't control. Most importantly, getting students back in class to learn! It is a thankless job sometimes to manage behaviors all day long, but Mueller is glad we have these two helping!

North  
High School



**Christ Church**  
Christ Church Congregation

Christ Church has given generously and selflessly to the North High community. They have provided gifts and countless volunteer hours to the North High community. On their serve day, they have beautified our lawn, restored alumni photos, cleaned and organized music classrooms, and many more acts of service. They donated a refrigerator and keep it stocked throughout the year so students can get food if they need it. They also adopt a North High family for Christmas. We are truly grateful for their generosity and for their significant impact on the North High community.



**Laura Araiza**  
Principal's Administrative  
Assistant

Laura is one of those staff members that is irreplaceable. She is often the first communication when families or community members contact the school. They, as well as the staff, are welcomed with a smile. Her kind and friendly personality helps everyone feel important and valued. Laura helps out with anything and everything. She is trust-worthy and dependable and she absolutely loves North High! She is going to be a teacher in the fall and she will be an amazing one! She will be missed tremendously!

Northwest  
High School



**David Hasenkamp**  
Building Engineer

David Hasenkamp is our dedicated building engineer at Northwest High School. Dave's tireless efforts have transformed our school environment. His exceptional problem-solving skills, unwavering commitment, and positive attitude make him an invaluable asset. We are so fortunate to have Dave for working tirelessly to ensure our facilities are safe, functional, and welcoming! Thank you, Dave!



**Fred Crayton**  
Assistant Principal

Fred Crayton is an Assistant Principal at Northwest High School. Fred's dedication to our students' success is inspiring, but especially his dedication to our underserved populations. Mr. Crayton's trustworthy approach to students of concern, his compassionate interactions, and his unwavering support help create a nurturing learning environment that make all students feel welcomed at Northwest. We are grateful that Mr. Crayton is a member of our team!

Northeast  
Magnet  
High School



**Kevin Williams**  
BOE Security  
**Dallas Horning**  
BOE Security

Dallas and Kevin are new to Northeast, but have already made a significant, tangible impact on our campus. They are diligent, highly visible, and extremely relational. They seek out ways to connect with everyone, and build positive bonds with students and staff alike. They are almost always wearing a smile and make a very stressful job look easy. We are so very fortunate to have them in our Griffin family.

OK  
Elementary  
School



**Trisha Jones**  
MTSS Facilitator

In her short time at OK, she has been a tremendous addition for staff and students. We have witnessed her great compassion for her job and the extra mile she goes to ensure that staff have the necessary tools and knowledge to be successful. We are lucky to have the opportunity to work with Trisha!



**Anne Jacobson**  
Social Worker

A social worker's job is to help people improve their quality of life by providing support and resources. Anne does that for the staff, students, and families of OK. In addition, she offers her expertise, leadership, and builds positive relationships. OK Elementary is better because Anne is there!

Ortiz  
Elementary  
School



**Jennifer Martin**  
Kindergarten Teacher

Talk to anyone who visits Ms. Martin's kindergarten classroom, and you will hear phrases such as "she is so good" or "she is amazing" or "I don't know how she does it". Ms. Martin wows with her knowledge of curriculum, classroom management, and her calm and kind spirit. She is an amazing teacher!



**Clara Silva**  
Social Worker & Family  
Engagement Coordinator

Clara Silva is teacher in charge and holds down the fort when she is needed. She overlooks Rosalia and parent involvement. She orders our school t-shirts, handles fundraisers and other school events. This year Clara gave Mrs. Nance's memorial out front some curb appeal. She also partnered with administration and Riverlawn Church to give our teacher's lounge a make-over! Clara coordinates meals for teachers during conferences and creates amazing homecooked meals! She is a force to be reckoned with. Not to mention she is bilingual and interprets at many school events. She is a bridge that closes the gap between school and families. Way to go Clara, you are a Rockstar!!!



