



*Good Apple
Award*



Wichita Public Schools
December 2024

Good Apple Award

A decorative flourish consisting of two large, symmetrical scroll-like shapes on either side of a central square frame. Inside the square frame is a stylized apple with a stem and leaf.

The Wichita Public Schools Board of Education is proud to recognize the December 2024 Good Apple Award honorees and thank them for their dedication to our students and our district.

The Board established this award program 43 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.

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 premier district of choice, and inspire each student and staff member to thrive and become future ready within the greater community.

MISSION



Their work this semester directly aligns with the district's mission. Wichita Public Schools prepares each student to achieve readiness for life, college and career through an innovative and impactful 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.

Alvin E. Morris
Administrative Center



Rob Maddux
Social Studies Curriculum
Specialist

Rob strives to ensure all students are being prepared to achieve college, career, and life readiness through an innovative and rigorous educational experience as he supports social studies curriculum, teachers, and their students. Rob has an innate ability to inspire, motivate, and push others to grow.



Amy Brown
Music Curriculum Specialist

Amy is an integral part of the "specials" curriculum team. She is always willing to collaborate and ask for advice and also give it when asked. She spends countless hours observing and model teaching for her teachers. Amy is retiring at the end of this year and will be missed by her department and all of her team. She offers so much every day.



Wichita Art Museum
Molly McFerson
Tera Hedrick
Airion Rivero
Sherrie Holdeman
Kat Smalley

The Fine Arts Department would like to nominate the Wichita Art Museum to show appreciation for the donation of display cabinets and frames to AMAC. The cabinets are beautiful, well lit and allow us to feature student art work in Gallery style. In addition to the donations to AMAC, the team at WAM works directly with the Fine Arts office to organize, host and execute our annual celebration during Arts In Education week and new this year included a WPS student art exhibit.

Anderson Elementary
 School



Olesha Janack
 Paraprofessional

Mrs. Janack is a remarkable educator whose impact extends far beyond the classroom walls. With a heart of gold, she fosters a nurturing environment where students thrive academically and personally. Her dedication shines through as she consistently goes above and beyond her job duties, supporting school events, and making Anderson a place staff and students want to be at. Mrs. Janack’s unwavering commitment to her students and Anderson makes her a true beacon of inspiration and kindness, leaving a lasting impression on everyone she encounters.



Kanika Homan
Paraprofessional

Kanika Homan is an inspiring force in the classroom, where her passion for education ignites a love of learning in her students. Beyond her teaching, she plays a crucial role in supporting our PTO and organizing family engagement nights, creating opportunities for connection and collaboration among families. Her dedication and enthusiasm make her a tremendous asset to our school community, fostering an environment where students and families feel valued and empowered. Kanika's commitment to enhancing the educational experience truly makes a difference!

Benton Elementary School



Sarah Bumsted
2nd grade teacher

Sarah has been amazing in mentoring a first-year teacher. Sarah has assisted in planning, physical space organization, problem-solving with a solution focus, answering random questions, and all done with kindness. Sarah is student-focused for her specific room but really, all students at Benton. Sarah makes us all proud to have her on our Bobcat team! Thank you for everything!



Benton Elementary Team
Chantel Kinder
5th grade teacher
Susie Killgore
5th grade teacher

Benton's 5th grade team has upped the bar on collaboration. Not only do they spend hours together planning for student engagement and increased rigor, but they have tackled team teaching as well. This collaboration has helped our fifth-grade students feel safe, appreciated, and respected. Both bring creativity and passion to their roles. Benton is lucky to have this dynamic duo!

Black Traditional Magnet
Elementary School



Ellen (Phung) Nguyen
3rd Grade Teacher

Phuong Nguyen (Ellen) is a valuable asset to our Black Traditional Magnet Team. She currently teaches third Grade where she provides high quality, innovative activities for her students to reach their highest potential. Ellen has high expectations for her students, and structure in her classroom, and she plans meaningful lessons to help them reach those expectations. She implements new teaching strategies immediately in her classroom. Her positive and encouraging attitude always makes our school better. Ellen is a phenomenal teacher! We are so grateful for Ellen's hard work and dedication for the past 11 years.



Beverly Knoettgen
2nd Grade Teacher

Beverley's exceptional class management, dedication to student success, and alignment with the district's vision and mission make her an outstanding candidate for this honor. Beverly's class management skills are truly out of this world. Her commitment to fostering a positive and productive classroom atmosphere has not only enhanced her students' academic performance but also their overall growth and development. Beverly's ability to connect with her students and address their individual needs is a testament to her dedication and passion for teaching.



Marcy Thomas
5th Grade Teacher

Marcy is an exemplary fifth-grade teacher. Her dedication to her students, tireless commitment to the school community, and passion for encouraging healthy relationships are unparalleled. Through her work as a teacher, volunteer, and Latchkey Director, Marcy embodies the values of WPS and is a guiding force in our students' journeys to becoming future-ready. Her commitment to impactful education extends beyond the classroom as she volunteers countless hours supporting school initiatives and community events, providing her students with experiences that broaden their perspectives and instill a sense of civic duty. She is an asset to our school and her positive impact will resonate in the lives of her students for years to come!

Bostic Traditional Magnet
Elementary School



Kaitlyn Johnson
Mixed Abilities Teacher

Kaitlyn is a second-year teacher, but you would never know that when watching her with her students. Her dedication, expectations for her students, classroom management, and goal setting, are qualities of a veteran teacher! Thank you Kaitlyn for all you do for our Mixed Abilities students at Bostic!

Brooks Center for STEM
and the Arts Magnet Middle
School



Jennifer Perry
Nurse

Jennifer is an outstanding nurse, who tirelessly supports our staff and students here at Brooks. Jennifer goes above and beyond the call of duty on a consistent basis to make sure the needs of our community are met. We are #PantherProud to call Jennifer one of our own.



Ada Manga
8th Grade Social Studies
Teacher

As a first-year teacher, Ada has proven to be a significant asset to Brooks Middle School's students, staff, and community. Ada builds positive relationships with his students, which allows him to hold students accountable to his high academic and behavioral expectations. He is truly a role model for our students.



Brooks Team
Joni Hawks
Volunteer Involvement
Coordinator
Pamela Housey
Paraprofessional and Family
Engagement Liaison
Aimee Salle
PTSO President
Brittany Harrison
PTSO Vice President
Whitney Wherry
PTSO Secretary
Alicia Booth
Helping Hands

Our Family Engagement and PTSO Teams are a tremendous support to our Brooks Middle School community. From fundraisers to tutoring to Dances, this team engages our overall community to promote Panther Pride and Panther Success.

Buckner Performing Arts &
Science Magnet Elementary
School



Mitzi Jones
Behavior Interventionist

Mitzi Jones leads by example every day. She can be found in the hallways making connections and problem-solving with students throughout the school day. Mrs. Jones remains patient and empathetic, even in the most stressful situations. She holds kids accountable, while still encouraging them to become the best versions of themselves. It is obvious that working with students is her passion. She is flexible and willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs it. Her ability to balance all of the tasks that are given to her on a daily basis is admirable. Buckner Elementary loves Mrs. Jones and we are extremely blessed to have her as a part of our team.



Aimee McCully
Instructional Coach

Aimee makes many outstanding contributions to our Caldwell students and staff. Through her expertise in data analysis, Aimee has identified key trends and insights that have significantly improved our teaching strategies and student outcomes. She translates the data into actionable recommendations, empowering our teacher to make informed decisions. She provides our teachers with strategies, resources, and guidance, thus fostering a supportive atmosphere that contributes to a culture of continuous improvement within our school. We are grateful for all she does for our students and staff at Caldwell.



