



Grant Community High School

Excellence in Education AWARD

Awarded to: *Mike Gaughan*

Reason Chosen: Mike Gaughan is an extraordinary social worker who consistently demonstrates an unwavering commitment to supporting students both emotionally and academically, embodying the mission, vision, and values of Grant Community High School. His empathy, leadership, and collaborative spirit make him a vital member of our school community and a deserving candidate for the Excellence in Education Award.

One of Mike's most notable qualities is his ability to connect with students from all walks of life. He provides a safe, supportive environment where students feel valued and heard, offering guidance as they navigate personal challenges and advocating for their mental health. His compassion and understanding ensure that each student receives the support they need to thrive.

Mike's commitment to students extends beyond his role as a social worker. He stepped up to coach the inaugural Girls' Flag Football team and now serves as the coach for our female wrestlers. In these roles, Mike demonstrates adaptability and a unique ability to meet students where they are, helping them grow both in and out of competition. His encouragement fosters resilience, perseverance, and teamwork, creating lasting positive impacts on his student-athletes.

Mike is also a model of integrity, leading by example with fairness, honesty, and responsibility. He holds himself to high ethical standards, always prioritizing what is best for his students and earning the trust and respect of colleagues and students alike. His exceptional communication skills further enhance his impact, whether mediating difficult conversations, offering thoughtful advice, or inspiring confidence in his athletes.

Collaboration is at the core of Mike's work. He partners effectively with teachers, administrators, parents, and students to create a cohesive, supportive environment where everyone can succeed. His ability to bring people together, whether in crafting intervention plans or strategizing for athletic competitions, demonstrates his commitment to the greater good of our school community.

For these reasons and many more, Mike exemplifies what it means to be an exceptional educator. His dedication to students' well-being and growth, both in the classroom and on the field, makes him a truly deserving

Christine A. Sefcik, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Jeremy Schmidt, Ed.D.
Principal