

District Appreciation Night



MAY 5, 2025



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High School National Honor Society

High School Key Club

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PRIDE OF PATTONVILLE

The Pride of Pattonville Award was established more than 40 years ago to honor and recognize staff, parents and community volunteers for service to the district, above and beyond expectations. Winners from the two previous years select those to be honored from nominations submitted by staff, students, parents and community members.

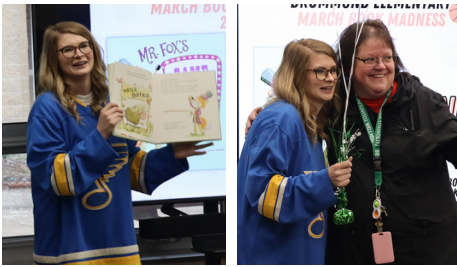


Pride of Pattonville Recipients

Sierra Dertinger
Melanie Fitzgerald
Lanee' Hasenkamp
Jon Hisaw

Rebecca Krohn
Rob Lamb
Jill Ramig

Rodney Spann
Mark Storer
Anna White



SIERRA DERTINGER

LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST AT DRUMMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sierra Dertinger has been sharing her love of reading in Pattonville since she was an elementary student. A Pattonville graduate, she came back to begin her career as a classroom teacher at Drummond Elementary School. After six years of teaching third and fourth grade, she has spent the past two years as the library technology specialist, dedicating her role in the library to creating exciting opportunities that students, staff and families all love.

"She works hard beyond the school day to encourage and create opportunities that make our kids want to read," counselor Carla Robertson said.

Dertinger runs two book clubs — one after school for students and another before school for staff to get together. She organizes popular events for the school, such as an annual book tasting event, where students sample different books in a café-decorated library, and the Masked Reader event based on the popular TV show, where students vote on disguised staff reading popular books. She spends time coordinating book fairs, Bookmobile visits and unique author visits. Dertinger has served on district committees for AI and curriculum development, led building and district professional development sessions and collaborates with teachers every week to create lessons that are both fun and educational for students.

"Sierra is incredibly organized and thoughtful in her lesson choices," fourth grade teacher Amy Powell said. "She loves books more than anyone I know."

Dertinger's passion and connections with students and families extends beyond the school day. She runs an Instagram page for Drummond's library, learns about new and upcoming books, organizes author visits and connects with students outside of the classroom — cheering for them at student events, interacting with families at Drummond's Chili Supper or Fun Fair and attending PTO meetings.

"Sierra is an advocate for Pattonville," Robertson said. "She supports the curriculum and works hard to create opportunities that bring literacy awareness to our students, families and staff."



DR. MELANIE FITZGERALD COORDINATOR AT THE PATTONVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Dr. Melanie Fitzgerald is a coordinator at the Pattonville Early Childhood Center, overseeing the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program and supervising early intervention screenings available to all families across the district. This school year she was appointed president of the Missouri Parents as Teachers Association (MOPATA), serving eight county regions, leading monthly meetings and providing training for members and early childhood advocates.

"Mel goes above and beyond to support parent educators and their families," parent educator Krysteen Eusen said. "She always makes time to meet when we have questions, concerns or just need to problem-solve."

Fitzgerald is also a nonviolent crisis intervention trainer through the Crisis Prevention Institute, equipping staff with tools to handle crisis situations safely and confidently.

"She ensures that early childhood staff are up to date with training," social worker Erica Abowitz said. "She also makes sure that the student support team is well trained and comfortable with the process of de-escalation and crisis intervention. Sometimes it feels like Mel 'does her magic' and is able to work through any given situation with success. Watching her in action with students with her firm, yet loving manner is remarkable and unforgettable."

Fitzgerald introduced Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program to the school, is a certified yoga and mindfulness instructor and is an active member of the school's PTO. Her colleagues have expressed gratitude for plethora of experience in education she brings to early childhood.

"Mel is one of the most passionate educators I have ever worked with," Abowitz said. "She guides and inspires both new and seasoned educators."

LANEE' HASENKAMP PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Lanee' Hasenkamp's dedication to Pattonville runs deep. She is a 1994 graduate, a teacher at Pattonville High School for 23 years and is a proud parent of two students currently attending schools in the district. Her commitment to the school community continues a family legacy as her mother, Dr. Dorothy King, taught math at the high school for 34 years.

Hasenkamp's service goes well beyond the classroom. When her children attended Willow Brook Elementary School, she helped organize parade floats and International Night, while encouraging other families to get involved. She volunteered as a Cub Scout den and troop leader where she planned camping trips, organized fundraisers and coordinated popcorn sales. She has served as a PTO volunteer at Willow Brook, Holman Middle School and the high school, helping with homecoming setup, concessions, field trips and more. As a team mom for Jr. Pirates and a reliable carpool driver, she's a constant presence at both school and community events.

"She is all about community involvement," special education speech pathologist Estella Hunter said. "When there is an activity for the high school or Jr. Pirates, her family is there to support."

Hasenkamp has coached cross country, swim and dive and track and field. She attends and supports after-school events across the district, from band concerts to debate tournaments to choir performances. She has served on numerous district committees including calendar, Career, Technology and Education (CTE), CSIP, curriculum, PNEA, Portrait of a Graduate and Problem Solvers, offering her voice and time to help shape the district's future. Hasenkamp is seen as an encouraging mentor and trusted colleague.





JON HISAW

AUDITORIUM TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AT PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Since 2007, Jon Hisaw has played an essential role in the Pattonville theater program, serving as the auditorium technical director at Pattonville High School. For 36 productions, and counting, he has guided students in transforming designs into dynamic, imaginative and safe sets. His work is both an instructional opportunity and a creative collaboration, bringing each production to life with care and precision.

"Jon serves our district community by navigating an often hectic auditorium schedule while ensuring a timely and safe environment in which the students prepare and perform," theater director Lara Corvera said. "He does so much for Pattonville theater behind the scenes and does it with both a love for the students learning and a love for the craft of technical theater."

Hisaw spends evenings and weekends working around rehearsal schedules to ensure students have the space and support they need. He teaches tool safety and proper construction techniques, actively seeks out donations of tools and materials and thoughtfully recycles and reuses set pieces to allocate resources wisely. He even recruits volunteers for large-scale projects.

"Jon's beautiful, functional and safe sets have been seen by thousands of friends, family, students and community members," vocal music teacher Melynda Lamb said. "He sees his job as a service to this community."

Pattonville's plays and musicals draw enthusiastic audiences from all ages across the district, and Hisaw's work is a major part of that success.

"He has described his work here as a light in his life," science teacher Megan Kemper said. "If you have seen any of the shows at PHS, you will see that every part is a labor of love, including the beautiful sets!"



REBECCA KROHN

COMMUNITY SERVICE/A+ COORDINATOR, ENGLISH LEARNER COUNSELOR AT PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

During her 29 years at Pattonville High School, Rebecca Krohn has served in roles ranging from Spanish teacher to her current position as A+ and community service coordinator and English learner (EL) counselor. Her work reflects a long-standing, deep commitment to student success.

"Becky is one of the most devoted colleagues I have worked with in the field of education," counselor Christy Wills said. "Her unwavering commitment to her students is evident in the hours she dedicates meticulously reviewing details to ensure EL students are empowered to reach their fullest potential."

As the EL counselor, Krohn helps families navigate school systems to provide support beyond the school day and advocate for student needs.

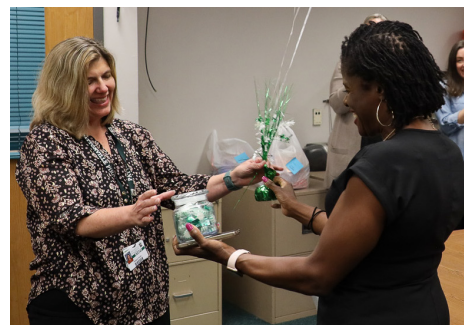
"She is the go-to person for our EL students," secretary Cynthia Hall said.

Krohn also plays a vital role in connecting students with tutoring and service needs, often working with staff to develop service opportunities that accommodate families facing transportation or schedule restrictions.

"She constantly supports students and parents in navigating and pursuing community service opportunities," social worker Michelle Miletic said.

Krohn leads the Pirate Connections team to support college and career readiness, serves on the Curriculum Coordinating Council, sponsored the New Friends Disability Awareness Club and co-led the annual wheelchair basketball game. Her knowledge and care make a lasting difference.

"You can ask her almost any question about Pattonville and she'll be able to provide you with an answer," counselor Megan Harrison said. "She is willing to help anyone who asks and continually goes above and beyond for families."



ROB LAMB

SCIENCE TEACHER AT PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Rob Lamb has spent 20 of his 22 years teaching and shaping science education at Pattonville High School. A Pattonville graduate himself, Lamb now leads the science department and has coached cross country, boys swim and dive and track and field, contributing to athletic programs for more than a decade. His impact reaches beyond the high school. He has served on building and district professional development committees and the Teacher Advisory Council, helping shape teaching and learning across the district.

"His leadership on these committees shares the voice of many Pattonville employees," math teacher Kyle Hall said. "He has continued to steer the district in a direction that is a great place for students to learn and for staff to work."

A passionate advocate for professional growth, Lamb volunteers his time with several community organizations that support educators and has encouraged fellow staff to do the same. His commitment to innovation in science instruction has also led to seven grant awards from organizations like the National Science Foundation and Pattonville Education Foundation (PEF).

Lamb regularly presents research at local, state and national education conferences and has written articles for nationally recognized publications like *The Science Teacher*. His work has earned multiple regional and national honors, including the NSTA Robert E. Yager Excellence in Teaching Award and the American Chemical Society's St. Louis Region Teacher of the Year.

"It's coworkers like him that make me want to root myself in this district," science teacher Kathleen Gengler said. "I want to surround myself with people as supportive and compassionate as Rob — people who, through both their actions and their words, show their love for their career and community."



JILL RAMIG

LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST AT THE ACADEMY OF INNOVATION AT REMINGTON

For more than two decades, Jill Ramig has inspired a love of learning in Pattonville students. Serving as the library technology specialist at the Academy of Innovation at Remington, her work is grounded in student connection and a passion for literacy.

Ramig leads an impressive range of literacy initiatives for students. From curating weekly selections for the schoolwide Book a Day program to organizing the student-led Bookcademy Awards, her efforts foster a shared love of stories across the school. She coordinates author visits, virtual chats for World Read Aloud Day, interactive book tastings, Mark Twain nominee reveals and Mystery Lit Boxes — all designed to spark curiosity and engagement.

Ramig plays a key role in supporting Remington's shift to personalized learning, collaborating closely with classroom teachers to align library resources with instruction. She's also instrumental in planning student Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs), working on the committee to organize which ELOs each student is assigned to.

"She's effective at this task because she knows every student," English learner teacher Michele Hill said. "She's a true partner in students' learning."

Ramig supports districtwide efforts by helping organize the Middle School Book Battle, coordinating author visits with other librarians and serving on the Teacher Advisory Council and Remington's Building Leadership Team. She is a National Board Certified Teacher whose deep knowledge of literature and commitment to student growth have made her a true partner in learning.