Amy McClure
5th Grade Teacher

Amy excels in developing and modeling effective lessons that cognitively engage her students. Her collaborative approach fosters a positive learning environment and encourages students to do their best. She understands what it takes to be a teacher. She knows how to create a classroom community that is positive and safe for all her students. She truly wants what is best for them and strives to make sure they know she cares about them.



Caldwell Team
Stephanie Doshier
ESOL Teacher
Kelly Ferrante
ESOL Teacher
Teresa Kidd
Newcomers' Teacher

Stephanie, Kelly, and Teresa demonstrate dedication to providing our ESOL students with the language acquisition skills they need to thrive academically and socially. Their strategies and techniques not only empower our students but also equip classroom teachers with the tools to create inclusive and effective learning environments. Through collaborative planning and modeling effective lessons, the team has ensured that all students benefit from ESOL strategies tailored to diverse learning needs. Their commitment extends beyond language acquisition; they actively support classroom teachers in understanding and implementing ESOL best practices.

Cessna Elementary School



Cessna School Staff

The staff at Cessna Elementary have shown this semester what it means to keep students safe. Their actions and words on the day of the crisis, as well as every day after, demonstrate to our students that the adults at Cessna truly care about their well-being both physically and emotionally. Even when the staff may not have been feeling calm on the inside, they kept a calm face on the outside for our students. After the crisis, our staff processed the events with our students in circles, small groups, and one on one conversations. What is most impressive, is that our staff has rallied around the family that was involved in the crisis to provide them with resources for a fresh start in their new home. It is an honor to serve as the principal at Cessna Elementary.

Chisholm Trail Elementary
School



Joe Westwood
Music Teacher

Through innovative teaching methods, Mr. Westwood engages students with various musical genres, fostering not only technical skills but also a deep appreciation for music as an art form. He brings various instruments into the classroom, giving students opportunities to explore them, and tapping into skills students didn't know they had. Beyond the classroom, Mr. Westwood has organized numerous performances at different community events. Our music program and students' education are richer because of Mr. Westwood's dedication.



Ashley Gertz
Lunch Aide

Ashley embodies the idea of belonging. She comes to work everyday and is excited to be here. Without evening knowing where she will be any given day, I know she will make her part of the building a more positive environment and her joy is infectious for staff and students alike. She knows that she wants to be here and she makes others want to be here as well!



Ginny Wylie
Community Partner

Ginny has consistently supported numerous family engagement activities and has recently offered to sponsor students in need of financial assistance to attend the school carnival. Her generosity extends beyond donations from Sam's; she has also made personal financial contributions and dedicates her time to help plan events. We truly appreciate the support she provides, and the students at Chisholm Trail are better because of her commitment to our community.



Brandi Oglesby
Elementary Instructional
Coach

Navigating the complexities of her role, Brandi skillfully balances the demands from the Elementary Office while remaining attuned to the specific requirements of the teachers she supports. Her commitment to fostering a positive learning environment is evident in her proactive approach to professional development and classroom strategies, empowering educators to create impactful learning experiences. Her ability to inspire and uplift those around her has made a lasting impact on the school community. Brandi Oglesby is not just an Instructional Coach; she is a champion for educators and students alike, committed to driving success and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.



Malia Lindner
Interrelated Elementary
Teacher

Malia Lindner is an exceptional interrelated teacher at Christa McAuliffe Academy. With a heart full of compassion, Malia believes that every child has the potential to succeed, and she works tirelessly to ensure that each one reaches their goals. Her innovative approach to teaching is marked by a willingness to explore new strategies and adapt her methods to meet the diverse needs of her students. Beyond her dedication to curriculum and instruction, Malia builds strong relationships with her students, fostering a sense of belonging and confidence in the classroom. Her enthusiasm for teaching is infectious, inspiring not only her students but also her fellow colleagues.

Cloud Elementary School



Karla Stenzel
Volunteer

Karla has been a blessing to Cloud for a couple of years. She tutors once a week and helps on many occasions in the second-grade classrooms. She teaches dance moves to the students for Decades on the Drive, and donates snacks and school supplies. She has a heart for children and does whatever it takes to help them find success.



Melissa Reichmann
Nurse

Nurse Melissa is not afraid to tackle challenging situations. She makes students a priority. She has been a huge support for classroom teachers and is such a bonus for our school! She always goes out of her way to help and stays calm in difficult situations!



Sami Bally
2nd Grade Teacher

Sami is always calm, cool, and collected in the face of challenges. She is well-prepared for her lessons and redirects students fluently and in a caring way. We have lucked out in getting her this year at Cloud! Thank you Sami for coming to Cloud!

Coleman Environmental
Magnet Middle School



Jon Belsan
Social Studies / Algebra
Teacher

Jon Belsan is the heart of Coleman, deeply involved in systems that support student success. He believes in students, staff, and creating opportunities. Passionate and selfless, he coaches, leads, and teaches, fostering a safe, welcoming community where everyone belongs, including cool clubs, like book club!



Jordan Kinnevan
Social Studies Teacher

Mr. Kinnevan is dedicated to our students and school. As an AVID elective teacher, he challenges students to excel while building strong relationships. He co-coordinates the after-school program, runs the popular soccer club, and supports colleagues with lessons, BINGO, and making others laugh.



Cafeteria Crew
Kham Jenkins
Cafeteria Manager
Adam Herdandez
Nutrition Services Lead
Stan Swaim
Aide, Food Service
Marcella Revell
Aide, Food Service
Jessica Pineda
Cafeteria Manager Trainee

The cafeteria staff is crushing it this year! With an influx of students and the challenge of serving 150 after-school program kids, they rise to the occasion daily. Despite being short-handed, they ensure all students are served and snacks are stocked, with zero violations on their audit for years!

College Hill Elementary
School



Kelsey Jones
Behavior Intervention

Kelsey Jones is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to supporting students' behavioral needs. She demonstrates a level of poise and professionalism that is equally balanced with compassion and kindness toward students and staff. Kelsey supports students, staff, and families in many different ways including regulating and processing with students, offering ideas and/or checking in with teachers' needs, and engaging in supportive conversations with staff and families. Kelsey is data driven, collaborative, patient, and builds strong relationships. She is an outstanding candidate for the Good Apple Award!



Emma Keller
2nd Grade Teacher

Emma Keller is dedicated to her students and brings a passion for learning and teaching to her classroom. She strives to create a warm, inclusive learning environment where each child feels valued and supported. Emma recognizes the unique potential in every student and differentiates instruction to meet each child's needs. She fosters a love for learning with creativity and resilience, encouraging students to support one another and contribute to a positive classroom community. She collaborates with others, and shares resources, strategies, and encouragement. Emma has a genuine passion for education and is an excellent example of a Good Apple Teacher!



Emma Henning
Physical Education Teacher

Emma Henning is an outstanding physical education teacher! She has a unique ability to build meaningful and supportive relationships with her students allowing her to create an environment where they feel valued, motivated, and excited to learn. Her passion for teaching is evident in everything she does, from her engaging lessons to the way she fosters teamwork, confidence, and healthy habits. Emma goes above and beyond to ensure that every student, regardless of their athletic ability, feels encouraged and empowered to succeed. Her dedication to her job and her students is truly inspiring!

Colvin Elementary School



Jennifer Wright
Assistant Principal

Jennifer's dedication, professionalism, and positive spirit have made a significant impact on our school community this year. Her commitment to celebrating student accomplishments has been nothing short of remarkable. Whether it's recognizing individual success or organizing celebrations for school-wide achievements, she ensures every student feels seen and valued. Additionally, Jennifer's uplifting morning emails have become an invaluable part of our daily routine. No matter how busy her schedule becomes, she always makes time to listen to students, staff and parents. Her willingness to lend an ear, offer encouragement, or provide practical solutions fosters a sense of trust and belonging within the school.