**Angel Garcia**  
Paraprofessional

Angel Garcia is an Ortiz Good Apple because of his patience, his caring personality towards all kids, because of the way he builds positive relationships with students and so many kids look up to him. Angel goes above and beyond EVERYDAY to help not only students but also to support Ortiz staff. I never hear complaints from him and he does everything with a smile.

Peterson  
Elementary  
School



### Ortiz Elementary School Team

#### **Susie Lee**

Counselor & Lead Mixed Ability  
Teacher

#### **Mike Silva**

Sub Mixed Abilities Teacher

#### **Italia Robledo**

Paraprofessional

#### **Bethany Young**

Paraprofessional

#### **Adriana Garcia**

Paraprofessional

I would like to nominate Susie Lee, Mike Silva and the para's in their classroom because of the resilience they have all shown to do the very best for their students. The way they have stepped in and continued to show up and serve their kids in the best way possible is admirable and inspiring. Through the challenges, changes, and barriers, they continue to show up and work together to help their students have the best learning experience possible. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.



### Sharon Shine

Administrative Assistant

#### **Melissa Meng**

Food Service Aide

#### **Lori Randleman**

Food Service Aide

This group of ladies do an incredible job in the kitchen before, during, and after lunch service. They run a tight ship and lunch flows beautifully. They connect with students during lunch and treat staff and students with kindness. They are a great team- we are blessed to have them here at Peterson!



### Christina Miller

PTO President

Mrs. Miller dedicates her time to Peterson to make the experience for students one to remember. She uses her own time to help students have a phenomenal birthday celebration each month, works book fairs, gives time to planning and behind the scenes work and so much more! This is Mrs. Miller's 10th year in serving our Peterson family.

Pleasant  
Valley  
Elementary  
School



**Jennifer Shanks**  
Pre-K Teacher  
**Julia Ortiz**  
Pre-K Paraprofessional  
**Celina Cantu**  
Pre-K Paraprofessional

Our Pre-k team works hard to create special units that are engaging for students and they do it all with very little prep or joint planning time. They make children enthusiastic about learning and it's fun to see the little ones full of curiosity and wonder. This year's group of students include many students with special needs, and the Pre-k team does an excellent job of inclusion and differentiating lessons for all learners. In addition, the Pre-K team helps our younger friends to experience, regulate, and express emotions in socially and culturally appropriate ways. Our Pre-K team is entrusted with building strong foundations for successful children and they take that challenge very seriously.

Pleasant  
Valley  
Middle School



**Anna Barnum**  
7th grade Math Teacher

Anna Barnum is one of our 7th grade math teachers and she is also the girls basketball coach. It is only her third year at PVMS but she has quickly become one of our most effective staff members. Ms. Barnum is what we call a "5-Tool" teacher. She is great with classroom instruction, behavior management, developing relationships, professionalism and collegiality. We just love having Anna Barnum at PVMS.



**Jen Williams**  
Restorative Practice Coach

Jen Williams has served PVMS as our Restorative Practice coach for the last 2 years. She has helped us implement a wide range of restorative practice strategies with staff, students, and families. During her time with us, she has become more than just a coach who helps us out. Jen has become our friend and I know that we will be able to call on her long after her contract is over. We are proud to call Jen Williams part of the PVMS Family.

Price-Harris  
Communications  
Magnet  
Elementary  
School



**Danielle Locke**  
Clerk

When you first enter Price-Harris, you are greeted with the most well respected and loved person, Danielle Locke. She is a true selfless person who faithfully shows up to work and wears many hats. She is so gracious and kind to all the staff and community as they enter our doors.

Danielle does her job without complaint and is willing to help anyone who needs it, sometimes working on multiple projects at the same time. She has made a difference in all of us: students, staff, parents, and community members.