"Jill is dedicated to her profession," Hill said. "She is an asset to our district."



RODNEY SPANN

CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR AT PATTONVILLE HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

After serving in the military, Rodney Spann joined Pattonville in 2006 as an evening custodian, eventually moving to days and stepping into the role of lead custodial supervisor in 2019. He has brought an unwavering commitment for excellence to every corner of the building he helps maintain.

"He is a role model for students and staff as someone who is humble, hardworking and takes pride in his work," principal Dr. Mark Houston said.

In addition to supervising and training custodial staff, Spann is known for working side-by-side with his team, always leading by example, responding quickly to any staff requests and coordinating setup for every student event. Whether organizing the lunch line to help cafeteria staff or serving as crossing guard on Fee Fee Road, Spann consistently goes far beyond what's expected.

"What's best for kids is his mindset for what he and his staff can do daily to provide the best learning environment for students and staff," Houston said.

Spann has opened and closed the building countless times for weekend events and preps the school for large-scale gatherings like the area-wide Book Battle and Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) meetings. His dedication ensures every guest sees Pattonville Heights at its best.

"During the summer he comes in at 2 or 3 a.m. to get up to seven layers of wax on the floor," Houston said. "We routinely get asked how we keep our floors so white and shiny by visitors."

Spann models deep care for students, staff and the community.

"He is universally well-respected and valued for his contributions to the Heights family," Houston said. "It is an honor to work with a man of his values, commitment and dedication."



MARK STORER

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AT PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

For 12 years officer Mark Storer has served as the school resource officer (SRO) at Pattonville High School, bringing not only a commitment to safety, but also a deep investment in the well-being of the students, staff and families he supports. He ensures the campus is secure, helps de-escalate crisis situations and supports with mental health and behavioral needs. His daily presence and genuine care have made him a trusted figure in the school.

"His ability to balance law enforcement with compassionate mentorship make him an outstanding example of public service," assistant principal Dr. Jon Fitzgerald said. "His professional, caring demeanor is a source of strength."

Storer's approachable, calm and empathetic personality make him someone students regularly turn to for advice, support or simply a listening ear. He creates a sense of safety and stability in routine school days and in high-pressure moments.

"His approach is holistic, focusing on solutions that prioritize the well-being of students while maintaining a safe learning environment," Fitzgerald said. "His collaborative spirit has created a sense of unity among faculty, staff and families, all of whom rely on his expertise and judgement."

In addition to his safety and mentorship duties, officer Storer is a familiar face in classrooms. He has volunteered his time to guest lecture in classes such as Driver's Education, Forensics, and Youth and Law, offering real-world insight into topics like law enforcement, legal rights and civic responsibility.

Storer is also a valued presence outside of regular school hours, attending nearly every football game and many evening, weekend and summer events to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all.

ANNA WHITE

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TEACHER AT PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Anna White is a driving force in Pattonville's music program. For 14 years, she split her time traveling between Pattonville Heights Middle School and Pattonville High School. Since 2019, her teaching has been focused at the high school, where she leads numerous ensembles like jazz band, percussion and pit orchestra for the spring musical. This year, she expanded her leadership as the district's instrumental music lead resource teacher.

Whether organizing concerts, writing grants, planning trips or adding thoughtful touches at meetings, White brings dedication and heart to everything she does. She meets students where they are, builds strong relationships and inspires them to reach their potential. Under her guidance, students regularly achieve top honors at festivals and auditions, and the Pride of Pattonville Marching Band has earned more than nine championship titles.

"Ms. White has shown a commitment to the district and high school, but more importantly she has shown a commitment to all the students that come through the door," parent Heather Gallagher said. "She is one of the main reasons the kids enjoy marching band so much."

White's summers are filled with band camps, parades and preparing for a new year of performances. Her impact is felt in classrooms, at assemblies, on football fields, at the state music conference and more. She also mentors future educators, serves on the high school leadership team and helps shape curriculum across the district through various committees. "Before she was my colleague, she was my band director in high school and is one of the people who inspired me to teach music for a living," instrumental music teacher Laura Livesay said. "I have always looked up to her and I know the students do too."



HONOR ROLL OF RECIPIENTS

1980 Peggy Borgmier, Carol Fisk, Shirley Hall, JoAnn Heitmann, Miriam Kerns, Dotty Noblitt, Walter Pfeiffer, Frances Rasmussen, Frank Reiner

1981 Dorothy Boock, Rebecca Crain, Ruth Cagle, Al Fitzgerald, Patrick Gallagher, Justine (Tina) Houser, Vi Kavanaugh, Warren Lee, Carlene Miller, Dody Stis

1982 Cheryl Apel, Marilyn Crowder, Gloria Fairchild, Marlin Jackoway, Joyce Kline, Kathy McFarland, Randy Pierce, Annette Stepanek, Judy Zahner

1983 Ruth Edwards, Bernard Epstein, Ken Fredrickson, Donn Gresso, Dianne Guittar, Roger Harlan, Lonna Hendren, Roberta McCarthy, Ed Wiehmann, Charles Wippermann

1984 James Boorsma, Robert Dick, Bill Fader, Karen Francis, Bob Guttmann, Rozella Payne, John Pohl, Arlene Tolman, Patsy Turner

1985 Virginia Barnes, Billie Broeker, Clare Freebourn, John Gibson, Caroline Hoffman, Bert Horowitz, Jo Ann McCarthy, Art Ronald, Jane Walters, Grace Weber

1986 June Besgrove, Lenette Bolnick, Edell Buhlig, Eileen Cushman, Bob Drummond, Allen Flamm, Jayne Kasten, Dave Knes, Alice Lauher, Ed Robins

1987 Eleanor Bruning, Betty Garner, Betty Jackson, Karen Johnson, Janice Majka, Kathy Oster, George Pathenos, Jaunita Sloan, Margaret Steinheimer, Mary Ann Thompson

1988 Nancy Brown, Val Cummings, Jerry Harris, Billy Jones, Bill Maddux, Irene Scott, Kathleen Telscher, Minerva Todd, Jean Vest, Marie Wallace

1989 Betty Barrows, Susan Biggs, Cindy Boddy, Pam DeJohn, Fran Geisel, Kathy Hamilton, Ruth Ives, Mike McCarthy, Bill Pohlman, Jeannie Steffens

1990 Maggie Borgmann, Linda Bowers, Sally Busenhardt, Wayne Cashion, Jan Deusinger, Marsha Eatherton, Larry Goessling, Pickett Lema, Ann O'Leary, Nancy Sebastian

1991 Sandy Brewer, Margaret Dickinson, Nancy Greenblatt, Tom Hauther, Pam Hollrah, Judy Mitchell-Miller, Mary Parker, Marva Ramsey, Darlene Sokol, Brent Underwood

1992 Pam Bray, Jon Berthorst, Roger Clough, Al DiRie, Peggy Hall, Carolyn Henley, Ted Kramme, Mark McCarthy, Michael Spector, Sandy Weis

1993 Carol Chaney, Lisa Cradick, Fran Dickerson, Wilma Dolan, Kathleen Lask, Christine Marshall, Rose Ann Ross, Sharon Storms, Kym Tolman, Judy Woolsey

1994 Linda Allen, Kenneth Buhlig, Kay Gunning, Dorothy Hatfield, Debra Kuhn, Ellen Lindsey, Liz Spector, Edna Stepanek, Kay Trebilcock, Suzanne Walker

1995 Sue Atkinson, Lorie Briggs, John Glore, Patti Gosejohan, Larry Knobel, David Latimer, Jim Mantle, Dianne Snyder, Charles Stanton, Kim Zucarello

1996 Kathy Barnholtz, Ron Borgmann, Nancy Holguin, Rose Marie Koerner, Ron Kuschel, Patti Larrew, Colleen Mullins, Joni Norris, Ralph Stahlhut, Frank Thouvenot

1997 Jack Brown, Janice Duke, Larry Essmann, Lynn Garafalo, Chris Gaston, Beverly Harget, Tom Huddleston, Patrice Rosner, Jan Schweiss, Jackie Treece

1998 Gordon Gosejohan, Eula S. Harris, Barbara J. Kaufmann, Karen Kenning, Terence P. Kenniston, Carol Kranz, Patricia Libhart, Jane L. Litteken, Karen Meyer, Karen Norris Dapron

1999 Lisa Anderson, Joe Branch, Diana Bright, Kathy Fitzgerald, Nancy Hodel, Debbie Luebbert, Ken McGuire, Michael Mooney, Ruth Petrov, Deborah Bell-Saettele

2000 Scott Duke, Donette Green, Vincent Grippi, Hugh Kinney, Jan LaZear, Rob Simpson, Mary Smith, Judy Sobocinski, Lisa Stahlhut, Debra Wolk

2001 Diane Devine, Patricia DeWitt, Harriet Fader, Jodi Harris, Terry Jack, Karen Mayberry, Jennifer Nitsch, Cheryl Sprengel, Carol Stein, Liz Sweet

2002 Pat Bryant, Debra Ebel, Nancy Henley, Mary Kinsella, Connie O'Dell, Harriet Polleschultz, Tammy Overstreet, Steven G. Schlute, Paul Simpkins, Sugar Smith

2003 Michael Burgio, Gloria Fox, Frank Gallagher, Kevin Gunn, John Heskett, Janet Johnson, Mickey Schoonover, Jim Schwab, Leonard Sullivan, Marilyn Terry

2004 Mary Jo Beaulieu, Linda Graven, Julie Kampschroeder, Mary Kurth, Judy Pickett, Deborah Powers, Mavis Stein, Delyla Uebel, Mary Vaughan, Jane Wolff

2005 Mary Kay Campbell, Mike Fulton, Joyce Huelsing, Joan Knight, Tom Morgan, Tina Murphy, Douglas Nitsch, Jr., Michael Stein, Carol Steinbach, Barbara Weekley

2006 Nancy Barry, Mary Ann Brann, Debra S. Bicket, Karen Derksen, Melinda Donaldson, Rick Mariam, Louise McGuire, Randall McArthur, Tim Pecoraro, Kay Sullivan

2007 Pam Copple, Madaleaze Cramer, Till Fehrenbacher, John R. Hopkins Jr., Heather Kitchens, Barry Nelson, Judy Rice, Carla Robertson, Desiree Schumann, Betty Wahl

2008 Allison Stout (nee Bacon), Cindy Candler, Terry Funderburk, Alex Granda, Preston Kohenskey, Virginia Larson, Tracy Mellring, Paula Schneider, Laura Waisner

2009 Jennifer Bober, Judy Radin, Bob Dillon, Al Rosen, John Kern, Jane Stokes, Dr. Paul S. Markovits, Phyllis Whitten, Angela Vos McCormick, Kate Zust

2010 Cindy Hale, Donna Reynolds, Dana Lindsey, Tracey Robinson, David W. Miller, Scot Mosher, Marilyn Sadler, Greg Stoltz, Sandy Recor, Becky Vik

2011 Kerry Brown, Ken Farrell, Craig Gregory, Katie Guyton, John Hulahan, Aaron Jiminez, Tim McKinley, Linda Shead, Mary Spitzmiller, Helen Weissler