Colvin Team
Diana Cardona
Food Services Aide
Ramona Ruiz
Food Services Aide
Yudith Martinez
Food Services Aide
Pam Vandandaigue
Admin Assistant 4
Christine Karpinski
Admin Assistant 3

These ladies are so hardworking, efficient, and all-around great co-workers. They communicate with the office staff, nursing staff and with students to meet their nutritional needs and keep students safe from food allergies and restrictions. They have had a lot of changes recently that made their jobs a little more daunting and have stepped up to the plate every single time. We appreciate them so much!

Curtis Middle School



Jennifer Nicholson
Instructional Technology
Specialist

Jennifer Nicholson goes above and beyond to do what is asked of her, provide clarity for staff, and create a sense of student belonging. She is supportive and diligent even when her responsibilities shift; and her quality of work is always excellent. She embodies the best of our Good Apples.



SM Mostafa Pasa
 Low Incidence Special
 Education Paraeducator

Mr. Pasa is a support staff member who does whatever is asked all for individual student success. He works with some of the toughest students and never complains. His ability to remain calm under pressure is inspiring.



Lavell Jackson
 Future Ready Advocate

Where would Curtis Middle School be without Mr. Jackson- also known as Uncle Jack? Jack is everywhere you need him to be with every student you need him to be. He takes on the mission of student belonging personally and allows our falcons to be STRONG with safety and accountability.

Dodge Literacy Magnet
 Elementary School



Joanna Whittit
 Parent Volunteer for
 Panther Pack Run Club

Mrs. Whittit is an active member of our school's PTO and decided to share her love of running with our Dodge students by organizing a student-running club: The Panther Pack. The Panther Pack meets twice a week at Kiwanis Park and has already racked up over 1,000 miles. Mrs. Whittit is working with outside organizations to get donations for our runners: water bottles from Fleet Feet, \$100 Scheels gift card, and fifteen pairs of running shoes. She is currently working on a grant to offer a discounted entry fee for the Panther Pack runners to run in the Wichita 2-Mile Turkey Trot on November 23rd. Her plan is to have the Panther Pack run in the spring as well!

Earhart Environmental
Magnet Elementary School



Kelly Claassen
Guest Teacher

Kelly, a guest teacher, is an amazing teammate who goes above and beyond. She covers classes on short notice, knows all students by name, and makes positive connections. Her engaging teaching style enriches learning, making it feel like her own class. We are grateful for her dedication!



Lana Duncan
Volunteer

Mrs. Duncan volunteers her time to support teachers and students across multiple teams. She seamlessly assists in classrooms, helps struggling students, and provides snacks. Her kind words and selfless dedication make her an invaluable part of our learning community. We are grateful for her!



Joel Cachero
Music Teacher

Mr. Cachero goes above and beyond by greeting students with his guitar, bringing music to third grade camp, and facilitating annual concerts. He makes learning fun with themed music, hands-on activities, and games. He values students by offering small group singing and special roles in concerts.

East High School



Jo Fluker
Interrelated SPED Teacher

Jo Fluker is a true utility player, consistently stepping in wherever needed. Whether assisting with sub assignments each day or handling random issues that pop up, her work ethic, flexibility, and positive attitude make Jo an invaluable member of our team. She devotes countless hours to help keep everything running smoothly, and her commitment truly sets her apart.



East Team
Michael Archibeque
 High School Mentor
Randall Rogers
 High School Mentor

Affectionately known as “The Senior Boys,” Michael and Randall have gone above and beyond as high school mentors at East High. With compassion and dedication, they form connections with students who need it most. Their guidance and commitment not only keep struggling seniors on track, but with their support students who once doubted their ability to graduate are walking across the graduation stage with confidence.

Enterprise Elementary School



Enterprise Team
Gianna Wilson
 3rd grade Teacher
Jennifer Morgan
 3rd grade Teacher
Annie Ewing
 3rd grade Teacher

Our 3rd grade team is exemplary this year! They are a strong, collaborative team who each provide high structure to ensure their classrooms are safe learning environments where students have rigorous opportunities to engage in learning opportunities. These three ladies work very well together and support each other through any challenges they may encounter. We are blessed to have them teaching 3rd grade at Enterprise this year and have no doubt their students will demonstrate great growth this year.



Carl Storm
 Safety Para - Support Staff

Carl is the type of person who can build a solid relationship with the toughest students. He takes time to get to know them and builds a foundation of trust with them. He shows empathy while maintaining high expectations with each student and supporting them toward successfully achieving those expectations. Carl not only positively impacts students at Enterprise but also fellow staff members and even parents. He’s always willing to help others and helps promote safety and belonging daily in our school community!



Nancy Smeltzer
Behavior Interventionist

Nancy has a way of working with students experiencing challenges by staying calm, speaking only when necessary, and supporting students back to baseline by using impactful de-escalation techniques. Not only does Nancy work with students, but she also coaches and supports teachers in problem solving classroom management strategies to best support their students by empowering teachers to implement best practices. Teachers who have worked with Nancy for years often think of "WWSD" or "What Would Smeltzer Do?" when trying to remember the many skills she has taught them. Nancy is a wealth of knowledge and we are blessed she takes great pride in serving the Enterprise community!

Gammon Elementary
School



Brionna Ellis
Para in Mixed Abilities

The work Bri does as a Mixed Abilities para is extremely hard and demanding but when interacting with her, you wouldn't know it. During a tough day she always has an amazing demeanor and a song in her heart (that she is usually singing out loud). Her love and commitment to her students is unmatched and she extends that same energy and care to other students who are not in her class. She is building strong and trusting relationships with students through meaningful conversation and the small moments of greeting them with a warm smile. Gammon Elementary is blessed to have her and is a better place because she is here.



Stephani Brooks
Reading Interventionist

Stephani is constantly learning new things, attending workshops and conferences, and reading the newest research to soak it all up. She is constantly thinking about how she can help fill the gaps so that students will be successful readers. She is not only brilliant in her knowledge of dyslexia and the art of reading, but she is beyond patient with some of the hardest kids we have. Stephani is more than a good apple, she is a quiet hero to every student she has fought for, every teacher she has problem solved with and every family who wants the best for their child. We are proud to call her a Gammon Knight.



Lori Mueller
Social Worker

Lori Mueller exemplifies dedication, compassion, and a relentless work ethic. Her positive attitude and constant smile brighten every room she enters. Lori consistently goes above and beyond in her service to staff, students, and families, demonstrating her deep commitment to our school community. She gives her time generously, even on weekends, and approaches every task with a positive disposition. Her unwavering dedication makes her an invaluable asset. We are lucky to have her this year at Gammon Elementary.

Gardiner Elementary
School



Kiera Hernandez
Special Education Para

Kiera shows how much she cares for all her students. She is calm, consistent and treats each student with respect. She has taken the time to get to know each student individually and greets them by name every morning. Keira is a fantastic teammate and an equal participant in the classroom.



Charlotte Danis
Fourth Grade Teacher

Mrs. Danis consistently demonstrates an unwavering commitment to fostering a supportive and dynamic learning environment. She goes above and beyond to ensure that every student feels valued, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential. Ms. Danis has an exceptional ability to connect with students of diverse backgrounds and learning styles, making each child feel seen and understood. Through creative lesson planning and innovative teaching methods, she brings content to life, inspiring student to think critically, ask questions, and pursue their own learning journeys with enthusiasm.



Vince Hill
Head Custodian

In Vince's first year at Gordon Parks Academy as the Head Custodian, the facility looks amazing and everyone who comes to our school compliments the appearance of the school. He operates with excellence and sends a daily custodial report to the Administration Team. Not only is he stellar in his operations, but he has built a team that works collaboratively to make Gordon Parks Academy a welcoming environment. He works with the Administrative Team to problem solve solutions that make our facility safe for our school stakeholders. Mr. Hill has made an impact at Gordon Parks Academy, and it is one that makes us proud to have him as part of the GPA family.

