



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

March 18, 2025

THINK LEARN BE
MORE
TOGETHER
POCATELLO/CHUBBUCK
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25



Tonight we will recognize several individuals who,
through their actions, support and embody our
District's Mission to THINK MORE, LEARN MORE,
and BE MORE TOGETHER.

THINK LEARN BE
MORE
TOGETHER
POCATELLO/CHUBBUCK
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25



PCSD 25 believes a safe, supportive, caring, and respectful environment is critical to student learning. The School District 25 Education Foundation, in partnership with McDonald's, supports the Learner-of-the-Month award to recognize one elementary learner and one secondary learner from our district, from October through May. The C.A.K.E. Award celebrates positive character, attitude, kindness, and encouragement toward others. Nominations for the C.A.K.E. Award are submitted by a teacher who has observed the nominee's behavior and are approved by the school's principal.

C.A.K.E. Award recipients receive recognition at the monthly Board of Trustees regular meeting; a gift card for the recipient and their teacher, and a \$50 donation to purchase books in the recipient's name, both courtesy of the Johnson Family McDonald's.

Elementary School Learner-of-the-Month

Bridgett Orgill **5th grade, Chubbuck Elementary School**

Nominated by:
Paige Warfield

Mrs. Warfield wrote in her nomination letter, "Being the new kid at school is never easy. It's even more difficult to come in the middle of the year when friendships are already established. One student recently joined our school, and in this short time, has demonstrated remarkable kindness and acceptance toward peers. One of their classmates has had an incredibly difficult year and has struggled to connect with others. Though still adjusting to a new environment, this student has made a huge effort to be compassionate and supportive of this peer. When discussing their transition, they mentioned feeling that this peer was 'misunderstood' and deserving of kindness.

I witnessed this firsthand during a counseling lesson when students were engaged in group work. The student was working with a peer who became agitated and used disrespectful language toward the group. While it would have been easy to ignore the situation or respond negatively, this student remained calm, acknowledged their peer's concerns, and responded with gratitude for their input. As a result, the group was able to continue working productively. This ability to show empathy in the face of frustration displayed remarkable maturity and an understanding of separating behavior from the person underneath."





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Secondary School Learner-of-the-Month

Gabe Pyne

12th Grade, Century High School

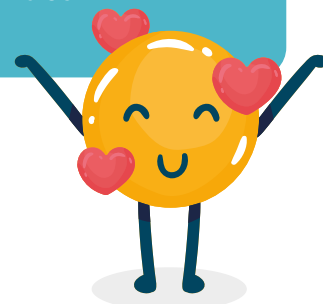
Nominated by:
Katie Cooper
Teacher, AMS

In her nomination letter, Mrs. Cooper wrote, "I would like to nominate Gabe Pyne. My nomination is a little different because Gabe isn't currently enrolled at AMS but over the last five years, he continues to have an impact on me and others.

I am lucky to have had the opportunity to teach Gabe in my 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Lego Flex classes. During that period, Gabe made a huge impact on my life, as well as on his peers as I observed him interacting with others. Gabe is determined and hard-working. He is a dedicated learner and wrestler. He goes above and beyond to lift those who are struggling. An example of this is in 2021, I lost my son unexpectedly. I will forever have etched in my mind, Gabe's compassion as he and his family supported me through this difficult time. That memory is forever cemented in my heart.

I have had the chance to watch Gabe with his teammates on the mat in wrestling over the last five years. His tenacity, grit, and resilience to get back up in spite of physical and mental challenges are awe-inspiring. He never settles for mediocrity and is continually working towards being his best self. He cheers on his teammates and boosts them up with his positivity and never-ending praise to endure, especially when things get hard. Gabe truly deserves to be considered for this award as he is a leader and an example of true kindness towards others."

Thank you, Gabe, for your positive contributions to our school communities!



FEBRUARY 2025



The Employee-of-the-Month P.I.E.S. award recognizes our employees who Positively Influence Educational Success. The award is for employees who go above and beyond in that effort.