2012 Sandi Bahr, Marisa Baner, Steve Brueggen, Lisa Cwiklowski, Ruth Farrell, Mary Beth Kretschmer, Laurie Lambros, Dawn Osman, Pam Tesson, Lisa Zangriles

2013 Katie Funderburk, Sarah Funderburk, Julie Harder, Bob Heitert, Beth Kathriner, Rick Lehman, Jacqueline McClain, Jamie Richter, Marla Wasserman, Carole Williamson

2014 E. Leslie Anderson, Marilyn Baker, David Caldwell, Tonya Ferretti, Angie Huddleston, Charlie Johnson, Elliot Miller, Dr. Vicki Nienhuis, Patty Patrick, Amy Reese

2015 Mary Florence Boone, Christina Curtis, Michelle DiSalvo, Kim Gindler, Samantha Keeler, Ron Orr, Sara Jane Rybarczyk, Tyler Schmiege, Peter Schmöcker, Greg Schnatmeier

2016 Sara Deutschmann, Debbie Jansen, Roy Libhart, Janel MacLean, Stephanie McCreary, Kate McFarland, Pam Rasmussen, Leah Schnatmeier, Jeremiah Simmons, Pam Walsh

2017 Glenn Changar, Jackie Ditmeyer, Shelli Greenblatt, Dr. Mark Houston, Scott Hutson, Russ Klenke, Phyllis Pasley, Jackie Wasser, Michael Winship, Lori Zanitsch

2018 Brian Bateman, Sue Boswell, Joyce Bowdish, Mary Jo Crabtree, JoAnn Greenwell, Michele Hill, Melynda Lamb, Mike Siebe, Sue Stricklin, Lois Westbrook

2019 Mary Kay Bovier, Elizabeth Brisch, Mindy Campbell, Blake Carrigan, Bill Casner, Irena Goren-Scheer, Cindy Hall, Denny McFarland, Doug Newton, Mike Ratanasitoe

2020 Mack Boyd, Steven Chisholm, Don Furjes, Gene Grimshaw, Heather Lopez-Johnston, Joan Mason, Jane McGuire, Kathleen O'Keefe, Julie Purviance, Eleanor Taylor

2021 Chris Cheatham, Jenny Flores, Patty Gould, David Gross, Abby Hall, Wendy Mathis, Erin Mulanax, Jason Payne, Scott Robinson, Brenda Vitale

2022 Amanda Fields, Heidi Lanham, Dr. Sarah Moran, Beth Moritz, Lynda Sotolar, Jim Usry, Jason Van Beers, Kelley Villinger, Scott Wagner, Kendra Worsham

2023 Mark Barnhart, Maria Farmer, Margaret Hall, Jennifer Haub, Janet Kuhn, Barry Mertz, Adam Seibert, Andrea Snowden, Laura Wick, David Wright

2024 Anna Braswell, Kevin Couty, Kim Dannerger, Kim Dickinson, Michelle Evans, Julie Hilker, Kevin Hughes, Kenny Krieg, Brandon Lynn, Travis Williams



RETIREMENTS

Each year, members of our Pattonville family take the next steps in their life journey — retirement. The district recognizes all staff members — both Pattonville and SSD staff who work in Pattonville — who retire between each year's District Appreciation festivities. All retirees have the option to receive an engraved bell recognizing their service. We congratulate the following staff on their retirement and thank them for their service in Pattonville.



Diane Alt	Bus Driver	Transportation
Patricia Benbenek	Special Education Speech Pathologist	Pattonville Heights
Elizabeth Brisch	Gifted Teacher	Holman
Julie Buchholz	Library Media Specialist	High School
Nancy Bush	Custodian	Pattonville Heights
Kimberly Butts	Director of Purchasing	Learning Center
Lori Calvin	Clerk	High School
Glenn Changar	Permanent Substitute	Holman
Fred Chew	Bus Driver	Transportation
Regina Dunmire	Bus Driver	Transportation
Vicki Emerson	Science Teacher	High School
Ramona Harrison	Evening Lead Custodian	Pattonville Heights
Glenna Evans	Cook	Drummond
Dr. Melanie Fitzgerald	Early Childhood Coordinator	Early Childhood
Laura Hartsock	Science Teacher	Pattonville Heights
Michele Hill	English Learner Specialist	Remington
Cindy Howard	Business Specialist	High School
Mike Howard	Printing Supervisor	Print Shop
Thomas Iffrig	Physical Education and Driver	High School
	Education Teacher	
James Ivie Sr.	Custodial Supervisor	Maintenance/Facilities
Stephen Jones	Physical Education Teacher	Bridgeway
Brenda Kelch	Kindergarten Teacher	Drummond
Cynthia Kiankhooy-Fard	Special Education Paraprofessional	Drummond
Rebecca Krohn	Community Service/A+ Coordinator	High School
	and English Learner Counselor	
Janet Kuhn	FACS Teacher	High School
Diane Langston	Eighth Grade Teacher	Remington
Vincent Licameli	Physical Education Teacher	Willow Brook
Joyce Lindsey	Cook	Parkwood
Marian E. Mitchell	Computer Science Engineer Teacher	Holman, Pattonville Heights
Jeanette Pashia-Riley	Router/Dispatcher	Transportation
Tami Quinn	Library Technical Assistant	Learning Center
Henrietta Reed	Custodian	High School
Carla Robertson	School Counselor	Drummond
Cynthia Rolfe	Paraprofessional	Remington

Lisa Roth
Becky Steinbecker
Kelly Strobel
Laura Waisner
Stephanie Walton
Julie Watson
Kathy Webber
Gary Wierzbicki
David Winslow
Erin Zoltanski

iLearn Technology Aide
Cook
Science Teacher
History Teacher
Math Teacher
Second Grade Teacher
Parent Educator
Custodian
Director of Facilities
English Teacher

Holman
Holman
Pattonville Heights
Holman
Pattonville Heights
Bridgeway
Early Childhood
High School
Learning Center
Pattonville Heights

About Our Retirees

DIANE ALT
BUS DRIVER
TRANSPORTATION
2004-2025

PATRICIA BENBENEK
SPECIAL EDUCATION SPEECH PATHOLOGIST
PATTONVILLE HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL
2000-2025

Patricia Benbenek has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in communication disorders from Fontbonne University. Before coming to Pattonville, she worked at Mehlville High School and practiced private therapy for Missouri First Steps from 2008 to 2014. In Pattonville she has also worked at Parkwood, Rose Acres and Willow Brook elementary schools and Holman Middle School. Her best Pattonville memory is making lifelong friendships. In retirement, she plans to travel, read and "organize my house!"

"It has been a pleasure working in Pattonville," she said. "I will cherish the time I have spent with staff and students."



ELIZABETH BRISCH
GIFTED TEACHER
HOLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
1991-2025

Elizabeth Brisch serves as the lead gifted teacher in the ALPHA program at Holman Middle School. A Pattonville graduate, she holds

bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education with an emphasis in remedial reading from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She also earned gifted certification from the University of Missouri-Columbia and school psychological examiner certification from Lindenwood University. As a Pattonville High School student, Brisch worked as an administrative assistant for the president of The Telephone Doctor, a customer service training company — a role she continued through college.

She began her career at Willow Brook Elementary School, teaching fifth, third, second and multiage grades for 12 years before joining the district's gifted program, where she has spent the rest of her career. She was twice a semi-finalist for Pattonville Elementary Teacher of the Year and received the Pride of Pattonville award in 2019. She will miss the students, staff and supportive community.

"It's been my privilege to grow up in Pattonville, then serve alongside such fabulous educators for so many years," she said. In retirement, she looks forward to traveling, volunteering, sleeping in on rainy days, reading and spending time with family.

Brisch said her passion for teaching began early. "I started 'teaching' when I was six and played school with my sister," she said. "I'd give a lesson, write problems, grade her answers and even request a parent-teacher conference. Being a teacher is who I am. I'm blessed to have done that for 34 years in Pattonville."



JULIE BUCHHOLZ
LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST
PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
1999–2025

Julie Buchholz has a bachelor's degree in elementary and early childhood education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and

a master's degree in library science from Lindenwood University. She taught in St. Louis Public Schools, Normandy and Ladue school districts before coming to Pattonville, where she started at Parkwood Elementary School before transitioning to the high school in 2002.

Since working in Pattonville, she has been a recipient of the Dorthy Doyle Library Science Award from Lindenwood University and sponsored the Asian Culture Club. Some of her best Pattonville memories have been welcoming past kindergarten students to the high school. In retirement, she is looking forward to a change of pace and setting new goals.

"Thank you for welcoming me into the Pattonville family for all these years," she said. "My library friends have been my ever faithful support system. I am so grateful to them."

NANCY BUSH
CUSTODIAN
PATTONVILLE HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL
1996–2024



KIMBERLY BUTTS
DIRECTOR OF PURCHASING
PATTONVILLE LEARNING CENTER
2017–2025

Kimberly Butts joined Pattonville in 2017, bringing experience from her previous role as director of procurement for the City of

Wentzville. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Southeast Missouri State University.

One of her most memorable Pattonville moments came at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, when former chief financial officer Ron Orr asked her to purchase as much sanitizer as possible.

"While out at a store, I texted Ron and told him I was able to find 15 gallons of sanitizer," she said. "He told me he was proud and to hurry back so it could be distributed. When I came back, I put one and a half gallons on his desk. He didn't bat an eye but asked if I got mobbed by angry customers at the store ... I had."

In retirement, Butts plans to golf and travel more.

"In June, we'll travel to Indianapolis to see my favorite basketball player, Caitlin Clark of the Indiana Fever," she said. "In September, we're going to explore the coastlines of Oregon and Northern California, then to San Francisco to see the Cardinals play the Giants at Oracle Ballpark."

Butts said she will miss her coworkers at the print shop and the Learning Center.



LORI CALVIN
CLERK
PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
1988–2025

Lori Calvin has served the Pattonville High School community for 37 years. She earned an associate degree in business administration from St.

Louis Community College. Prior to joining Pattonville, she worked as an assistant bookkeeper at Weight Watchers and as a teller at Home Federal Savings and Loan.

During her time in the district, in addition to her role as a clerk in the high school library, Calvin served as a secretary/clerk representative for Pattonville Education Support Professionals (PESP) and as a wellness captain at the high school. In retirement, she looks forward to spending time with family and friends, watching her granddaughter and traveling.

GLENN CHANGAR
PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE
HOLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
2007-2025

Glenn Changar holds a bachelor's degree in mass communications with a journalism emphasis. He worked as a college-level book and standardized test compositor before coming to Holman Middle School, where he created and sponsored the *Holman Pirate Times* newspaper, which competed nationally in the American Scholastic Press Association Contest and earned first or second place nine years in a row. He proudly recalls former student Matthew Jacobi, who began as a writer and editor for the *Pirate Times*, and now serves as editor of *The Maneater* at Mizzou.

Changar remembers the unique challenges of teaching during the pandemic, often supervising three classes at once on three different computers.

"It was amazing how everyone came together and upgraded to a modern online education system," he said.

In 2017, he was honored with the Pride of Pattonville award. He also served as a mentor to many students through the years.

"If I could condense everything I have learned at Holman, I would say this: children are most reactive to praise," he said. "A small compliment can turn an awful day into a bearable one. They can't hear it enough, and it often sustains them through difficult times."