Hamilton Middle School



Jose Martinez
Aspiring Building Leader

Mr. Martinez has been a tremendous asset to Hamilton, building strong family connections, organizing valuable community resources, and leading our after-school program. His daily commitment to supporting behavior and instruction creates a positive environment, and we are incredibly grateful to have him on our team.



Kaitlyn Cathey
Paraprofessional

Kaitlyn has been an invaluable part of our team, building wonderful relationships with students and always going the extra mile to support their needs. Her hard work, dedication, and willingness to lend a hand create a positive and collaborative environment, and we are truly grateful to have her at Hamilton.



Charmalina Valdovinos
7th Grade Team Lead

In her new role as the 7th Grade Team Lead, Ms. Valdovinos has gone above and beyond to support her fellow teachers and foster a welcoming, collaborative environment. Her professionalism and dedication to her students in the classroom shine through every day. She advocates for all and brings a contagious positivity to Hamilton!

Harry Street Elementary School



Traci Dissanayake
Counselor

Traci Dissanayake has a strong commitment to our school community. She models this commitment daily through her consistent support to the students at Harry Street. Traci coordinates meaningful work for all students in 2nd through 5th grade so that each student feels a sense of belonging and positive contribution to our school. Traci is a highly valuable resource who brings a positive attitude and approach to supporting students.



Harry Street Team
Makayla Dunagan
2nd Grade Teacher, Latchkey Director
Hattie McQueen
4th Grade Teacher, Latchkey Co-Director
Jemma Hess
Clerk, Latchkey group leader
Jacob Campbell
para professional, Latchkey Group leader
Steven Gibson
Latchkey Group Leader
CiCi Lopez
para, Latchkey Group Leader

The Harry Street Latchkey team is exceptional. Since the pandemic, Harry Street families have been without before and after school childcare. Makayla Dunagan, Hattie McQueen, and Jemma Hess energetically set to work to re-establish this resource for our families. The team quickly organized, advertised, and launched a Latchkey program to serve our children. The care the team provides the kids is meaningful and focused on creative play, physical activity, and relationships. It's a wonderful start and end to a child's day!

Heights High School



Angela Hutton
Administrative Assistant

Ms. Hutton consistently exceeds expectations as our Substitute Coordinator, ensuring a welcoming and supportive environment for all guest staff from the moment they arrive. Her warm demeanor and attentive follow-ups throughout the day lead to outstanding feedback, with many choosing to return to Heights due to her exceptional service. Ms. Hutton is truly a gem at Heights!

Horace Mann Dual
Language Magnet



Tanja Weir
Science Teacher

Mrs. Weir's relentless dedication to her department, students, and families sets a high standard. She is a model teacher who always puts others first and fosters growth in everyone around her. Her commitment and service makes a lasting impact on the entire Heights' community.



Janet Ralston
Middle School Special
Education ELA Teacher

Ms. Ralston wears many hats in our building. You may catch her welcoming students to latchkey, greeting them off the bus, encouraging during tutoring, or inspiring girls through LAASE program. She is dedicated to our students and families, and it shows through the work she does before, during, and after school.



Adrian Retana
Tutor

Mr. Retana's dedication resonates throughout Horace Mann. He contributes countless hours of volunteer work and connects with students of all grade levels to foster an environment of belonging. Adrian's daily efforts make a lasting difference, setting an admirable example for our school community.



Horace Mann Team
Minerva Salazar
Pre-K Teacher
Mayra Fernandez
Pre-K Para
Jessica Luna
Pre-K Para

This year Horace Mann welcomed a new Pre-K program into our building, along with 40 tiny new smiles, and three very capable adults. Ms. Salazar and her team have been experts in their field and have done a tremendous job of creating bilingual pre-k opportunities for our youngest Hawks. We are blessed.

Hyde Leadership and
International Explorations
Magnet Elementary School



Rachel Flores
Para Professional

Rachel is a consistent staff member that we can rely on at Hyde. Her work especially shines in 1st grade where she leads lessons, works 1:1 with our lower kids, and leads reading groups with fidelity. She is always willing to help out the staff with kid or classroom needs and works to lighten the load of others. She has made a great impact here at Hyde and should be recognized for her efforts she shows us each day.



Kay Palmgren
Substitute Teacher

Kay is a dedicated substitute teacher that deserves to be recognized for her exceptional contributions. Kay embodies our school's values—dedication to learning, respect for all, and a positive environment. Her adaptability, passion, and proactive approach greatly support students and staff, making her an invaluable part of our community.



Emily Haltom
Art Teacher

I'm thrilled to recognize our art teacher, Emily Haltom whose creativity and innovation bring art alive for our students. She goes beyond teaching techniques, inspiring curiosity, expression, and confidence. Her engaging projects transform the school into a world of exploration, making art truly memorable for all.

Irving Elementary School



Eric Dodge
Behavior Interventionist

Mr. Dodges has been an invaluable asset to our school community, providing unwavering support, guidance, and care to both students and staff. His dedication to fostering positive behavior and creating a nurturing learning environment has profoundly impacted everyone he interacts with. He acts with patience, empathy, and a commitment to help each individual here.



Emily Taylor
Speech Language Pathologist

Emily is a 2nd year SLP and in her short time here she has gone above and beyond to help each student who walks through the doors feels welcome, safe, and loved. She works diligently to help students reach their goals and feel successful. She also empowers staff to support all student in their speech and language development.



Marcia Burns
Nurse

Marcia is an exceptional nurse and co-worker. Marcia's positive attitude and kindness brighten everyone's day. She goes above and beyond to ensure students are healthy and supported, always offering help and expertise. We're fortunate to have her!

Jefferson Elementary
School



Jefferson Team
Sara Morales-Salcido
Branch Manager-Mid
America Credit Union
**Sara's Team at Mid America
Credit Union**

Sara and her team at Mid America Credit Union on South Oliver have been instrumental in supporting our school in so many ways. Their support of Jefferson Dance Troupe, providing a booth and activity for Donuts with Grown-ups, sponsoring the Color Run, participating in Trunk or Treat, and collecting food donations for our food drive have helped make each of these events a huge success. Their partnership is appreciated more than we could ever express to them! Sara and her team are amazing!



Belinda Orr
Long-Term Substitute

Belinda Orr has been such a blessing this year at Jefferson! She jumped right in as a long-term substitute for our special education interrelated program. She has a great understanding of students' individual needs and how to address their IEP goals. She maintains fidelity to the curriculum and instruction to meet student needs. We are so fortunate to have Belinda at Jefferson this year!



Jennifer Ray
Owner of Monarch

Jen has been such a treasure to our building. She started last year by joining administration for "Principal for a day," she then joined our all-night turkey spree where we collected 300 turkeys for the food drive. She continues to support our student and family events including Trunk or Treat and Cocoa with Clause. We truly appreciate her partnership at Jefferson!

Joyce Focht Instructional
Support Center



Amanda Lathrop
Parent Volunteer

Amanda goes above and beyond to help all of the EIA students by volunteering in the school. She provides staff dinners during conferences and helps organize school-wide community events. Currently, she is helping the leadership team organize a formal dance for this school year. She has a big heart for our EIA family, and we are very thankful for her service to our school and district.



Lori Underwood
Administrative Assistant

In her role, Lori Underwood supports parents and guardians, often handling challenging situations with patience and a kind, helpful demeanor in the district's hearing office. Beyond her administrative duties, she generously volunteers her time and talents to create beautiful floral designs for many district high school graduations, adding a special touch to these important ceremonies. Lori is also a strong advocate for Education Imagine Academy (EIA), demonstrating her commitment to supporting students and staff alike. Her dedication to our district and school makes her an invaluable asset to our building and school.