Riverside  
Leadership  
Magnet  
Elementary



**Amy Warren**  
Parent of students at Riverside

Amy Warren lends a hand no matter the task. She spent hours pulling weeds and cleaning the flower beds that run along our school to make it more beautiful and to ensure our students and teachers were able to use the outdoor classroom. She shoveled so much mulch! She is eager to help on picture day every time we call. We thank her for all the love and support she pours into Riverside.



**Sydney Crawford**  
Paraprofessional

Sydney Crawford is a talented, proactive, and compassionate para who works as hard as she can to support our students and our teachers. Sydney is like a mirror teacher when filling in for a staff member so she can do her professional learning. She does this so that the students have consistency and reliability with their lessons. Sydney recently jumped in on a differentiation plan for a few students. She read the teachers' quick notes, sent one or two clarifying questions, and rolled with it using grit, confidence, and ingenuity. She prioritizes students, and we can all feel her leadership.



**Desiree Bishop**  
5th Grade Teacher

At the core of Ms. Bishop's teaching is the intention to prepare all of her students to be ready for whatever the future holds for them. Because of this, she is always looking for new and innovative ways to educate the children in her class. She does all of this while also maintaining a rigorous educational experience in such an artful way that the kids in her class may not even realize how rigorous the work is that they are doing. She is a true leader who empowers students to excel, thrive, and lead in their lives. She is the embodiment of Wichita Public School's mission.

School  
Service  
Center



**Patty Leary**  
Assistant Supervisor of Nutrition Services

Patty has a student-focused mindset. She stepped up to fill in for the vacant CMA kitchen manager position, while fulfilling her own job duties as an assistant supervisor for Nutrition Services. She also makes staff feel empowered and included.



**Bill Edwards**  
Crewperson - Building Repair

Bill stepped up to help another department (Grounds Maintenance) for the start of the school year. He is hard working and pays attention to detail, which helps improve the appearance of district buildings. He believes children and staff should have a safe and inviting place to learn and teach.



**Wichita State University Police Department (Guy Schroeder, Chief)**  
University Police Chief

Graduations and other district events have been held on the Wichita State University campus for many years. Chief Guy Schroeder and his department have consistently provided excellent customer service in assisting the Safety Services' Department by providing staffing, equipment, and logistical support. The Wichita State University Police Department's staff have proven to be great community partners. Their efforts to make the attending guests' experience a positive one, is greatly appreciated.

Seltzer  
Elementary  
School



**Seltzer Elementary School Team**

**Clare Kirkendoll**  
Pre-K Teacher  
**Angela Rasbandith**  
Pre-K Teacher  
**Tiara Graham**  
Pre-K Paraprofessional  
**Markita Bradley**  
Pre-K Paraprofessional  
**Janna Depperschmidt**  
PreK Paraprofessional  
**Koriah Samilton**  
Pre-K Paraprofessional

Seltzer Pre-K Team is committed to the development and well being of the children they serve. They take a collaborative approach to classroom instruction, where students are able to enhance their creativity and critical thinking, in an environment of belonging and encouragement, leaving Pre-K with the self confidence to take on the world!

South  
High School



**Brian Shilling**  
Interrelated, Sr. Teacher

Brian is new to South High School and has taken the initiative to start up our Tri-County Athletic Teams again with our students. These teams allow our students an opportunity to be physically active, show good sportsmanship, and team-build with their peers. We thank Brian for always putting students first!



**South High School Team**  
**Stephanie Willig**  
Behavior Intervention  
**Allison Westbrook**  
Math teacher  
**Becky Sessions**  
Vocal Music  
**Lauren Harding**  
Freshman Counselor  
**Frances Clements**  
Administrative Assistant

South High moved to grade level teams this year and the 9th grade leadership team has taken on the challenge of successfully transitioning our 9th graders to high school. The are active in their planning, are creating positive relationships, and are setting up the foundation for future success for our new Titans. We are proud of you!