In retirement, Changar plans to spend time with his new granddaughter, care for his wife, catch up on reading and continue performing with his band.

"Holman was my home away from home," he said. "Students and staff often see each other as extended family. I love you all and thank you for sharing this extraordinary time with me."

FRED CHEW
BUS DRIVER
TRANSPORTATION
2021-2024



REGINA DUNMIRE
BUS DRIVER
TRANSPORTATION
2002-2025

Regina Dunmire graduated from Madera High School in California and worked as a bus driver before coming to Pattonville. During her

23 years in Pattonville, Dunmire not only transported students safely to and from school each day, but also spent 19 summers working as a painter for the district.

Her favorite memories include driving children and getting to know their families. She is thankful for former Parkwood Elementary School principal Virginia Folk and Bridgeway Elementary School principal Bill Casner.

"Thirty years of driving a school bus was a pleasure I will cherish," she said. In retirement, Dunmire looks forward to traveling and spending more time with her family. Her parting advice to her Pattonville family is "Enjoy life!"



VICKI EMERSON
SCIENCE TEACHER
PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
2012-2025

Vicki Emerson earned a bachelor's degree in special education from Mizzou and a master's degree in secondary education from the

University of Missouri-St. Louis. Before joining Pattonville, she taught at Hazelwood West High School. In 2023, she received the Lindenwood University Outstanding Cooperating Teacher award.

One of Emerson's favorite Pattonville memories is "lunch with my 'Bio Babes.'"

"After 13 years at Pattonville, I've finally learned my way around the building ... just in time to leave!" she said. "Seriously though, it's been a wonderful ride. I'm so grateful for my Pattonville friends, who have been there for me through thick and thin. Wishing you all the best!"

In retirement, Emerson looks forward to enjoying life and embracing happiness.

RAMONA EARNEST
EVENING LEAD CUSTODIAN
PATTONVILLE HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL
1997-2024

Ramona Harrison graduated from the Normandy School District. Her best memory and one of her most special accomplishments was becoming the lead custodian at Pattonville Heights Middle School. Her plan for retirement is to "live my best life!"

GLENNA EVANS
COOK
DRUMMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2009-2024

DR. MELANIE FITZGERALD
EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATOR
PATTONVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
2019-2025

Dr. Melanie Fitzgerald earned a doctorate in education from Webster University. Before joining Pattonville, she worked for the Special School District (SSD) as an effective practice specialist in early childhood special education. Since becoming part of the Pattonville team, Fitzgerald's best memory has been "the opportunity to work with every child, family and staff member in which we collectively created connected relationships, empowering our youngest community members, so that all will learn."

In addition to her work at Pattonville, Fitzgerald has been a member of the Missouri Parents as Teachers Association since 2019 and served as the organization's president this past school year. She is also a 200-hour certified yoga instructor and a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) instructor.

"The Parents as Teachers program and the Pattonville Early Childhood Center are absolutely outstanding as they are the initial ambassadors for so many families as they enter the Pattonville community, creating a bridge between home and school," she said. "The amazing staff of the Pattonville Early Childhood Center create a strong foundation for families with an emphasis on home and school working together for all student success."

Fitzgerald is grateful for the opportunity to serve the Pattonville community and looks forward to "living life to its fullest" in retirement.

LAURA HARTSOCK
SCIENCE TEACHER
PATTONVILLE HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL
2001-2025

Laura Hartsock has a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in special education from Webster University. Before joining Pattonville, she worked as a microbiology laboratory analyst.

Throughout her career, Hartsock earned numerous accolades. She was named a 2004 Boeing Educator, a 2005 finalist for the St. Louis Science Center Loeb Award for Distinguished Math and Science Teachers and was selected as a National Teacher of the Year for the Challenger Learning Centers. One of her most memorable experiences was receiving Moon rock samples from NASA.

"I had to have them stored in the Maryland Heights Police Department evidence room every day after school in order to meet NASA's security standards," she said.

Hartsock said she will miss her students and colleagues, "the best, brightest and kindest professionals hands-down." She especially treasures the emails, cards, letters, nominations and notes from students, families and coworkers over the years.

"There is no greater reward for a teacher," she said.

In retirement, she plans to travel with her husband and dog as often as possible, read as many books as she can and "nap whenever I want."

Hartsock is grateful for the support she received from her Pattonville family, which allowed her to grow as a learner and develop exciting new elective classes.

"The 'Art of Teaching' is alive in Pattonville!" she said.

MICHELE HILL
EL SPECIALIST
ACADEMY OF INNOVATION AT REMINGTON
2003-2025

Michele Hill earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education with a minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and a master's degree in reading from Lindenwood University.

Before coming to Pattonville, Hill taught kindergarten in El Paso, Texas, and preschool at the child development center in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. In Pattonville, she served as an EL specialist and kindergarten teacher at Drummond Elementary, an EL specialist at Willow Brook Elementary and most recently as an EL specialist at the Academy of Innovation at Remington.

In 2015, Hill wrote a grant to launch the Family English Nights program for EL families at Willow Brook. The program — which offers English classes for parents, tutoring for EL students and childcare for younger children — eventually expanded across the district. It also provides high school EL students with opportunities to volunteer and serve as role models for younger students.

Hill received the Pride of Pattonville award in 2018 and earned National Board Certification in 2021. From 2022 to 2024, she served as the district EL department lead and helped write new English language development curriculum for the district.

"I have had so many wonderful times over the years," she said. "I would say what I cherish the most are the relationships with my colleagues, my students and their parents." In retirement, she plans to enjoy "travel, travel and more travel!" To her Pattonville family, she said, "You are amazing and I will miss you!"

CINDY HOWARD
BUSINESS SPECIALIST
PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
2018-2024

MIKE HOWARD
PRINTING SUPERVISOR
PRINT SHOP
2018-2024



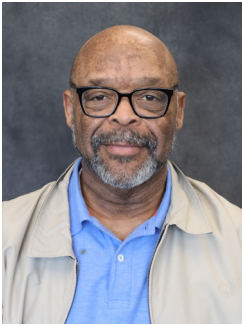
THOMAS IFFRIG
PE, DRIVER EDUCATION TEACHER
PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
1997-2025

Thomas Iffrig is a proud Pattonville graduate, having attended Rose Acres Elementary School and Holman Middle School before graduating from Pattonville High School. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Harris-Stowe State University, where he played soccer, served as team captain for three years and was named HSSU Athlete of the Year in 1996. He also coached a year of soccer there.

Iffrig has also taught at Holman and Pattonville Heights middle schools. In July 2022, he received the National Teacher of Excellence Award from the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association. While coaching at Pattonville, he earned a National Coaching Diploma from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and led two soccer teams to the state final four.

"My favorite Pattonville memories were while coaching the many boys and girls soccer players throughout the years," he said. "Also, the friendships that I've made with my fellow teachers who are now lifelong friends!"

In retirement, he plans to stay active, play lots of golf and soccer and move to Florida in the near future. "Pattonville School District is a special place — it is the place that built who I am today," he said. "I will forever 'Bleed Green!'"



**JAMES IVIE SR.
CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR
MAINTENANCE/FACILITIES
1991-2024**

James Ivie Sr. grew up in East St. Louis and attended John F. Kennedy Elementary School, Martin Luther King Jr. High School, and Lincoln

Senior High School. He was active in football and track, and uniquely started on the freshman football team while still in seventh grade. Before joining Pattonville, Ivie worked as a custodian and supervisor at the Sheraton St. Louis Hotel, a lead cook at St. Elizabeth Hospital and an assistant store manager at Lee's Chicken.

Ivie spent 33 years with Pattonville, starting as the day custodial supervisor at the high school. While working full time, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Columbia College. He was instrumental in developing custodial instructional handbooks and cleaning protocols districtwide, including those used during the Covid pandemic. He also created and led a weekend cleaning crew to support building sanitation efforts during the pandemic.

One of Ivie's most meaningful contributions was coordinating food for the annual Project Graduation event.

"Over 27 years, I was able to raise more than \$81,000 in donations to help feed over 10,000 graduating students, parents and staff," he said. "And yes, 'Chef Ivie' did cook most of the food."

He expressed deep appreciation for the custodial crew who worked alongside him during the 24-hour shifts and other events like the senior class barbecue at Vago Park.

In retirement, Ivie looks forward to more time with his seven grandkids, vacations, golf lessons, fishing, and plans to launch a part-time school consulting business.

"It has been an honor to work with so many wonderful people," he said. "And to see thousands of students pass through our schools and move on to adulthood."



**STEPHEN JONES
PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER
BRIDGEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1999-2025**

Stephen Jones earned a bachelor's degree from Lindenwood University and a master's degree from Webster University. He taught for two years at

Clayton High School before coming to Pattonville, where he taught PE at Briar Crest and Willow Brook elementary schools before starting at Bridgeway Elementary School, where he would spend the remainder of his career.

Some of his best memories in Pattonville include coaching an undefeated freshmen football team in the 2012 season, having fifth graders at Bridgeway train with the United States Marine Corps and seeing former students as adults that are now teachers themselves.

"Enjoy the time you have teaching, it passes way too fast," he said. "As a teacher, you never know the thing that you say to a student that will finally stick. Choose your words carefully."

In retirement he plans to travel, relax and enjoy his time.



BRENDA KELCH
KINDERGARTEN TEACHER
DRUMMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2015–2025

Before becoming a teacher, Brenda Kelch worked as a travel agent in both leisure and corporate travel, spending time exploring the world prior becoming a mom. Volunteering in her daughter's preschool and kindergarten classrooms inspired her to pursue a new career in education. She taught communication arts, kindergarten and second grade in the Cape Girardeau Public School District from 2006 to 2013 before moving to St. Louis. She began working at Drummond Elementary School as a paraprofessional until a teaching position became available.

In 2021, Kelch was selected as Drummond's Teacher of the Year — one of her favorite memories. However, her top memory at Pattonville was simply being hired.

"I was so grateful," she said.

She has also enjoyed dressing up as characters and acting out silly scenarios during spirit days or assemblies to engage and motivate her students. Kelch plans to travel the world with her husband in retirement.

"We have a lot of Earth to cover!" she said. "Our family is spread all over the country, so we're not sure where we'll end up living. We've fallen in love with St. Louis, so there may be periodic Kelch sightings!"

She's thankful to her Pattonville family for making the last decade of her teaching career so rewarding. She loved working and enjoying with students and collaborating with families and community resources to support them on a personal level.

"Throughout the years, my past students have visited me in the morning before going to their own classrooms," she recalled. "And when parents visit our school for various functions, we greet each other with open arms! I'm going to miss that!"



REBECCA KROHN
COMMUNITY SERVICE/A+
COORDINATOR, ENGLISH LEARNER
COUNSELOR
PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
1996–2025

Rebecca Krohn holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a Certificate of International Studies from Webster University, a K-12 teaching certificate in Spanish from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and a master's degree in counseling from Missouri Baptist University.