ISC Team

Andy Curtis

Virtual History and PE teacher

Courtney Compton

Virtual K-2 Teacher

Sara Robinson

Virtual 3-5 Teacher

LaToya Myles

Student Learning Advocate

Carey Gerdes

Virtual 6-12 Science Teacher

Whitney Mohr

Virtual 6-12 Science Teacher

Amber Lane

Virtual 6-12 Science Teacher

Christy Barnaby

Virtual Special Education Teacher

Andrew Wurzer

Virtual Paraprofessional

We proudly nominate our incredible team of teachers and staff, who work with students on Tuesdays at AMAC, for their remarkable commitment to fostering a joyful and engaging learning atmosphere. Through their collective efforts, these staff members have transformed our school into a vibrant space where students are eager to attend, learn, collaborate, and have fun. Together, this team has cultivated an atmosphere that goes beyond academics. They make learning science and PE enjoyable, encourage friendships, and inspire students to come to school with enthusiasm. Their dedication to building a collaborative and joyful environment truly deserves recognition.

Kelly Elementary School



Kelly Team

Karley Elliott

SLP-MA

Janessa Scholler

MA Para/Lead Teacher

Estevan Ines

MA Para

Eleonora Haag

MA Para

The Explorers Classroom has been working hard to support student needs! The team demonstrates enthusiasm for student success and building positive relationships. They have shown a great deal of initiative in planning and collaborating. The team has been looking for innovative ways to include and support mixed abilities student at Kelly. We are lucky to have such a dedicated team!



Karen & Keith Johnson

Para/Garden Club Sponsor

Karen and Keith Johnson love to serve! Karen has used her gardening knowledge to apply for the Prairie Grant and teach 5th graders about growing, planting, and composting. You will often see Keith right next to Karen. They are an amazing couple who have worked tirelessly to teach students and bring beauty to Kelly Elementary.

Kensler Elementary School



Brandon Hoskins
Teacher

Mr. Hoskins embodies what the Good Apple Award represents - kindness, commitment and an unwavering passion for helping others. He is always willing to work with families to help support or problem solve around their students.



Kensler Team
Lindsay Winterburg
Teacher
Molly Green
Teacher
Jennifer Rader
Teacher
Sarah Winegar
Paraprofessional
Shana Wehrheim
Paraprofessional
Elsa Avila De La Rosa
Paraprofessional

The Kindergarten Team has a passion for teaching and empowers their students to believe in themselves so that they can achieve their goals. They are patient with the students as they guide them through discovering their potential through many different lessons and activities. As teammates, They are always happy to share and collaborate, bringing out the best in all those around them.

Lawrence Elementary School



Melissa Courter
Counselor

Mrs. Courter is one of the most kindhearted and generous people that I know. She wholeheartedly cares about the students and staff she works with. She has created school initiatives that have helped transform Lawrence into a place where all feel welcomed and heard.



Debra Gray
SPED Paraprofessional

Mrs. Gray's enthusiasm and love for kids is contagious. She has a very lighthearted disposition that puts the students right at ease. She is a team player and always does what is best for students. Mrs. Gray is extremely helpful and will go above and beyond to make sure no student feels left behind.



Lawrence Team

Kelly Gleeson

Administrative Assistant

Magi Urbina

Administrative Assistant

This team works tirelessly to create an environment where parents, teachers and staff feel supported and empowered. Kelly Gleeson and Magi Urbina are welcoming to all who enter the building, and they do a great job of making sure the staff and students are taken care of as well.

Linwood Elementary School



Nicole Cox

Interrelated Full Spectrum

Pilot Teacher

Nicole Cox truly works for the hearts of our Linwood Lions. Nicole heads our continuum pilot program where she works with students who have PBS and MA needs. Nicole's students KNOW that they are loved, taken care of, and held to the same standard as others. Whether it is their basic needs, or their scholastic needs, kids feel a sense of belonging and safety that they haven't felt before.



Annie Bryant

Music Teacher

Annie Bryant makes music come alive! Her classroom is the definition of student engagement and perky pace. There are so many opportunities for students to respond and chances for kids to try a variety of different musical areas. Annie's focus is student success, and she accomplishes this by proactively setting students up for the musical day and then setting up and environment for musical success.



Linwood Team
Kristen Yacenda
 First Grade Teacher
Lindsey Spearman
 First Grade Teacher
Victoria Cullom
 Pre-K Paraeducator
Diana Santiago
 Pre-K Para Educator
Stacey Mizer-Dalrymple
 Behavior Interventionist

The Family Engagement/PTO team at Linwood has knocked it out of the park this year. From Coffee and the Curb to Lunch with Loved Ones and most recently Trunk or Treat, this team has created a place of belonging for the families of Linwood and their students. They strive to make sure that each event is family focused, and that students, staff and stakeholders are truly going to have an event to remember.

Marshall Middle School



Nancy Perez
 Administrative Assistant

As the new administrative assistant to Marshall, Nancy has quickly proven to be an invaluable asset to our team. She is incredibly detail-oriented and consistently takes care of her administrative tasks with efficiency and professionalism. Beyond her administrative skills, Nancy excels at building wonderful relationships with students, creating a welcoming environment that fosters connection and support. Her positive attitude and dedication make a significant impact on our school community.



Karen Struble
 Teacher

In recognition of your unwavering dedication, positivity, and tireless efforts to help students achieve success, we celebrate you as a shining example of what it means to be an exceptional educator. Your commitment to teamwork and your willingness to go above and beyond make a profound difference in the lives of both students and colleagues alike. Thank you for inspiring us all with your hard work and passion!



Ashley Maury
Counselor

We are delighted to nominate Ashley Maury for her exceptional ability to balance the demands of her counseling role across two schools. Since joining Marshall Middle School, she has proven to be a valuable asset, demonstrating a collaborative spirit, proactive problem-solving, and strong advocacy for students. Her dedication helps students thrive both emotionally and academically.

McCollom Elementary
School



McCollom Team

Jamie Brown

Mixed Ability Para

Alyssa Kastler

Mixed Ability Para

Kailin Mount

Mixed Ability Para

Laice Williamson

Mixed Abilities Para

Kristina Mount

Mixed Abilities Para

Kathleen Jansen

Mixed Ability Para

Oliva Mader

Mixed Ability Para

Hallie Walmsley

Mixed Ability Para

Armond Ealey

Mixed Ability Para

Alejandra Gomez

Mixed Ability Para

Aaron Bell

Mixed Ability Para

Dan Tajchman

Mixed Ability Para

Toni Tyson

Mixed Ability Para

Our Mixed Ability Paras provide a safe and loving environment for students to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. Each staff member gives 100% each day to ensure our students are provided equitable experiences that meet their individual needs. They go over and beyond in their role to care for each student, as well as problem-solve with classroom teachers to meet each child's diverse needs. Our students and staff are fortunate to work alongside such a caring group of educators at McCollom Elementary.

McLean Elementary School



Ramon Martinez
Lead Custodian

Ramon is the heart of McLean. His willingness to help students and staff in whatever ways he can is astounding. He does the job often of two people, without complaint, waking up early and staying late, to make sure McLean shines. Ramon takes great pride in his work and wants McLean to be a space where students and families feel safe and welcome. He takes time out of his day to connect with students, often being a strong male role model. His smile and laughter make the atmosphere at McLean joyous. Thank you, Mr. Ramon, for your dedication to this school, the staff, families, and especially the students.



Charles Harris
Supervisor, Construction
Projects (NW Quadrant)

Charles was instrumental in helping the transition to a new building be easy, efficient, and encouraging. His ability to respond to questions and tasks was commendable. He opened up the lines of communication via collaboration and understanding. His commitment to the building and the district is truly an example of taking pride in being the district of choice.