PIES Award recipients receive a \$50 gift card from Lookout Credit Union, our educational partner for this award.

Kevin Nielsen

School Resource Officer and Coach, Alameda Middle School

Nominated by:

Lyndsey Matthews, Mary Anne McGrory, Chelsie Hill, Katie Cooper, Carleen Wellard, Joan Mortimer, Rachel Chambers, Brandon Vaughan, Mindy Bang, Tonya Blaser, and many more...

Officer Kevin Nielsen received several thoughtful nominations for the PIES Award. Mary Anne McGrory submitted a nomination on behalf of several other colleagues, and Lindsey Mathews also submitted a nomination, each highlighting the tremendous impact he has had on the Alameda community.

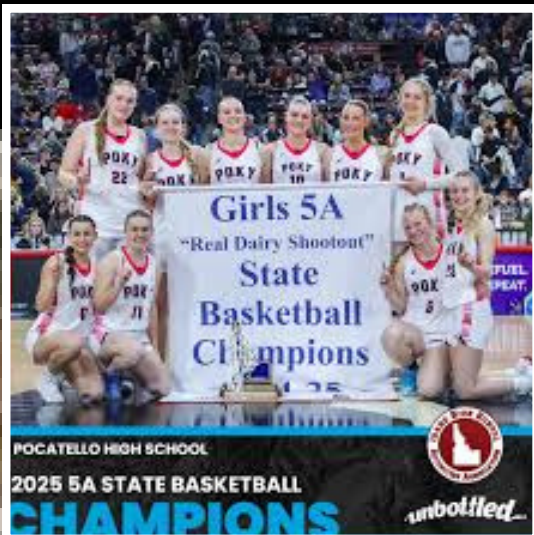
Officer Kevin Nielsen serves as the School Resource Officer at Alameda Middle School, where his commitment to safety and student well-being goes above and beyond expectations. As noted by Mrs. McGrory and her colleagues, he is not only a protector but also a mentor and trusted figure. His approachable demeanor fosters an environment where students and staff feel secure, valued, and supported.

Both nominations emphasize Officer Nielsen's exceptional ability to connect with students. Whether coaching cross-country, greeting students by name in the hallways, or simply offering encouragement, he creates meaningful relationships that have a lasting impact. Ms. Matthews shared a touching story of a student who wrote about aspiring to become a police officer because of Officer Nielsen's influence, underscoring the inspiration he provides to young people.

Officer Nielsen is also highly respected by his colleagues. He works closely with teachers and administrators, regularly visiting classrooms and serving as a guest speaker. He played a key role in establishing the school's Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT), providing essential training and support to staff. As Ms. Matthews shared, his leadership gives staff confidence in handling emergencies, and his responsiveness ensures they always feel supported.

Officer Nielsen's ability to balance authority with kindness has shaped the culture at Alameda. Even students who have received citations from him continue to greet him warmly in the hallways—a testament to the respect he has earned. As one staff member put it, "The day Kevin Nielsen is not at Alameda is the day that I retire."

Thanks to the heartfelt nominations from Mrs. McGrory, her colleagues, and Ms. Matthews, we can see the profound impact Officer Nielsen has had on Alameda Middle School. His dedication, mentorship, and leadership make him an outstanding candidate for the District PIES Award, and we are grateful for the positive difference he continues to make in the lives of students and staff.



2025 5A STATE CHAMPIONS Pocatello High School Girls Basketball Team

MAKING SCHOOL HISTORY!

Board of Trustees, I am pleased to recognize the Pocatello High School girls basketball team for their outstanding achievement this season. Under the leadership of Head Coach Sunny Evans, the program has seen remarkable growth, culminating in their first-ever Class 5A Girls Basketball State Championship.

Coach Evans took over in 2019, guiding the team through challenging seasons and building a foundation for success. Over the past few years, the team has worked hard to improve, and their efforts paid off with a well-earned championship win over Middleton.

This achievement reflects the dedication of the players, coaching staff, and school community. Congratulations to Coach Evans and the entire team on this historic accomplishment. We are proud of their hard work and success.



PCSD 25

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