After earning her degrees, she began her career at Pattonville High School teaching Spanish. Over the years, Krohn received the National Service Learning Award and was instrumental in the high school earning a St. Louis Rams School of Character Award. She co-chaired the high school's annual Wheelchair Basketball Game benefiting the Jr. Rolling Rams for 15 years, led the Regional A+ Coordinators group, served on the Curriculum Coordinating Council for 10 years and was selected to receive the Pride of Pattonville Award in 2025.

One of her favorite memories is taking her Spanish 2 students on an annual field trip that included a scavenger hunt at a Latin American grocery store and lunch at a local Mexican restaurant.

"After the students were 'graded' by the staff at the restaurant on their Spanish-speaking abilities, the staff moved the tables to create a space to teach them how to salsa dance," she said. "I loved exposing students to such fun cultural experiences outside of the classroom!"

Krohn said 29 years at the high school have flown by.

"I am grateful for the amazing students, teachers, counselors and staff I have had the privilege to work with for three decades in various capacities."

In retirement, she plans to "read, travel, attempt to improve my golf game and work part-time!"

CYNTHIA KIANKHOORY-FARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFSSIONAL
DRUMMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2009–2025

Cynthia Kiankhooy-Fard said working for Pattonville and the Special School District (SSD) has been a rewarding experience. "I am leaving with many good memories of the wonderful students and teachers I've worked with in many classrooms," she said. "I leave as a better person having the experience and joy of being with all the students and teachers from both districts."

DISTRICT APPRECIATION

Program: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies

Emcee Kelly Gordon,
Chief Communications Officer

Welcome Jeanne Schottmueller, President, Board of Education

Special Presentations

Board Recognition Dr. Barry Nelson, Superintendent of Schools

Pride of Pattonville Anna Braswell and Laura Wick, Co-Chairpersons,
assisted by Lisa Kickbusch, Vice President, Board of Education,
and Dr. Barry Nelson, Superintendent of Schools

School Bell Awards Jan Schweiss, Secretary, and
Rená Simmons, Treasurer, Board of Education,
and Dr. Barry Nelson, Superintendent of Schools

PHOTOS OF AWARD RECIPIENTS WILL BE TAKEN IN THE GREEN ROOM.

ION NIGHT PROGRAM

to 8:30 p.m.

Staff Recognitions

Certified Rookie and Teachers of the Year Awards Brittany Garcia and Audrey Masek,
Co-Chairpersons, assisted by
Jeanne Schottmueller, President, Board of Education,
and Dr. Barry Nelson, Superintendent of Schools

Support Staff Rookie and Employees of the Year Awards Erica Abowitz and Ana Garofalo,
Co-Chairpersons, assisted by
Lisa Kickbusch, Vice President, Board of Education,
and Dr. Barry Nelson, Superintendent of Schools

Employee Service Awards Dr. Brian J. Gray and Dr. Dan Wentz, Directors,
Board of Education, and Dr. Barry Nelson, Superintendent of Schools

Volunteer Support Group Recognitions

Recognition of Support Group Officers Jan Schweiss, Secretary, and
Rená Simmons, Treasurer, Board of Education,
and Dr. Barry Nelson, Superintendent of Schools

Special Announcements

District Support Staff Employee of the Year Erica Abowitz and Ana Garofalo,
Co-Chairpersons

District Teacher of the Year Brittany Garcia and Audrey Masek,
Co-Chairpersons

Closing Remarks Jeanne Schottmueller, President, Board of Education



JANET KUHN
FACS TEACHER
PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
1993-2025

Janet Kuhn earned a bachelor's degree in textile and apparel management from the University of Missouri-Columbia and went on to

earn her vocational home economics teaching certificate in 1993. She later completed a master's degree in educational administration from Lindenwood University.

Kuhn has spent her entire teaching career at Pattonville High School. She was twice named the high school's Teacher of the Year and in 2024, was honored as a Pride of Pattonville recipient.

Reflecting on her time at Pattonville, Kuhn said, "I have been in this building for 32 years and have seen a lot of changes. However, the one thing that hasn't changed is the friendships I have made along the way. I will always remember my Pattonville family."

As for retirement, she's looking forward to "sleeping past 3:30 in the morning."

DIANE LANGSTON
EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER
ACADEMY OF INNOVATION AT REMINGTON
1997-2025

Diane Langston attended Penn Junction Elementary School in kindergarten, Rose Acres Elementary School in first through sixth grade, the former Holman Junior High School in seventh through ninth grade and Pattonville High School, from where she graduated. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.



VINCENT LICAMELI
PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER
WILLOW BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1994-2025

Vincent Licameli attended Riverview Gardens High School, Florissant Valley Community College,

Fontbonne College and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in elementary education. During his college years, he worked at a Red Roof Inn as a groundskeeper and in maintenance.

Throughout his time in Pattonville, Licameli has worn many hats. In addition to teaching PE, he previously taught fourth grade and has had several coaching roles in the district, including with the high school football program as an assistant varsity coach, head junior varsity coach and freshman head coach. One of his most memorable moments came from the football field.

"We won a game with the absolute lowest score possible, on the last play of the game," he said. "We won 2 to 0!"

At Willow Brook Elementary School, he served as an assistant basketball coach for fourth and fifth graders, juggling team coach, mileage club coordinator and drama club teacher. He also organized the Walk for Diabetes and Jump Rope for Heart programs, taught summer school PE for K-5 students and coordinated the district's K-8 Punt, Pass and Kick program. He's been nominated for Teacher of the Year 21 times.

Another moment that sticks with him came just recently, when he announced his retirement to a second grade class.

"One student said, 'Are you old now and going to see Jesus?'"

Licameli's retirement plans are to live in a log cabin in the mountains. To his Pattonville family, he leaves this reflection: "Character is who you are when no one is watching. Can you lay your head on your pillow at night and say, 'I gave it everything I had?'"

JOYCE LINDSEY
COOK
PARKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1998-2025



MARIAN E. MITCHELL
COMPUTER SCIENCE ENGINEER
TEACHER
HOLMAN, PATTONVILLE HEIGHTS
MIDDLE SCHOOLS
2016-2025

Marian Mitchell holds a bachelor's degree in computer information

systems from DeVry Institute of Technology and a bachelor's degree in business and technology education from Friends University. She earned a master's degree in special education from Southwestern University. Before joining Pattonville, Mitchell taught in Wichita, Kansas.

Mitchell played a key role in developing the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) program at the middle school level and designed the Computer Science Basics class to be accessible to all students. She has also worked in the computer science department at Pattonville High School.

"Some of my best memories were working alongside science teacher Cheryl Gragert when the fifth grade STEM program was thriving at Holman, as well as partnering with computer science teacher Jeremiah Simmons at the high school," she said.

In retirement, Mitchell plans to continue sharing her passion for teaching through service in her church and with children in the judicial system. She's also looking forward to spending time with family, playing pickleball and traveling with "the love of my life — my hubby!"

Reflecting on her time in Pattonville, Mitchell said, "Pattonville has been a great place to land upon moving to the St. Louis area. I pray that you continue to reach the many diverse learners within our community and that our students continue to soar upon graduation."

JEANETTE PASHIA-RILEY
ROUTER/DISPATCHER
TRANSPORTATION
2003-2025

TAMI QUINN
LIBRARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
LEARNING CENTER
2000-2024

Before joining Pattonville, Tami Quinn worked as a special events coordinator. She began her career in the district at Rose Acres Elementary School before transitioning to the library technical assistant role in the teaching and learning department at the Pattonville Learning Center. Quinn was nominated for Support Staff of the Year and received the Missouri National Education Association (MNEA) Soar with the Eagles Award.

HENRIETTA REED
CUSTODIAN
PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
2005-2024



CARLA ROBERTSON
SCHOOL COUNSELOR
DRUMMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2001-2025

Carla Robertson earned bachelor's degrees in early childhood and elementary education from Missouri Baptist College and a master's

degree in counseling from Lindenwood University. Before coming to Pattonville, she taught fourth grade in the Wright City School District and served as a school counselor in the Wentzville School District. Robertson began her Pattonville career as a counselor at Carrollton Oaks Elementary School before moving to Drummond Elementary School when Carrollton Oaks closed. During her time in the district, Robertson received the Pride of Pattonville award and was honored with the inaugural Robertson Award from the St. Ann Police Department, which was named after her for her service and dedication.

"I think my favorite memory is taking students from Drummond to the Robert Drummond Book Fair sponsored by the Pattonville Education Foundation (PEF)," she said. "When Bob Drummond was alive, he would be in attendance and would ask all of the kids which elementary school they were from. Our students would always say 'Drummond Elementary — the best elementary in Pattonville.' The kids would be so excited that the person our school was named after was signing their books. Then Bob would get excited about giving 'his kids' a start on their personal libraries because all children deserve to have their own books."

In retirement, Robertson plans to enjoy time with family and friends and continue her advocacy work. She will remain involved as a trustee for her hometown library district and plans to continue advocating for Missouri's public libraries and for the elderly at the state level.

"It is hard to believe that 24 years has gone by so quickly," she said. "I hope that the staff at Pattonville, and especially Drummond, remember that they make a difference each and every day."

CYNTHIA ROLFE
PARAPROFESSIONAL
ACADEMY OF INNOVATION AT REMINGTON
1997-2025

LISA ROTH
iLEARN TECHNOLOGY AIDE
HOLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
2014-2024

Lisa Roth earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Christian Brothers University and a master's degree in management from Webster University. Before joining Pattonville, Roth provided student technology support in the Parkway School District and, prior to that, in a Florida school district. In 2021, Roth was named Holman's Support Staff of the Year. Her retirement plans include moving back to Florida, where she is originally from, and enjoying the sun and salt air.

"I enjoyed my time in Pattonville and made some lasting friendships," she said.

BECKY STEINBECKER
COOK
HOLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
2012-2025

Becky Steinbecker worked as a substitute cook before starting at Holman Middle School. She is proud of a three year streak of perfect attendance at work. In retirement, she is looking forward to doing aquatic classes. To her Pattonville family, she said "thanks for the memories."



KELLY STROBEL
SCIENCE TEACHER
PATTONVILLE HEIGHTS
MIDDLE SCHOOL
1996-2025

Kelly Strobel earned a bachelor's degree in education from Missouri State University and a master's degree in education from Lindenwood University. She has spent most of her teaching career in Pattonville, previously working as a teacher assistant at Wydown Middle School in the Clayton School District. During her time in Pattonville, Strobel mentored several new teachers, received the Special Service Award in the 2001-2002 school year and was named the Pattonville Heights Middle School Teacher of the Year in 2021.

Strobel said her favorite memories involve inspiring students to get outside and explore nature.

"We planted more than 200 native trees and shrubs on Earth Day that we got for free from the Missouri Department of Conservation," she said. "Another wonderful memory was taking my Wetlands class to Rockwood Reservation to do pond studies on micro and macro invertebrates."

In another lesson, she partnered with a paleontologist from Washington University in Saint Louis to help students dig out a potential fossil layer.

"Students were thrilled when they found hundreds of fossils in their sample."

After cleaning and identifying the fossils, students began to understand how much Missouri's landscape has changed over time.

"Hopefully these activities and more have fostered a love of science in my students."

In retirement, Strobel plans to take her time and explore her interests and passions.