Southeast  
High School



**Cameron Goodrich**  
Science Teacher

Cameron is a dedicated and passionate educator that prepares lessons that are innovating and rigorous for our students. Through his lessons, he promotes student growth, inspires critical thinking and curiosity. He makes his students' education an unforgettable journey.



**Tom Noonan**  
Math Teacher

Tom is passionately involved in building school culture and a strong sense of community for all our Buffalos through his work on our Class of the Year (COTY) competition. His dedication to our COTY competition shows his love and commitment to making SEHS truly the Best of the Best.



**Southeast High School Team**

Kelsey Colclasure  
Deanna Ruiz  
Vickie Becker  
Lisa Cookson  
Martha Dooms  
Sarai Camacho  
Reyes Alvarez  
Jeanette Blide  
Christie Fallin  
Annette Martin  
Stephanie Carlson  
Barbie Bonds  
William Wise  
Stephanie Alexander  
Regan Ruff  
Tonya Howard  
Justin Carruthers  
Gina Brillhart  
Joanna Farmer  
Jeff Davis  
Darcy Busch  
Amanda Roberts  
Corey Gabbert  
Eric Torres  
Ryan Dieckgrafe  
Jamie Wetig  
Amy Baldwin  
Matt Kelly  
Cherie Schnelle  
Michelle Caban  
Sheneta Ross  
Christopher Naylor

SEHS BLT is a team of dynamic individuals who lead with vision and a commitment to creating a positive and inclusive environment. Their expertise and teamwork truly enhance our success and growth as a building as we continue to set our school apart as the Premier School of Choice for 259.

Sowers  
Alternative  
High School



**Nashid Atkins**  
Student Support Services  
Administrative Liaison

Mr. Atkins has a shared belief in student success, safety, and family collaboration. He strives to create a positive and supportive environment for our students. He sets high expectations and helps students achieve their goals. He fosters a sense of community and citizenship among the students.



**Jacob Spatz**  
Paraprofessional

Mr. Spatz is an exceptional para and demonstrates a high level of professionalism, dedication, and passion for education. This year he has been teaching a science class. He is implementing a project-based learning approach that has increased student engagement and motivation.



**Sheri Heron**  
Psychologist

Sheri's work in all areas exemplifies what it means to be WPS PROUD. She is intelligent, kind, patient and creative as she continuously works towards finding solutions for students to reach success. Not only does she serve our students, she serves our teachers as department chair.

Spaght  
Science and  
Communications  
Magnet  
Elementary  
School



**Brandy Bartlett**  
Administrative Assistant

What a joy it is to have Brandy leading the office at Spaght! Her hard work, dedication, organization, and responsiveness are truly appreciated, and we are grateful to have her on our team. Brandy welcomes families and visitors alike with a smile, patience, and grace and is always there to support both teachers and students. To our amazing administrative professional: thank you for your hard work, dedication, and positive attitude. We truly appreciate you!



**Juan Coy-Teni**  
Social Worker

“People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care”. This quote fully represents the relationship that Juan Coy Teni (Mr. Coy) has with our students at Spaght. When students need help regulating, they frequently ask to see Mr. Coy so he can use his magic to help them calm down. When students see him in the hall, they make sure they say hi and he does the same. Mr. Coy’s consistent actions truly show the depths of his concern for our students. There are many wonderful staff members at Spaght but there is only one Mr. Coy.



**Spaght Elementary School Team**

**Leticia Berry**  
Administrative Assistant  
**Jaydee Muniz**  
Paraprofessional  
**Adriana Montes**  
Paraprofessional  
**Alexandria Cruz-Magallon**  
Paraprofessional  
**Perla Coyle**  
Paraprofessional  
**Orpah Mora**  
Paraprofessional

Spaght has a fantastic group of bilingual staff members who go above and beyond what is expected of them. Not only do they carry out their contracted duties, but they provide oral and written translation services between staff, parents, students, and the community. This occurs at conferences, special events, and even throughout the school day, sometimes happening at a moment’s notice. Yet they always perform these tasks with a positive attitude. Their willingness to assist Spaght in this way is a huge part of what makes our ELL program successful. We are so appreciative of the work they do.