Mead Middle School



Mead Team
Danielle Radcliffe
Teacher
Yamillette Bernier-Martínez
Teacher
Tonya Robinson
Guest Teacher
Amanda Glenn
Teacher

Mead Middle School extends their appreciation to a dedicated group of teachers who launched the afterschool program this year. This initiative has provided our students with a safe and engaging environment after school. Their efforts have successfully introduced our students to a variety of activities, including gardening, sewing, art, exercise, and fun field trips! We are grateful for their commitment and the positive impact they have had on Mead Middle School!

Minneha Core Knowledge
Magnet Elementary School



Rebecca Kucera
Instructional Coach

Mrs. Kucera’s work goes far beyond the classroom. She is deeply invested in the professional growth of our teachers, understanding that a strong foundation in teaching benefits not just the staff but, more importantly, the students. By creating opportunities for ongoing learning and reflection, she ensures that our teachers have access to the latest educational strategies, tools, and insights. But it’s not just about teaching methods she also emphasizes creating a safe and inclusive space for all students, where belonging is at the forefront of the learning experience.



Kristin Bond
3rd Grade Teacher/STS

Mrs. Bond is a teacher whose commitment to her students and the broader school community shines through in everything she does. From creating lessons tailored to meet every student's needs to supporting her colleagues with technology, Mrs. Bond’s impact is felt across the building. Her work extends far beyond the classroom, as she dedicates countless hours to improving our school’s environment and fostering a culture of safety and belonging.



Laura Wagers
ESOL/STS

Ms. Wagers’ dedication to her students and her willingness to go above and beyond in supporting her colleagues make her a standout member of our school community. As both an ESOL teacher and a technology resource, she continues to inspire and empower those around her, creating a more inclusive and forward-thinking environment. We are incredibly fortunate to have Ms. Wagers as part of our team, and we look forward to seeing the continued impact of her work.

Mueller Aerospace and
Engineering Discovery
Magnet Elementary
School



Bryce Graham
Volunteer

Mr. Graham is a dedicated volunteer at Mueller, offering his time weekly to work with fourth and fifth-grade scholars on leadership development. His sessions focus on helping students set personal and academic goals, create vision boards, and explore essential qualities of effective leadership. Through his mentorship, Mr. Graham provides valuable guidance, empowering students to develop a vision for their future and build foundational leadership skills that will benefit them in school and beyond.



Amy Lewis
Nurse

Amy's unwavering dedication to the health and well-being of our Mueller students and staff goes beyond expectations. Whether managing daily medical needs, providing emotional support for students who need a break from class, or handling playground emergencies with calm professionalism, she ensures a safe and caring environment for everyone. Her compassionate approach, and tireless work ethic, have made her an indispensable part of our Mueller community.



Nickell Reed
Counselor

Ms. Reed focuses heavily on equity for all students and building meaningful connections. From hygiene packets to social skills groups to individual counseling, she is leading the charge in ensuring our students' physical, emotional, and mental needs are met. Ms. Reed is a role model not only for students, but for staff and families as well. Her power to make every person feel seen and heard makes her truly deserving of a good apple, and our community is incredibly lucky to have her.

North High School



North Team
Hector Nieves
ROTC Instructor
Jeromy Fisher
JROTC instructor

These two gentlemen have breathed life into the ROTC program at North. They hit the ground running and have made an amazing impact on our students through their tireless encouragement of civic engagement, leadership, and belonging in our students.



Velya Randolph
Social Studies teacher and
Department Chair

Velya is committed to making her students future ready. She is incredible at teaching them how to organize, take responsibility, and hold themselves accountable. She is tough, fair, and kind. Her classroom light is always on after school hours. She stays late to redesign a lesson, organize for a student dance, blood drive, or contact parents about their student's performance. Her dedication is unmatched, and her lessons are always innovative. As a department head, she has done much to organize, equip, and encourage her department. North is better because of her tireless efforts.

Northwest High School



Northwest Team
Brooke Harrison
Mixed Abilities Para
Elizabeth Cox
Mixed Abilities Para
Ashley Houston
Mixed Abilities Para
Adrian Reynolds-Reason
Mixed Abilities Para
Evon Espinosa
Mixed Abilities Para
Amanda Becker
Mixed Abilities Para
Yalonda Manning
Mixed Abilities Para
Janet Medina
Mixed Abilities Para
Carlos Brown
Mixed Abilities Para
Deborah Lyons
Mixed Abilities Para
Coy Noble
Mixed Abilities

This team of paraeducators recently stayed after work on two different Friday nights to take our Mixed Abilities students to a home football game. This allowed an opportunity to provide a Parents Night Out for our parents of students in this program. Several of the paras also accompanied the Mixed Abilities students to the Block Party and Homecoming Dance as part of the Homecoming Week activities. These are just a few examples of how they offer their time to help our students and families.

OK Elementary School



Marty Bell
Custodian

Mr. Bell is a true example of hard work. He has filled the shoes of two custodians multiple times this year. He is always willing to take care of staff's needs, whether he is asked or not. He is a favorite to staff and students! His character, hard work ethic, and caring ways are seen by all!



Michelle Benson
Kindergarten Teacher

Michelle brings dedication, skill, and passion to her class. She creates a warm and inclusive learning environment where each child feels valued and supported. She recognizes the unique potential in every child and differentiates instruction to meet their needs. She is a true asset to our school!



Pam McNutt
Paraprofessional

Mrs. McNutt is an exceptional educator. Her positive attitude is unmatched. She inspires optimism and confidence in her students. As a result, they love working with her, maintain a growth mindset, and take risks and engage in rigorous activities. Mrs. McNutt sets the bar for paraeducators!

Peterson Elementary School



Peterson Team
Amy Demel
Administrative Assistant
Sharon Shine
Administrative Assistant
Deborah Calvert
Clerical Support

The Peterson Office Team has helped directly support our district's 3rd Strategic Goal related to Safety and Belonging by putting systems in place to keep Peterson students and families safe while also emphasizing belonging to all stakeholders.

Pleasant Valley Elementary School



PVE Team
Tracey Ledom
5th grade teacher
Kayla Ferguson
5th grade teacher

PVE's 5th grade team is working hard to provide an innovative and rigorous educational experience for their students despite the many challenges this school year has brought them. Both teachers have class sizes that are teetering near 30. Both classes have heavy special education caseloads, and both classes have limited support. That being said, Mrs. Ledom and Mrs. Ferguson persevere through it all. They continually stay focused on their data so they can differentiate instruction to meet the needs of their students. They are creative in the ways in which they execute instruction to so many students with different needs. At PVE, we are proud to have these dedicated educators who work tirelessly for their students and are always welcoming when another student is added to their classroom.

Pleasant Valley Middle School



Alex (Officer Avi) Avendano
Wichita Police Department
Juvenile Intervention Unit
Officer

We are thrilled to recognize Officer Avi with the Good Apple Award! Over the past two years, he has been an invaluable partner to PVMS, engaging with our students through impactful L.E.A.D. lessons in our Leadership classes. His dedication to fostering a safe and supportive environment is evident in his efforts to meet with students involved in challenging situations, providing guidance and intervention that truly make a difference. Officer Avi's commitment to our community and the well-being of our students is inspiring, and we are grateful for his unwavering support!



Elizabeth Vest
6th Grade ELA Teacher

6th grade ELA teacher, Elizabeth Vest, is most deserving of the Good Apple Award because of her uncanny ability to connect with all students through both her humor and compassion. She has fostered a safe, inclusive environment at Pleasant Valley Middle School by establishing an after-school Pride Club open to all students. Ms. Vest's passion for helping kids is evident in everything she does, making her an invaluable part of the PVMS Family.

Price Harris
Communications Magnet
Elementary School



Kinley Swenson
5th Grade Teacher

Kinley is our "go to" for struggles with keeping up with new technology applications that enhance the students learning environment. She constantly applies the latest technological tools to present and assess student learning. Kinley is a great teacher, a great team member, and a great asset to our school.