"It has been quite a journey, and I want to thank all of my colleagues past and present for your support, advice, collaboration and friendship over the years."



LAURA WAISNER
HISTORY TEACHER
HOLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
1996–2025

In addition to teaching history, Laura Waisner has taught sixth, seventh and eighth grade English language arts (ELA). She completed her undergraduate studies at Truman State University and the University of Missouri-St. Louis and earned a master's degree from Lindenwood University. Before joining Pattonville, she worked in a daycare. In 2008, Waisner was selected as a Pride of Pattonville recipient.

One of her fondest memories was "coming together as a community after the Good Friday tornado. We were truly one community working toward helping all."

Her retirement plans are "to see where life takes me."

"Working here has been an incredible journey filled with memorable moments and wonderful colleagues," she said. "I'm grateful for the support and friendships I've gained over the many years."



STEPHANIE WALTON
MATH TEACHER
PATTONVILLE HEIGHTS
MIDDLE SCHOOL
1994–2025

Stephanie Walton earned a bachelor's degree in education for middle school math, English language arts and social studies, as well as a master's degree in reading, from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She has spent her entire career at Pattonville Heights Middle School and currently serves as the math department leader. In 2020, she was named the building's Teacher of the Year. Her first memory in Pattonville was being interviewed by those who would become her future teaching team.

"I was extremely nervous and the teachers could sense how nervous I was," she said. "They were taking turns asking me questions when one teacher went 'off-script' and asked if I liked Chinese food. She said it was important because they ordered it often for lunch. Everyone laughed and put me at ease and I was able to continue with the interview. Thirty-one years later I am still there, and that teacher is one of my closest friends."

Reflecting on her career, Walton said, "I've had three head principals, countless assistant principals, so many wonderful colleagues, several of whom are lifelong friends and a lot of students (about 2,400 — wow!)." In retirement she plans to spend time with family and travel.

JULIE WATSON
SECOND GRADE TEACHER
BRIDGEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1995–2025



KATHY WEBBER
PARENT EDUCATOR
PATTONVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD
CENTER
2008–2024

Kathy Webber worked as a parent educator at the Pattonville Early Childhood Center and previously served as a preschool paraprofessional at Bridgeway Elementary School. Following her retirement in 2024, she relocated to Florida



GARY WIERZBICKI
CUSTODIAN
PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
2009–2025

Gary Wierzbicki graduated from Herculaneum High School. Prior to working at Pattonville High School, he also worked at Bridgeway and Willow Brook elementary schools, the Academy of Innovation at Remington (formerly Remington Traditional School) and Pattonville Heights Middle School.

Wierzbicki's plans for retirement include working on special projects around his house, fishing in lakes around the Hazelwood area and spending more time with his wife at Delmar Gardens.

"I wanted to work here originally because of all the awards and accolades Pattonville had received as a district and it's been a great place to work," he said. "All these years I've really loved working at Pattonville."

DAVID WINSLOW
DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES
PATTONVILLE LEARNING CENTER
2005–2025

ERIN ZOLTANSKI
ENGLISH TEACHER
PATTONVILLE HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL
1998-2025

Erin Zoltanski spent one year teaching sixth grade, 17 years in seventh grade and nine years in eighth grade at Pattonville Heights Middle School. Before coming to Pattonville, she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education with certification in grades 4-8 from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the University of Phoenix. She also has a master's degree in educational technology. Prior to Pattonville, Zoltanski taught for two years at St. Joseph School.

During her time in Pattonville, Zoltanski served as the English department leader, co-designer and coach for the annual Book Battle event and was featured in *Highlights* for a Black history project. She has also been nominated for Teacher of the Year multiple times. Her favorite memory was the move to teaching eighth grade.

As she closes this chapter in her teaching career, Zoltanski shared her gratitude for the colleagues and lifelong friends who helped make her journey so meaningful.

"Watching students get excited when they finish reading a book, write an essay they are proud of for the first time, when they spend the time to reach a smart score of 100 after spending two hours on IXL (personalized learning program), the endless laughs, even the tears."

To her Pattonville family she said, "I always brag about our school, our administration and my coworkers. The Heights will forever be with me. What I would like to leave is that anyone can learn anything if you are passionate about teaching it."



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Pattonville's Rookie of the Year award was introduced in 2021 to recognize staff who are new to Pattonville and are going above and beyond in their support of Pattonville students and fellow staff. One teacher and one support staff employee are selected for the award annually based on nominations submitted in the Teacher and Support Staff of the Year program. Any eligible staff member nominated for this program who are in their first or second year are automatically in consideration for the Rookie of the Year honor.

Teacher Rookie of the Year



STEPHANIE APPEL, MATH/READING INTERVENTIONIST, BRIDGEWAY ELEMENTARY

Stephanie Appel, a math/reading intervention teacher at Bridgeway Elementary School, was selected as the district's Teacher Rookie of the Year for her outstanding dedication and approach to student success. Appel is committed to continuous professional growth, regularly updating her knowledge of the latest math research to provide the best possible support to her students. She has already implemented strategies from "Building Thinking Classrooms," a book with research-based practices for effective math instruction, and a new fact fluency program, ensuring that her students have a solid foundation in math.

Appel came to Pattonville in 2023 with 12 years of teaching experience in the University City School District. She has a bachelor's degree from Maryville University and a master's degree from Fontbonne University and is certified in both early childhood and elementary education. She actively collaborates with classroom teachers to align her work with their instruction, ensuring a cohesive learning experience. She is particularly known for her ability to connect with her students, fostering their confidence and celebrating their successes.

"She is so intentional in what she says to student to build their confidence," teacher Sarah Eckels-Galbreath said.

Beyond her daily teaching responsibilities, Appel often takes time out of her plan period to support students individually. This commitment has contributed to significant growth in her students' skills and self-assurance.

Support Staff Rookie of the Year

PAMELA DAVIS, PARAPROFESSIONAL, WILLOW BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pamela Davis, a paraprofessional at Willow Brook Elementary School, was selected as the Support Staff Rookie of the Year due to her unwavering dedication and proactive approach to supporting students and staff. She was previously an alternative education teacher at a high school in Farmer City, Illinois, before moving to St. Louis and joining the Willow Brook family, where she has been a committed asset to student growth and success. Paraprofessional Rhonda Daniels shared about a time when Davis noticed a few math students struggling with certain concepts after working with a small group.

"She went to the teacher and asked if she could tutor those students individually so they would not feel self-conscious during math time," Daniels said. "She wanted to help them build up their self-confidence."

Davis has also demonstrated her commitment to the school community by painting the new paraprofessional room almost entirely on her own, creating a welcoming and vibrant space for staff. She is known for always checking in on colleagues to ask how they are doing and offering assistance wherever needed.

"We love having Pam at Willow Brook," Daniels said. "She is a true team player."



HONOR ROLL OF PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

Teacher Rookie of the Year

2021 — Kelsey Hibbits
2022 — Kyle Schaper
2023 — Holly Kopp
2024 — Andrea Daud

Support Staff Rookie of the Year

2021 — Reem Tahsin
2022 — Tomi Benney
2023 — Stepany Dominguez
2024 — Jody Brent

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

In 1984, the Pattonville School District selected its first Teacher of the Year. In 1991, a change was made in the program to honor three Teachers of the Year — one for each level: elementary, middle and high school. In 2009-2010, the state changed the eligibility guidelines to include counselors, librarians and instructional specialists as educators eligible to participate. In 2015-2016, the Missouri program began selecting Regional Teachers of the Year, who advance to the state competition. In 2018, Pattonville began recognizing building-level honorees who would advance in the district process. The finalists and district honoree are selected by a committee of staff and parents from nominations submitted by those who work directly with teachers — Pattonville students, staff and parents. The selections are based on leadership, dedication to the teaching profession and a special caring for students. Since Pattonville began this program, eight teachers have been finalists in the state competition and two were Missouri Teachers of the Year. One of the following three finalists will be announced this evening as the Pattonville representative in the Missouri Teacher of the Year program.

Teacher of the Year Finalists

Margaret Hall

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHER
High School

Michele Lewis

FIRST GRADE TEACHER
Drummond

Julie Linck

FOURTH GRADE TEACHER
Remington

Building Teachers of the Year (District Semifinalists)

Erika Dietrich

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER
Early Childhood

Kelsey Magee

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER
Parkwood

Matthew Loyet

HISTORY TEACHER
Holman

Tara Perks

SECOND GRADE TEACHER
Bridgeway

Lillian Corzine

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER
Rose Acres

Rachel Woodson

LIBRARIAN
Pattonville Heights

Christy Newsham

SCHOOL COUNSELOR
Willow Brook

HONOR ROLL OF PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

1994-1995 — Zuline Simpson
1985-1986 — Margaret Steinheimer ‡
1986-1987 — Frank Gallagher
1987-1988 — Becky Hicks Kruse
1988-1989 — Mary Ann Goldberg
1989-1990 — Barbara Weekley
1990-1991 — Peggy Koelling**
1991-1992 — Nancy Sebastian
1992-1993 — Cynthia Kalkwarf ‡‡
1993-1994 — Jo Ellen Leeke
1994-1995 — Gloria Fox
1995-1996 — Randy Pierce
1996-1997 — Lisa Zangriles ‡
1997-1998 — Kathy Oster
1998-1999 — Jan Davenport

1999-2000 — Carol Craig
2000-2001 — Valerie Maxwell‡‡
2001-2002 — Kerry Brown
2002-2003 — Michelle Wagner ‡
2003-2004 — Dennis McFarland
2004-2005 — Amy White-Taylor ‡
2005-2006 — Dixie Tipton
2006-2007 — Kevin Beckner
2007-2008 — Christopher Benbow
2008-2009 — Diane Richardson
2009-2010 — Phyllis Pasley
2010-2011 — Julie Kampschroeder
2011-2012 — Tracey Robinson
2012-2013 — Abigail Williams
2013-2014 — Beth Moritz

2014-2015 — Sarah Collins
2015-2016 — Yulia Kotets ‡
2016-2017 — Allison Stout*
2017-2018 — Dr. Dana Burns
2018-2019 — Amy Schwendemann
2019-2020 — Jeremiah Simmons**
2020-2021 — Dan Derby
2021-2022 — Eleanor Taylor ‡
2022-2023 — Leslie Jones
2023-2024 — Brittany Garcia
2024-2025 — Audrey Masek

* Regional winner (introduced in 2016)
** State Semi-Finalist ‡ State finalist
‡‡ Missouri Teacher of the Year

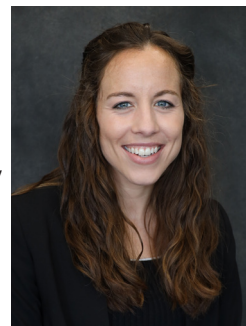
MARGARET HALL, FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHER, PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Margaret Hall teaches French at Pattonville High School, where she creates a classroom rooted in trust, curiosity and student voice. Her teaching centers on three main goals: developing global citizens, creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment and connecting learning to real-world experiences. She equips students with both language skills and cultural understanding, helping them explore their identities while engaging with the broader Francophone community.

Through personalized instruction and student-led projects, Hall makes learning meaningful, from studying West African art to French-Canadian slang.