**Janel Green**  
SPED Paraprofessional

Mrs. Green goes above and beyond for each teacher she works with and is determined to help students find success. She is the first to volunteer to help team members in any way (ie: covering classes, recesses, or just a listening ear with uplifting words). She deserves this award because she is truly Stanley Stallion Strong.

Stanley  
Elementary  
School



**Cal Siebenmark**  
4th Grade Teacher

Mr. Siebenmark is a true representation of what it means to be a dedicated teacher. He ensures student agency academically and behaviorally. Students have opportunities to relate to the material they are learning because of his engaging lessons that are relevant to their "real world" and he affords opportunities to learn from mistakes by having restorative conversations with students all while having high expectations and structure. Mr. Siebenmark helps make Stanley Stallion Strong!



**Brentay Berry**  
Behavior Interventionist

Ms. Berry is certianly one of the reasons students and families choose Stanley. In her position she deals with some of the most extreme behaviors but she always does so with a cool demeanor and level headedness. She advocates for students during their most vulnerable times and creates plans so they can find success. She is Stallion Strong and models that to continue to remind others to be as well.

Stucky  
Middle School



**Heather Probasco**  
Intervention Teacher

Heather has been a force for positivity in our building this year working to secure thousands of dollars' worth of incentives from community partners to help celebrate positives in our buildings. The donations she has acquired and even made herself, have greatly contributed to growing a culture of positivity. We greatly appreciate the hard work and dedication Heather has shown to improve the positive narrative at Stucky!



### **Stucky Middle School Team**

**Cara Keller**

Counselor

**Belinda Tummons**

Counselor

**Mikah Kemper**

Social Worker

**Cedrick Ambrose**

Psychologist

**Shaundrieka Townes**

Mental Health Liaison

**Melinda Souders**

Nurse

The Support Staff of Stucky Middle School works tirelessly to ensure that our building is a safe and welcoming environment for our students and families. This team works to help supervise and support students throughout the day and is vigilant to interject themselves as an intervention when students are in need to ensure that what is best for students is always the priority. This team volunteers their time for supervision coverage outside of their contractual obligations to increase their interactions and build relationships.

Truesdell  
Middle School



### **Mr. Michael Titze**

Parent

Mr. Titze stepped in to assist and comfort a student and office staff as a medical emergency occurred in Truesdell main office. Mr. Titze's calm demeanor soothed anxieties and nervousness as a student came through a non-life-threatening seizure. Mr. Titze, we appreciate your support at Truesdell Middle School.



### **Truesdell Middle School Team**

**Brandy Diltz**

Instructional Coach

**Colin Miller**

Instructional Coach

**Meagan Higgins**

Data Leader

**Katelyn Schoenhofer**

VILS Coach

This is the dynamic professional learning team of Truesdell! To say they are intelligent, clever, bright & work cohesively to maximize teacher support & success does not do justice. No judgments from this team. They take into consideration staff hesitation or reluctance & make staff feel comfortable with new strategies, curriculum, lesson planning, co-teaching, innovative ways to engage students & increase academic success. This professional learning team is all about supporting Truesdell staff to support student success.

Washington  
Accelerated  
Learning  
Elementary  
School



### **Washington Elementary School**

#### **Team**

**Elena Neece**

Volunteer Coordinator

**Martha Quintanilla**

Volunteer

**Suleika Abad**

Volunteer

**Yasmin Rodriguez**

Volunteer

**Flor Hernandez**

Volunteer

**Priscilla Pelaez & Mayra**

**Gonzalez**

Volunteers

We would like to recognize Ms. Elena Neece and our wonderful Mom's Group for the multitude of daily contributions they make to support our students and staff. As our Family Involvement worker, Ms. Elena has been instrumental in implementing many programs such as PTO, Coffee Chat, and Helping Hands. Through the leadership of Ms. Elena, our Mom's group have formed a tight knit team that utilizes their creative talents to decorate our school, making it feel warm and welcoming. They are a strong positive presence, and step in to assist with whatever may be needed.



