

GOOD



APPLE

January 9, 2023 Recipients

DARREN BROWN, *Groundsman Foreman*; TIM HEISLER; JESSICA ERICKSON; CLINT BUFORD; AJ GRIFFITH; JON DIGULLIO; JUSTUS HILBIG; LANE SPURZEM; ALL GROUNDSMEN – Buildings and Grounds

were recommended for a Good Apple Award by Lacey George, Librarian, Meghan Grady, Health Enhancement Teacher, and Amber Smith-Boggs, all Meadowlark Elementary School, because of the following:

Buildings and Grounds has done a fabulous job for the district in these winter months. Not only do they come and plow the playgrounds and parking lots, but when asked to do additional work, they are always willing to help. At Meadow Lark Elementary School, we schedule an annual Reindeer Run before Christmas Break. Buildings and Grounds plows a pathway around the area of our school so all of our 540+ students can run and take part even if there is a foot of snow on the ground! We are so appreciative of their willingness to take the time to do this for us so we can continue to hold our event!

DUSTY MOLYNEAUX, *Supervisor of Music Ed/Art Coordinator, DOB-Warehouse*

was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Tom Moore, Superintendent, District Office Building, because of the following:

Dusty is the quintessential music and fine arts director! He lives and breathes education using music the arts as the content and context for learning. During this fall and winter concert season, Dusty spent more than 65 hours each week in our schools supporting our music, art and drama teachers and their students in a plethora of stellar performances and seasonal events throughout Great Falls. Our community is truly fortunate and blessed to have Mr. Molyneaux as our Director of Fine Arts for Great Falls Public Schools.

ROBA STRANDELL, *Substitute Teacher, District Wide*

was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Stephanie Major, Administrative Assistant, East Middle School, because of the following:

Roba is one of the best Substitutes in the District. I know when I see Roba on my list of subs coming to East I can count on her to help wherever needed. For example, Tuesday December 20th, I was short a sub for a different Choir teacher and without hesitation Roba offered to combine both music classes. I appreciate Roba!!

MICHAEL HALL, *Substitute Teacher, District Wide*

was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Elizabeth Quinby, Strings Teacher, Great Falls High School, because of the following:

Michael was subbing for band at GFHS when our regular teacher was gone. We had gotten our fundraiser delivery that day. Michael stepped right in and went above and beyond the call of duty to help organize many, many boxes of fundraising items. He also helped and followed up two days later! We are so grateful for your help! Thank you!

BRIDGET JOHNSON, Para Educator - TASC, Great Falls High School

was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Tami Faulkner, Associate Principal, Great Falls High School, on behalf of the administrative team at GFHS, because of the following:

In the fall of 2020, Bridget Johnson came to Great Falls High as a paraprofessional in our brand-new Technology and Academic Support Center (TASC). Prior to the COVID19 shutdowns, we had imagined TASC as a place for students to get help with credit recovery, academic accommodations, and general academic support. However, when the 2020 school year started, TASC became all of that and so much more. Bridget immediately became an invaluable asset to our staff, as she not only implemented all of the original TASC functions, but she also helped organize and monitor remote students, assisted teachers with Work Experience, and helped create a small learning environment for those students with high anxiety or other health concerns. Every year since Bridget started, we have had to adjust the operations of TASC to better meet the needs of our students and the building. We would not have been able to do this without Bridget's organizational skills, her concern for her students, and her perseverance through challenges. Bridget is highly skilled and organized. Not only has she helped create TASC and determined how to deliver all of the various student supports, but she has also devised systems to keep track of students as they are transferred in and out for various needs. She has helped dozens of students earn back academic credit and dozens more stay afloat in high school. I rely heavily on her reporting the progress of the students assigned to TASC and can count on her for accuracy and efficiency in how we are serving students in that program. She has become an integral part of our student supports at GFHS. Along with her skill, Bridget brings genuine concern for her students' wellbeing. On countless occasions, she has read a novel, re-taught herself Algebra skills, or done her own research on an academic subject to help a student through a difficult academic hurdle. She also works with counselors and administrators to problem solve on behalf of students. She pays close attention to their academic and other needs and communicates with us. Before the break this year, Bridget made gift bags for all 40+ of the students in TASC. When the extreme cold kept many of them home, Bridget delivered the gifts to students she knows in neighboring classrooms. I always know that students will be cared for when we schedule them in TASC. There are so many things that make Bridget an asset to our team at GFHS. The attribute I appreciate the most is her perseverance and willingness to tackle challenges. From the inconsistent heat in her classroom to the adjustments we have made to the program, I am confident we will get it done because Bridget never gives up. We have adjusted the functions of TASC more times than I can even count, and Bridget has been an integral part of every change. I actually don't think we would have pulled it off without her. For example, this year, we implemented two new credit recovery programs. So far, we have an 80% success rate. When you consider that these are students with low academic skills and engagement who have failed the course already, this is an incredible success! We are incredibly grateful for Bridget and her service to the staff and students at GFHS. She is very deserving of a Good Apple award for her skill, dedication, and determination.

KATIE RICHMOND, Para Educator - TASC, Great Falls High School

was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Tami Faulkner, Associate Principal, Great Falls High School, on behalf of the administrative team at GFHS, because of the following:

Katie Richmond came to Great Falls High as a paraprofessional in our Technology and Academic Support Center (TASC) last school year. However, it feels like she has been with us for so much longer! Her tenacity, her genuine concern for students, and her focus on the positive make Katie an essential part of our student support team. Katie never gives up. This year, as we have implemented the Montana Digital Academy Credit Recovery program, Katie has faced the challenges head on and does not take no for an answer. On several occasions, she has worked with the help desk to fix issues that are impeding student progress or frustrating them. She jokes that the help desk will ban her email, but I am so appreciative that she works diligently to do what is right for students. She also reads novels and learning materials to help students who are struggling with content or tasks. I know this helps her students persevere through challenges because she is right there beside them. Along with her perseverance, Katie brings genuine concern for her students' wellbeing. Katie makes connections with her students, and she observes them closely. When she notices there may be a problem or a student needs support, she comes to the administrators and counselors to get them what they need. Katie is reliable in so many ways, and to me, this attention to our students is the most important one. Sometimes in my role as an administrator, the days are full of stressful or negative situations. I really appreciate that Katie takes the time to tell me about positive moments and successes of the students in TASC. She takes time out of her busy days to share good news with others who also care for the students. She really understands what it means to be part of an educational team, and that makes her such an asset! And for me, personally, she helps me stay connected to all the good work happening with our students. We are incredibly grateful for Katie and her service to the staff and students at GFHS. She is very deserving of a Good Apple award for her perseverance, dedication, and positive outlook.