"When you walk into my classroom it often looks like a bee hive," she said. "Students are buzzing, rarely quiet and sharing thoughts in two languages. The sweet product of cultural understanding is created through collaboration."

Hall has formed penpal partnerships abroad and continually seeks global experiences to enrich her teaching. She holds a bachelor's degree in French and African American Studies with a minor in anthropology, a master's degree in teaching and has completed 30 additional graduate hours. She is certified to teach both AP and college credit courses. Hall was recognized with the 2023 Pride of Pattonville award. She also coaches girls cross country and track, founded the staff running/walking club, serves as a personalized learning mentor and contributes to numerous district committees. Her work reflects her belief that diversity makes our world stronger — and understanding one another is key to building a better future.



MICHELE LEWIS, FIRST GRADE TEACHER, DRUMMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

For nearly her entire career, Michele Lewis has taught first grade — where the lightbulb moments are frequent, and the growth is exponential. Her work is grounded in a simple but powerful philosophy: every child deserves to be seen, supported and challenged to reach their full potential.

"That All Will Learn" has been the Pattonville School District's mission statement since Lewis's third year of teaching, and it has guided her ever since, driving her to meet each child's needs with care, flexibility and high expectations, regardless of how long they're in her classroom.

"It has been the mantra playing in the back of my head," she said. "Not every student that walks through our classroom doors stays for a long time, but it is still my job to teach them as much as I can while I have them."

Lewis is passionate about giving young students the foundational reading skills they need to thrive and celebrating each milestone, especially that magical moment when a child realizes they're truly a reader. She brings the same enthusiasm to her own professional growth.

"I am not the same teacher today that I was 10 years ago," she said. "I'm not even the same teacher I was two years ago."

A collaborative spirit and deep respect for her colleagues have been essential to her longevity and impact. Hill believes that teaching should never be an isolated profession and that when educators grow and celebrate together, students benefit most. She serves on numerous building and district committees, largely focusing on curriculum writing and development. She has a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in elementary education.



JULIE LINCK, FOURTH GRADE TEACHER, ACADEMY OF INNOVATION AT REMINGTON

Julie Linck continues to grow as an educator while staying grounded in three guiding principles: relationships, engagement and reflection. She prioritizes building strong connections with students and families from the start. Linck sends personal welcome letters and hosts in-person conferences during the first week of school to learn more about each student. Her involvement in school events helps strengthen these relationships beyond the classroom.

"Building strong relationships early in the year lays a positive foundation for learning," she said.

Linck empowers students to take ownership of their learning and explore ideas. A classroom discussion once sparked a project to repair a little library, ultimately leading to raising funds for the Maryland Heights Police Department. She also helped launch Remington's Rock Your School event.

Linck's ultimate goal is to build confident, capable learners. She promotes a growth mindset and encourages students to celebrate progress, reflect on challenges and take pride in their achievements.

"My philosophy will continue to evolve," she said. "But what will remain constant is my excitement for what lies ahead in education."

Linck is committed to professional growth, having earned National Board Certification and participated in Pattonville's first Personalized Learning Cohort (PLC). She values collaboration, especially through co-teaching and PLCs, and uses data and student reflection to guide instruction. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in early childhood education.



SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

The Pattonville Support Staff Employee of the Year award is designed to honor the loyal, dedicated, committed staff members who contribute to the overall positive educational climate of Pattonville in a support capacity. Nominations were submitted by staff members, parents and students. In 2018, Pattonville began recognizing building-level honorees who would advance in the district process. The finalists and district honoree are selected by a committee that includes department representatives, parents and the Support Staff Employees of the Year from the past two years. After reviewing the nominations and materials submitted by the nominees, the committee selected three finalists to interview. One of these finalists will be announced as the Support Staff Employee of the Year during tonight's program.

Support Staff of the Year Finalists

Minako Baczynski
PARAPROFESSIONAL
Drummond

Cori Brown
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Rose Acres

Sharon Kendall
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Maintenance (District Services)

Building Support Staff of the Year (District Semifinalists)

Brittany Stevens
PARAPROFESSIONAL
Early Childhood

Sharon White
SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL
Parkwood

Betty Nelson
SCHOOL NURSE
Holman

Susan Peroutka
SPECIAL EDUCATION SPEECH
PATHOLOGIST
Bridgeway

Tammy Mathes
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Willow Brook

Steven Aversa
LEAD CUSTODIAN
Pattonville Heights

Debra Johnson
SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL
Remington

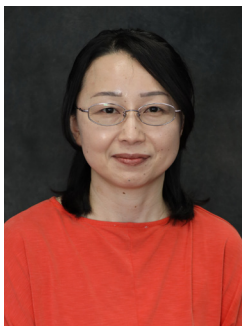
Tamika Duncan
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
High School

HONOR ROLL OF PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

1994-1995 — Nancy Greenblatt
1995-1996 — Kim Miller
1996-1997 — Nancy Henley
1997-1998 — Linda Shofner
1998-1999 — Cindy Boddy
1999-2000 — Charles Stanton
2000-2001 — Sandra Hampton
2001-2002 — Marilyn Baker
2002-2003 — Rommel McDonald
2003-2004 — Kay Sullivan
2004-2005 — Teresa Jercinovic

2005-2006 — Kristin Powell
2006-2007 — Charles Roach
2007-2008 — Joyce Bowdish
2008-2009 — Toby Meyer
2009-2010 — Julie Purviance
2010-2011 — Judy Zahner
2011-2012 — Luis Miranda
2012-2013 — Glennora Genail
2013-2014 — Larrie Bell
2014-2015 — Mike Siebe
2015-2016 — Joan Knight

2016-2017 — Ardella M. Diggs
2017-2018 — Joe Gutierrez
2018-2019 — Tron Williams
2019-2020 — Ida Cothrine
2020-2021 — Andrea Baldwin
2021-2022 — Lisa Foust
2022-2023 — Erica Abowitz
2023-2024 — Jenny McDowell
2024-2025 — Ana Garofalo



MINAKO BACZYNSKI, PARAPROFESSIONAL, DRUMMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Minako Baczynski is a paraprofessional at Drummond Elementary School who brings both a global perspective and a deep personal commitment to student growth. She earned a bachelor's degree in international studies and political science from the University of Kansas before discovering a passion for education through tutoring international high school students. Now at Drummond, she supports students in kindergarten through fifth grade with reading skills.

"Education leads to opportunities in the future and reading is fundamental part of it," she said.

Baczynski customizes lessons for each group and helps students build comprehension skills, vocabulary and confidence, always pushing them to actively engage with what they read.

She also uses her background to foster cultural awareness, sharing her experiences from growing up in Japan and decorating her classroom with world maps and flags, helping students connect with the larger world.

"My goal is for them to have broad perspectives and know that there is a big world out there with unlimited opportunities," she said. "I hope when current Drummond students move to middle school and high school, they reflect on what they have learned, share their perspectives and bring positive outcomes to the entire district."

As both an educator and a Pattonville parent, Baczynski feels personally connected to the district's mission. She values the supportive environment at Drummond and the relationships she builds with students. Whether leading a reading group or simply greeting students in the hall, she is proud to play a part in their academic and personal success.



CORI BROWN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ROSE ACRES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As the executive secretary at Rose Acres Elementary School, Cori Brown is at the heart of the school's daily operations, playing a key role in fostering a welcoming, supportive environment for students, families and staff. From coordinating transportation and assisting with registration to maintaining communication with district partners and supporting building logistics, Brown ensures that each day runs smoothly for the entire school community.

Whether she's answering phone calls from families, collaborating with the principal or helping staff members, Brown is dedicated to creating a space where everyone feels valued.

"As one of the first points of contact for visitors, staff and families, I take pride in creating a sense of belonging and inclusivity for everyone," she said.

Beyond daily operations, Brown actively contributes to school events, collaborates with custodial and food service teams and supports fundraising efforts that directly benefit students. Brown may not always be in the spotlight, but her work has a lasting impact on the student experience and school culture.

Brown's connection to Pattonville runs deep. Brown and her husband, both Pattonville graduates, are also the parents of Pattonville alumni. She sees her role as a way to give back to the district that shaped her family.

"For me, working at Pattonville is not just a job — it's an opportunity to make a positive impact in a community that has provided so much for my family."



SHARON KENDALL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Sharon Kendall plays a pivotal behind-the-scenes role in maintaining the Pattonville School District's facilities, ensuring that buildings are safe, clean and operational. As the executive secretary in the maintenance department, she works closely with custodians, grounds crews and maintenance staff to address everything from plumbing issues to HVAC problems. With more than 400 purchasing requests processed this year alone, Kendall helps keep everything running smoothly by facilitating the timely delivery of supplies and scheduling repairs. She takes great pride in the indirect yet vital impact her role has on both students and staff.

"When my job helps others make sure buildings are clean and the heat works, then teachers and students can focus on their missions of teaching and learning," she said. "I really like working districtwide with dedicated coworkers whose job focus is creating safe and comfortable schools."

A Pattonville resident, Kendall initially joined the district when her daughter was a student in Pattonville, to better match her school schedule. She started working in the office at Holman Middle School, then worked for the gifted program and in the maintenance office during summers.

"The summer work in maintenance showed me another way to support teachers and students and even the community," she said. "When an opportunity became available, I jumped at the chance to work with custodians and maintenance crew. I really like being part of this team."

SERVICE AWARDS

Staff members are recognized for completing milestone years of service. Recognition is awarded to staff for reaching five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service. SSD staff are honored for total years of service with SSD. We appreciate these staff members for their tenure in the district.