Riverside Leadership
Magnet Elementary
School



Erin Kohman
3rd grade teacher

She is the epitome of an excellent teacher. She meets every student where they are and helps them work towards standards no matter how much work she must put in to help make them successful. She is highly structured, consistent, patient, knowledgeable, and compassionate towards students, staff, and families. Erin does an exceptional job keeping data to help drive decisions for students. She is very professional when meeting with parents and puts them at ease during difficult conversations. I am not sure how Erin does all these amazing things. She is an incredible asset to Riverside!



Hayley Dannenberg
3rd Grade Teacher

Mrs. Dannenberg is a gift to our school, her students, and her families. Hayley sticks to district expectations but boosts the curriculum and targets by aligning her students' needs and interests to her lesson plans and delivery. She has created an incredibly beautiful and inviting classroom space where students feel that they belong, they can be themselves, they can take risks, make mistakes and grow. Mrs. Dannenberg makes students feel that they can be proud of where they are, they know their goals for the future, and they believe in themselves and each other. She uses data and relationships to create this joyful community!



Heather Breslin
Kindergarten Teacher

Ms. Breslin (Ms. B) is a true teacher in all aspects of the word. She teaches ABCs, phonemic awareness, math, reading, curiosity, Science, kindness, patience, and how to experience and build friendships. Heather Breslin sprinkles in lots of talk time, oral language, vocabulary, giggles, smiles, and joy into her kindergartner's days. She documents data for EVERY student, and she knows exactly where each child is in their academic and social growth journeys. Ms. B. believes in each child, and she communicates them through her words and actions. Her smiles and encouraging words impact her students, their families, and our entire staff!

School Service Center



Jenny Robinson
Executive Assistant

Together with Christie Czarnek, her hard work and dedication helped facilitate the relocation of nearly 200 USD259 staff, resulting from the building closures that took place at the end of the 2023-24 school year. Jenny & Christie took great care to accurately move supplies and personal items with great accuracy. They went above and beyond to ensure our staff, students, and communities felt safe and valued throughout the relocation process.



Christie Czarnek
Facilities Master Planner

Together with Jenny Robinson, her hard work and dedication helped facilitate the relocation of nearly 200 USD259 staff, resulting from the building closures that took place at the end of the 2023-24 school year. Jenny & Christie took great care to accurately move supplies and personal items with great accuracy. They went above and beyond to ensure our staff, students, and communities felt safe and valued throughout the relocation process.



SSC Team
John Probst
Supervisor
Michael Riepe
Technician
Casey Gunsch
Technician
Jeff Moler
Technician

This quartet of gentlemen in the Music Repair Department work daily to ensure that any of the 4,430 WPS rental instruments and acoustic pianos are in playable, working condition. They also transport larger instruments between buildings. Their team works to get instruments repaired and back into the students' hands as quickly as possible. These four are also great partners to the Fine Arts Department and selflessly assist when needed.

Seltzer Elementary School



Tracey Jordan
2nd Grade Teacher

Tracey is to be commended for her work with her 2nd grade students. Tracey has high expectations for herself and can transfer that to those around her, holding her students to high academic and behavioral standards. While at the same time, she can differentiate and accommodate all the different academic and behavioral needs in her rooms. She has a classroom that is warm and caring while also being challenging and exciting. Tracey is an excellent example of being hardworking and relentless at meeting the needs of her students!



Stephanie Ayala
Interrelated
Paraprofessional

Stephanie is an outstanding example of a dedicated and talented Para. Stephanie is able to take content and make it meaningful to any student needing that extra bit of help. She has a natural way of explaining and accommodating learning needs so that students are on track and getting their work done. Because of her, our students are able to feel confident in their abilities and put forth their best efforts. Stephanie is a team player and is able to help out throughout the building. She sees a need and steps in and makes sure that need is met so that things are running efficiently with students and staff! Stephanie is counted on and always comes through for staff and students!

South High School



Russ Wells
PE Teacher/Head Football
Coach

Coach Wells is a South High alum and when he came to South, he brought a vision for the program and the school that was built around lifting up our South High Community. He has created a sense of belongingness and family around our team and our school alongside our hard-working South-High grit and determination. We are WSProud of Coach Wells and the positive environment he has contributed to at South.



Marjorie Brown
ELA Teacher

Ms. Brown has worked diligently with our IPSP team as we are transitioning to a more efficient GEI process. Her organization and commitment to the process is admirable. Additionally, Ms. Brown has embraced our grade-level looping process, and she has become a critical component to the shift in climate and culture at South High School



Kaylee Chrisman
Para-SPED Low Incidence

Mrs. Chrisman organized our new Listening Locker at South High. The purpose of the Listening Locker is to give students a discreet place to reach out for assistance and/or release thoughts which may be difficult to express. Students are using the lockers on a regular basis to give positive feedback, ask questions, and to give observations they are seeing at South High. These notes are then share with support staff as needed. Thanks for thinking of and supporting all our students!



Stephanie Roush
Parent

We are thrilled to present the Good Apple to Stephanie Roush, an exceptional parent whose dedication and involvement have made a lasting impact on the South High community. Stephanie’s commitment shines through in her service on the Site Council, where she is a vocal advocate for our school, students, and families. Her enthusiasm, support, and Titan spirit are felt by everyone she meets. Thank you, Stephanie, for your unwavering dedication to South High.

Southeast High School



Sarah Forster
ESOL History Teacher

A dedicated ESOL/Newcomer History teacher who plays a crucial role in both student learning and the school. Committed to providing the best education to her students, whether in her own classroom or supporting peers. Shares her expertise, wisdom, and guidance with everyone around her, making her a valuable resource for students and staff alike.



Peter Thompson
Science Teacher

An exceptional science teacher at SEHS. Makes complex topics engaging for all students. His classes are a model of student-centered learning, where he fosters an environment that is both challenging and supportive. Connects with all students and creates curiosity about science. Dedication to excellence and his engaging teaching style make him one of the best of the best.

Sowers Alternative
High School



Sowers QBI Team

Sheri Heron

QBI-Psychologist

Robert Lacy

QBI-Intervention Specialist

BHSL

Cara Long

QBI Social Worker

Phil Newman

QBI Social Worker

Chris Robinson

QBI Technician Behavior

Support

Jim Sommer

QBI Psychologist

Erica Winkenwader

QBI Counselor

QBIs are new this year and are essential in meeting students' social, emotional, and behavioral needs. This team defined and refined the new role on the fly. Each has embraced this new role and is making a significant positive impact on our school. Thank you for your incredible work and dedication.

Spaght Science and
Communications Magnet
Elementary School



Kariss Hawkins

Para Educator

Kariss is kind, patient, and hardworking, always going above and beyond to support both students and colleagues. Her diligence and tireless efforts ensure that each student receives the individualized support they need to thrive. Beyond her academic support, Kariss has a remarkable ability to build strong, trusting relationships with students, making them feel valued and understood. Her impact in the classroom is immeasurable, and she is an integral part of our educational community. We are so happy that she chose to be a Spaght Tiger!



Jessica Reichenberger
Instructional Coach

Jessica brings a wealth of expertise to the table and is always ready and willing to help, offering innovative ideas and efficient solutions to meet the needs of our school community. Whether it's analyzing data, grouping students, providing instructional support, or mentoring and modeling best practices for teachers, Jessica does it all with kindness and generosity. Her positive impact is felt throughout Spaght, and she is an invaluable resource to our staff and a key factor in helping our students succeed.

Stanley Elementary School



Patty Thomas
High Incidence SPED Para

Patty Thomas is a SPED para who has a heart of gold and is the most genuine person I know. Her ability to build trusting relationships with students at Stanley is her greatest quality. She is selfless and willing to drop everything to help where she is needed; whether that is subbing imparting advice to her fellow paras, constructing bulletin boards, or helping organize classrooms. Patty is a true treasure.