### **Evelyn Guerrero**

Newcomer Paraprofessional

Ms. Guerrero takes time to get to know all students as individuals, and they love her deeply. It is not uncommon for her to know little things that are happening in their lives outside of school, because the students trust her and share their lives with her. Evelyn provides students with academic and social success, safety and belonging, and makes sure diversity is valued in the classroom. Parents come to talk with her, and ask for help, which she gladly gives. Recently a parent was struggling to sign up for college courses. Evelyn took time to work with her and help her out. She goes out of her way to help anybody that needs her.



### **Jessica Humphries-Winfrey**

School Psychologist

In addition to the many responsibilities of a school psychologist, Mrs. Winfrey supports students social/emotional needs, creates academic and behavior plans with teachers, and provides students with regulation tools and strategies. She identifies gaps in students learning and collaborates with teachers and support staff to help fill them. She works with small groups of students on social skills in weekly lunch groups and works closely with families helping connect school and home life. She is an incredible asset to Washington students, staff, and families.

White  
Elementary  
School



**Emily Gray**  
Music Teacher

Emily Gray is a passionate, dedicated teacher who develops amazing relationships with her students, families, and coworkers. She creates a safe and nurturing environment where students can express themselves through music. She establishes a deep sense of belonging among her students and genuinely cares for each one. Emily is also the head of our social committee and is always looking for fun ways to recognize and encourage staff. She is a blessing to White Elementary!

Wilbur  
Middle School



**Merilee Bustos**  
Psychologist

Merilee is a dedicated psychologist who prioritizes students. She demonstrates an unwavering commitment to meeting the unique needs of students and is willing to go the extra mile to ensure success. Her collaboration and strategic planning shines through in her approach to help every student, and she consistently invests countless hours in her work.



**Wilbur Middle School Team**  
**Rosa Christoffer**  
Cafeteria Aide  
**Tammie Johnson**  
Kitchen Assistant Manager  
**Jeff Miller**  
Kitchen Manager  
**Marcia Schlegal**  
Cafeteria Aide  
**Luz Webster**  
Cafeteria Aide  
**Mercedes Cruz Villar**  
Cafeteria Aide

Jeff and his team at work are unwavering in their commitment to feeding hungry kids and fostering a sense of love and belonging. They provide food and support to students in need, making a positive impact on their lives. This team goes the extra mile in offering encouragement and support to all of our students at Wilbur.



### Woodman Elementary School

#### Team

**Theresa Walker**

Pre-K Teacher

**Jenea Prichard**

Pre-K Teacher

**Aunessia Henderson**

Pre-K Paraprofessional

**Amy Kirkpatrick**

Pre-K Paraprofessional

**Laura Turner**

Pre-K Paraprofessional

**Cynthia Ressler**

Pre-K Paraprofessional

This team is AMAZING! They support each other, advocate for students, and serve our Pre-K department with their best foot forward everyday. They make learning fun while holding impeccable expectations that 3 and 4 year olds rise to each day. It is not uncommon for them to theme out lessons with coordinating outfits and ensure students enjoy their first interactions with school!



The Wichita Public Schools is committed to ensuring an environment that is free of discrimination and to fostering a climate in which all employees and students may participate, contribute, and grow to their fullest potential.

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All Wichita Public Schools employees have the responsibility to support this statement.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination statement:

Section 504 Coordinator for Adults and  
Title IX Coordinator for Adults and Students  
903 South Edgemoor  
Wichita, KS 67218  
(316) 973-4420

Section 504 Coordinator for Students  
903 South Edgemoor  
Wichita, KS 67218  
(316) 973-4475