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS

Lisa Stahlhut

First Grade Teacher

Rose Acres

THIRTY YEARS

Jackie Ramey
Michelle Wagner
Julie Watson
Michael Williams

Reading Teacher
Third Grade Teacher
Second Grade Teacher
Custodian

Holman
Rose Acres
Bridgeway
Drummond

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Adrienne Beard
Patricia Benbenek
Windy Cushman
Alicia Dietz
Christina Finazzo-Purl
Lori Fisk
Stephanie Frerker
Kristen Gartland
Cynthia Hall
Danielle Hamer
Mindy Jackson
Ricky Jones
Rodney Keithly
David Knapp
Sherri Lawrence
Dawn Lynn
Kari Marsh
Karrie Peters
Julie Purviance
Benjamin Schamber
Melissa Sparkman
Kimberly Stinnett
Melanie Wagner
Wendy Wamhoff
Jessica Wheeler

Speech Pathologist
Speech Pathologist
Physical Education Teacher
Foreign Language Teacher
Speech Pathologist
English Teacher
Foreign Language Teacher
English Learner Teacher
Secretary
First Grade Teacher
Fifth Grade Teacher
Bus Driver Trainer
Maintenance Journeymen
Instructional Technology Specialist
Special Education Paraprofessional
Art Teacher
Speech Pathologist
Fifth Grade Teacher
Food Service Coordinator
History Teacher
Math Teacher
Librarian
Occupational Therapist
Fourth Grade Teacher
Occupational Therapist

Holman
Pattonville Heights
Drummond
Holman
Willow Brook
Holman
High School
Willow Brook
High School
Bridgeway
Drummond
Transportation
Maintenance
Holman
Rose Acres
Willow Brook
Drummond
Remington
Learning Center
High School
High School
High School
Districtwide
Bridgeway
Districtwide

TWENTY YEARS

Elvir Ajkunic
Dana Ballard
Lori Cole
Laura Demien
Daniel Derby
Christian Dornhoefer

Maintenance Journeyman
Custodian
History Teacher
English Teacher
Fifth Grade Teacher
Science Teacher

Maintenance
Parkwood
High School
High School
Bridgeway
High School

Nicole Hagedorn
 Mark Houston
 Melynda Lamb
 Rob Lamb
 Dodie Logue
 Shelley McManus
 Alisa Neal
 Betty Nelson
 Ken O'Keefe
 Maria Puricelli
 Jamie Sievers
 Amy Sovar
 Denise Thomas
 Billy Thompson
 Joanna Todd
 Eva Whitfield
 David Winslow

Instructional Specialist
 Principal
 Vocal Music Teacher
 Science Teacher
 Gifted Teacher
 First Grade Teacher
 FACS Teacher
 School Nurse
 Special Education Paraprofessional
 Fifth Grade Teacher
 Third Grade Teacher
 Special Education Paraprofessional
 Math Teacher
 Third Grade Teacher
 Vocal Music Teacher
 Building Custodial Supervisor
 Director of Facilities

Parkwood
 Pattonville Heights
 High School
 High School
 Remington
 Drummond
 Holman
 Holman
 Pattonville Heights
 Willow Brook
 Rose Acres
 Rose Acres
 Holman
 Willow Brook
 Willow Brook
 High School
 Learning Center

FIFTEEN YEARS

Elizabeth Alexander
 Amanda Ambrose
 Angela Barringhaus
 Tameka Blanton
 Amanda Brodbeck
 Christopher Broyles
 Lorna Bulger
 Renee Davenport
 Jon Fitzgerald
 Thomas Flannery
 Mary Goding
 Kelly Gordon
 Christy Kasprzyk
 Brenda Labbe
 Stacey Maidlow
 Sarah Mather
 Heather McCord
 Kelley Mueller
 Tracey Russo
 Justin Smiley
 Samantha Stuppy
 Michelle Thrower
 Kristen Webber
 Steven White

Reading Teacher
 Kindergarten Teacher
 Library and Technology Aide
 Library and Technology Aide
 Kindergarten Teacher
 Math Teacher
 Science Teacher
 Paraprofessional
 Assistant Principal
 Bus Driver
 First Grade Teacher
 Chief Communications Officer
 Accounting Payroll Specialist
 Custodian
 Second Grade Teacher
 English Learner Teacher
 Fourth Grade Teacher
 First Grade Teacher
 Reading Teacher
 History Teacher
 Kindergarten Teacher
 Reading Teacher
 Reading Teacher
 Instrumental Music Teacher

Willow Brook
 Willow Brook
 Bridgeway
 Remington
 Bridgeway
 High School
 High School
 Bridgeway
 High School
 Transportation
 Willow Brook
 Learning Center
 Learning Center
 Holman
 Bridgeway
 Parkwood
 Willow Brook
 Remington
 Pattonville Heights
 High School
 Willow Brook
 Drummond
 Drummond
 Holman

TEN YEARS

Lynn Becker
 Brittanie Bendawald
 Holly Berends
 Michael Boulanger

Library and Technology Aide
 Special Education Paraprofessional
 School Counselor
 School Counselor

Drummond
 High School
 Holman
 High School

Christian Brinser
 Grace Buerck
 Malloreay Burns
 Courtney Cady
 Josie Cammarata
 Sarah Carter
 Amanda Castile
 Carrie Cobb
 Susan Custer
 Robin Edens
 Neveen El-Nokrashy
 Carlye Feeney
 Keri Gleason
 Ashley Haar
 Jennifer Hardin
 Stephanie Hughes
 Kimberly James
 Brenda Kelch
 Michael Light
 Michelle Luraschi
 Brandon Lynn
 Kenneth Myers
 Tony Nguyen
 Lei Anne Parish
 Jennifer Raymond
 Jonathon Saettele
 Heather Sauerwein
 Karen Scherzer
 Kristin Simpson
 Cheryl Sprengel
 Christina Sutter
 Rungsee Suvansri
 Kristen Sweeney
 Jessica Thompson
 Jennifer Treat
 Kimberly Walker
 Miranda Wilkes
 Nicole Youngquist
 Janna Zaitz

Physical Education Teacher
 Fourth Grade Teacher
 Executive Secretary
 Fourth Grade Teacher
 Art Teacher
 Fifth Grade Teacher
 Kindergarten Teacher
 Special Education Teacher
 Cook
 Paraprofessional
 Assistant Afterschool Care Instructor
 Instrumental Music Teacher
 English Learner Teacher
 Special Education Teacher
 Executive Secretary
 Parent Educator
 Lead Cook
 Kindergarten Teacher
 Custodian
 College and Career Prep Coordinator
 Custodial Supervisor
 Bus Driver
 Custodian
 Special Education Paraprofessional
 English Teacher
 Industrial Tech Teacher
 Special Education Teacher
 Kindergarten Teacher
 Paraprofessional
 Clerk
 Reading Teacher
 Paraprofessional
 Speech Pathologist
 Fifth Grade Teacher
 Paraprofessional
 Science Teacher
 Third Grade Teacher
 Fifth Grade Teacher
 Early Childhood Teacher

High School
 Rose Acres
 Pattonville Heights
 Drummond
 Drummond
 Rose Acres
 Parkwood
 High School
 Drummond
 Early Childhood
 Remington
 Pattonville Heights
 Bridgeway
 High School
 Learning Center
 Early Childhood
 Parkwood
 Drummond
 High School
 High School
 Maintenance/Facilities
 Transportation
 Drummond
 High School
 High School
 High School
 Pattonville Heights
 Drummond
 Early Childhood
 Bridgeway
 Drummond
 Rose Acres
 Parkwood
 Drummond
 Early Childhood
 High School
 Bridgeway
 Rose Acres
 Early Childhood

FIVE YEARS

Sarah Adams
 Earnest Anderson
 Steven Aversa
 Susan Barnes
 Morgan Barnett
 Sammie Bezzole
 Karen Chappell
 Tulio Cruz

First Grade Teacher
 Custodian
 Custodian
 Executive Secretary
 Third Grade Teacher
 Physical Education Teacher
 Special Education Teacher
 Lead Custodian

Parkwood
 Bridgeway
 Pattonville Heights
 Learning Center
 Willow Brook
 Heights
 Parkwood
 Willow Brook

Vanessa Curiel-Gray
 James Dickerson
 Katelyn Dohle
 Sarah Eckels-Galbreath
 Danelle Emerick
 Haley Fitzgibbons
 Anise Glenn
 Wonder Gray-Clay
 Samantha Greaney
 Beth Herrmann
 Kelsey Hibbits
 Sarah Holtmeyer-Hollstrom
 Kimberly Hutchison
 Sandra Jones
 Jennifer Keutzer
 Kenneth Lerdahl
 Emily Ludwinski
 Brittany Lunders
 Karen Martin
 Jillian McDonnell
 Linda Mitchell
 Erin Patrico
 Preston Pounds
 Sydnie Redington
 Michelle Ritter
 Jennifer Rogers
 Michael Russell
 Alexis Smith
 Nancy Steinmeyer
 MaryCatherine Stevens
 Jane Ung
 Shondrella Wills
 Regina Wilson
 Alejandra Wohldmann
 Larrine Word
 Gregory Zemblidge

Third Grade Teacher
 Bus Driver
 Special Education Teacher
 Fourth Grade Teacher
 History Teacher
 Social Worker
 Kindergarten Teacher
 Bus Driver
 Science Teacher
 Speech Pathologist
 Early Childhood Teacher
 English Learner Teacher
 Paraprofessional
 Custodian
 Social Worker
 Technology Support Supervisor
 Art Teacher
 Fifth Grade Teacher
 Bus Driver
 Early Childhood Teacher
 Bus Driver
 Fifth Grade Teacher
 Maintenance Journeyman
 Special Education Teacher
 Childhood Screener
 Second Grade Teacher
 Accounting Data Analyst
 Special Education Paraprofessional
 Clerk
 Special Education Teacher
 Paraprofessional
 School Counselor
 Bus Driver
 Paraprofessional
 Special Education Paraprofessional
 Bus Driver

Bridgeway
 Transportation
 Remington
 Bridgeway
 High School
 Districtwide
 Willow Brook
 Transportation
 Pattonville Heights
 Pattonville Heights
 Early Childhood
 High School
 Rose Acres
 Holman
 Districtwide
 High School
 Remington
 Bridgeway
 Transportation
 Early Childhood
 Transportation
 Willow Brook
 Maintenance
 Drummond
 Early Childhood
 Willow Brook
 Learning Center
 Rose Acres
 Parkwood
 Rose Acres
 Bridgeway
 Bridgeway
 Transportation
 Remington
 Willow Brook
 Transportation

2024-2025 SUPPORT GROUP OFFICERS

Parent volunteers make a huge impact in the success of our schools. Their involvement leads to the betterment of classrooms, activities, schools and the district overall. Whether it's helping with parties, fundraising and so many other activities, we thank Pattonville's volunteers who serve in leadership positions to support our students.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PTO

Sharon Wood, President
Jackie Howell, Vice President
Erin Roberts, Secretary
Laura Wick, Treasurer

BRIDGEWAY PTO

Michelle Evans, President
Anise Braggs, Vice President
Katie Anielak, Secretary
Ariel O'Neal, Secretary
Andrea Laserna, Treasurer

DRUMMOND PTO

Michelle Soltysiak, President
Deja Oakes, Vice President
Vanna Vaughan, Secretary
Julia Wurm-Hulse, Treasurer

PARKWOOD PTA

Carrie Blalock, President
Jenna Besserman, Vice President
Jenny Krings, Secretary
Cassie Weber, Treasurer

ROSE ACRES PTO

Alycia Lancaster, President
Angie Meyer, Vice President
Staci Scott, Secretary

WILLOW BROOK PTO

Kim Clark, President
Lara Dame, Vice President
Laura Forst, Vice President
Kelly Dedeker, Secretary
Erin Wilson, Secretary
Heather Leeds, Treasurer
Ali Briggs, Treasurer Apprentice

REMINGTON PTO

Lisa Williams, President
Jennifer Lipscomb, Vice President
Michelle Flood, Secretary
Sarah Barth, Treasurer

HOLMAN PTA

Tricia Ruby, President
Corie Nicks, Vice President
Jessi Der Hawkins, Secretary and Treasurer

PATTONVILLE HEIGHTS PTO

Summer Johnson, President
Rebecca Guss, Vice President
Ali Briggs, Secretary
Ingrid Boyd, Treasurer

PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL PTO

Pollyana Appleton, President
Stacy Shipman, Secretary and Fundraising
Jenny Flores, Treasurer
Melissa Wilfong, Membership Coordinator
Sarah Pyle, Volunteer Coordinator
Monica Brown-Harris, Hospitality Coordinator
Michelle Luraschi, Grants Coordinator

PATTONVILLE BAND BOOSTERS

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