Denise Hudson
3rd Grade Teacher

Denise is able to build restorative and impactful relationships with her past and present students, promote target behaviors with students that have been deemed "difficult", and persevere in grace and self-discipline. She provides a safe and nurturing environment for all students. She seeks out one-on-one relationships with each child to promote belonging and acceptance as well as ensuring she understands each student's learning styles to achieve success. Denise advocates for her students and actively seeks out fundamental knowledge to be a profound and effective teacher.

Stucky Middle School



Stucky Team
Daze Johnson
Night Custodian
Keston Lipsey
Night Custodian

Our night-time custodial crew has carried the workload of the custodial team for about a 2-month time period and during this time has shown incredible dedication to keeping our building a clean environment for our staff, families, and students. They are a true model of WPSPROUD.

Truesdell Middle School



Melissa Fiechtl
Math

Missy's collaborative spirit & dedication shine through engaging lessons designed for students to master grade-level targets. High energy in the classroom captures students attention & ignites passion for learning. A skillful balance of structure with dynamic interactions enable life success. Missy is a remarkable educator making a profound impact on students & Truesdell community.

Washington Elementary
School



Tara Stead
Kindergarten Teacher

Mrs. Stead creates a warm, nurturing environment where students feel safe, valued, and excited to learn each day. Her loving approach ensures that each child feels important, understood, and accepted. Students adore her, and their joy in being part of her class is unmistakable. She also builds strong connections with students' families. Understanding that family support is crucial to a child's success, she invests the time to communicate, collaborate, and create a positive partnership with all parents.



Leslie Edwards
3rd Grade Teacher

Ms. Edwards has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill in creating a positive, inclusive, and student-centered learning environment for all her students. She brings a calm and nurturing presence, which helps students feel safe and valued. She excels at building a classroom culture where children feel empowered to take risks, ask questions, and celebrate their progress, no matter how small. Her keen focus on celebrating student growth fosters motivation and a deep love of learning in her students. Ms. Edwards helps students believe in their potential and promotes an incredible sense of belonging in her classroom.



Jeri Yanez
Bookkeeper

With phones ringing, parents at the counter, students needing meds or temp checks, and staff interruptions throughout the day, I don't know how she does it, but Jeri still somehow manages to pull it all off! She makes the time to build positive relationships with our families and tries to solve even the most challenging of problems to ensure customers are taken care of. She seems to know what we need most days before we even know we need it! Jeri has a heart of gold, and we are so thankful for her!

West High School



Tom Wilcox
PANDO coordinator

Tom is such a great asset to PANDO and West High. He is constantly ensuring that our students' needs are met and will go above and beyond in every aspect. That is not my job is NOWHERE in his vocabulary. He will help where needed no matter what it entails. He will take students to events, he connects families, he provides them with more than financial or physical needs, but also emotional needs. He is always walking the hallways with a smile and has built so many relationships with adults and students.



Creighton Hoover
SPED Teacher

Creighton is such a role model and asset to our students and West High School. He provides students with opportunities to express themselves and to thrive where others may not. He is always willing to help in any situation and does an amazing job de-escalating our students when elevated. You can definitely notice a difference when he is not in the building You can tell he genuinely cares for the students and wants them to be successful and does whatever he can to provide those opportunities both emotionally and through the curriculum.

White Elementary School



Bart Brittain
Campus Support

Bart is a passionate and unwavering advocate for all children. With his calm, no-nonsense approach, he consistently supports both our students and staff. His expertise in special education is unparalleled, and he is always ready to collaborate and lend a helping hand—whether it's in the classroom, a meeting or even assisting with traffic duty! Bart's thoughtful perspective ensures that we carefully consider every angle in our decision-making, always prioritizing what's best for our students.



Lucas Reed
Supervisor, Construction
Projects

Lucas hit the ground running in his new role, working tirelessly to improve the environment for both students and staff here at White. His contributions have been pivotal in making our campus safer, including collaborating with city and district officials to add sidewalks and crosswalks. Beyond that, Lucas has spearheaded a variety of important projects, such as installing new carpet in several classrooms, refreshing the hallway paint, and overseeing the installation of a new playground structure. His dedication and proactive approach have made a lasting impact on our school community.



Brandt Wilson
CEO/Founder, Love Schools

Brandt Wilson and Love Schools have embraced us with incredible warmth and support. From the very beginning, Brandt has been a catalyst in connecting us with community members, securing vital resources for our school. Thanks to his efforts, we've received a refreshed basement, a well-stocked snack pantry, and generous monetary contributions through a give-back night with a local retailer. Brandt continues to work tirelessly on projects like remodeling our teacher's lounge and ensuring we have the necessary supplies to create calm-down corners in our classrooms. His dedication is making a meaningful difference in our school community.

Wilbur Middle School



Alexis Schirmer
Special Education
Teacher/Team leader

Ms. Schirmer makes significant contributions to Wilbur. She proactively addresses needs within the school community, exemplifying her commitment as a dedicated special education teacher, special education team lead, and yearbook coordinator. Additionally, she has taken on a larger caseload to alleviate pressure on her colleagues and has stepped in to cover classes when teachers are absent without a substitute. Observing her in the classroom and hallways, it is evident how deeply she cares for her students and her profession. Ms. Schirmer is truly an exceptional educator and an invaluable asset to any educational institution.



Kylie Moore
Mixed abilities teacher

We want to nominate Ms. Moore a second-year teacher to be recognized for her hard work and love that she pours into her students every day. Her exceptional performance and dedication to her students and staff makes her a strong categorical teacher at Wilbur. As a young inexperienced teacher, she has excelled in both academically teaching her students and, in her classroom, management. She is a team player and always willing to jump in to help both the students and her peers.



Wilbur Team
JoAnn McBroom
Administrative Assistant
Hillary Thackery
Library Media Specialist
Kasey Littlefield
Technology Teacher

Wilbur's social media and website team has dedicated significant time outside of school hours to develop our new online platforms. Their expertise and creativity have transformed our digital presence, ensuring that our community stays informed about current events and initiatives. Through effective collaboration, this team has enhanced our communication, making it more engaging and accessible. Their commitment to maintaining fresh and relevant content is invaluable, and we appreciate their hard work and dedication to our mission.

Woodman Elementary
School



Kayla Wilgers
4th grade Teacher

Kayla is a strong team player both in the classroom and within the broader school community. She embraces new ideas and actively seeks opportunities to collaborate with students and colleagues. Kayla is dedicated to building meaningful relationships, making her a welcoming person who is easy to communicate and work with. Her positive attitude, authenticity, and inspiring nature make her a true role model. Working alongside Kayla in the classroom is not just an opportunity; it's a privilege and a blessing.



Chelsea Torske
IR Paraprofessional

Chelsea is calm, kind and patient. She is amazing at building relationships with kids and advocates for them as well. She is willing to do anything that is asked of her, such as dealing with behaviors, teaching the whole class, subbing, running a group, taking kids for walks, escorting students, or just lending a listening ear. She knows when a child is struggling and is able to implement strategies to help them regulate. She is able to bring fun to the classroom as well as structure and organization. We are so grateful for Mrs. Torske and that we are able to work together!



Woodman Team
Randy Ledbetter
Lead Custodian
Heather Black
Night Lead Custodian

The Woodman custodial team are at the top of their class! Not only do Randy and Heather keep Woodman sparkling, but they are incredibly helpful and responsive to staff needs as well. The pride they have in their work and in Woodman Elementary is visible in every way and we are extremely grateful for them.



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.

Harassment and disparate treatment will not be permitted or condoned in Wichita Public Schools.

The Wichita Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, genetic information, or other legally protected classifications in its programs and activities.

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

The following persons have been designated to handle inquires 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