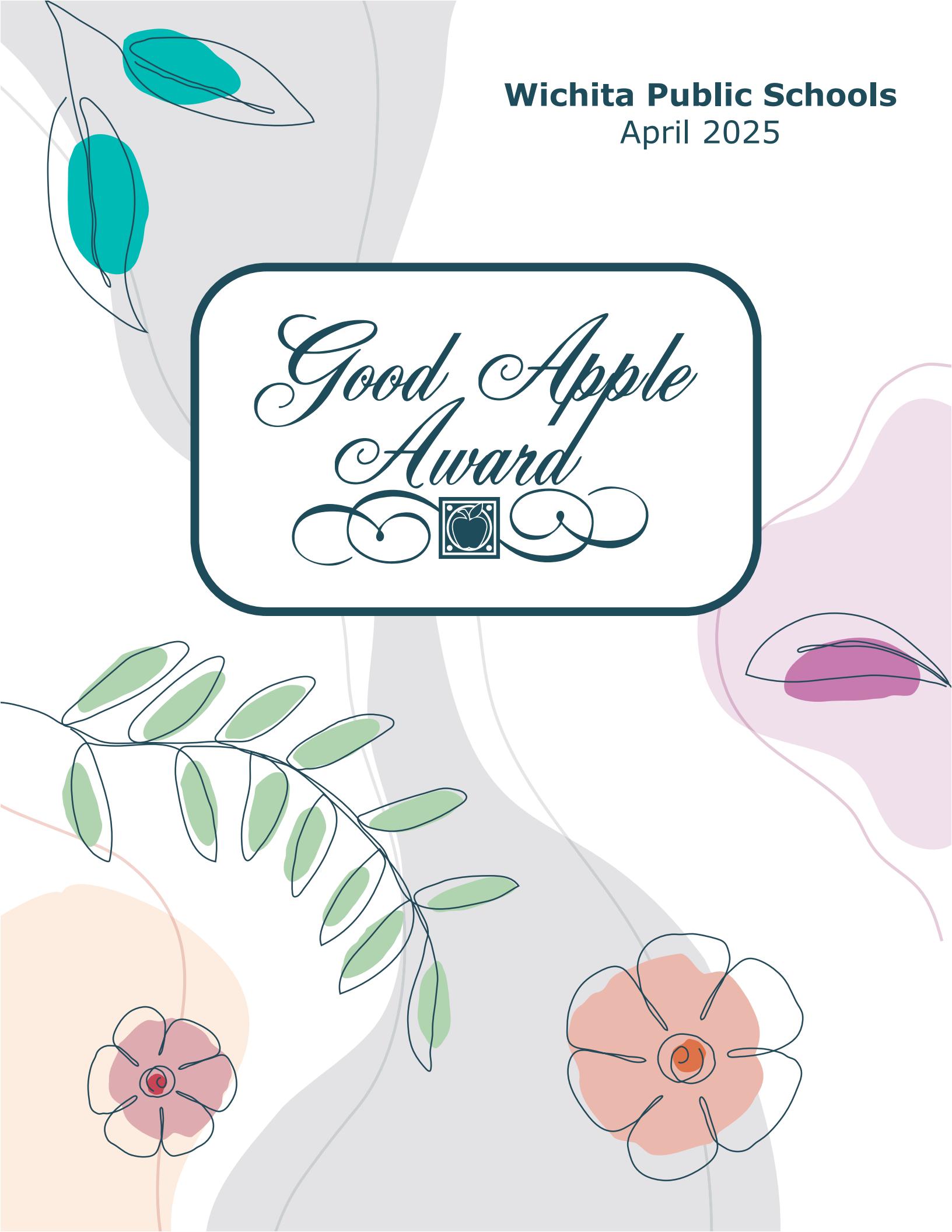


Wichita Public Schools
April 2025

Good Apple Award



Good Apple Honorees were acknowledged for their dedication to our Strategic Plan and were noted for directly aligning with one of the following categories:

VISION



Their work this semester directly aligns with the district's vision. Wichita Public Schools will be the premier district of choice, and inspire each student and staff member to thrive and become future ready within the greater community.

MISSION



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

SHARED BELIEFS



Their work this semester directly aligns with the district's shared beliefs. Our shared beliefs include student success, safety and belonging, family and community collaboration, visionary leadership, civic engagement and equity and diversity.

WPS PROUD



Their work this semester directly aligns with this year's strategic plan theme of being WPS PROUD.

Allen Elementary School



Brandie Long

Interrelated Teacher and
Family Engagement
Coordinator

Brandie works to forge partnerships with families throughout our school. She involves them in decision making, communicates with them frequently, and seeks feedback from families to ensure we are engaging and partnering with families in meaningful ways. Our school and students benefit greatly from the work that Brandie does to plan family engagement activities.



Libby DePinto

Teacher

Monica Hunnell

Teacher

Stephanie Whiteside

Teacher

Sheena Ellis

Teacher

Our dedicated first grade team at Allen collaborates seamlessly, providing personalized guidance and resources to support students. Through regular check-ins, tailored strategies, and a nurturing environment, they empower students to achieve their end-of-year

Benton Elementary
School



Miika Thorn
Paraeducator and STS

goals and celebrate their progress together.

Miika Thorn is so incredible, he received multiple nominations! Miika always has a smile on his face, no matter what is going on. He works hard to help every staff member and student have an amazing day. Miika will check in on anything he has helped with to make sure it is still working. He is a good communicator which aids in understanding the original problem or how he helped solve the issue. Miika always encourages students of every grade, whether he works directly with them or not. He definitely goes above and beyond at Benton. Miika is a ray of sunshine in our building!

Benton Elementary
School



Tianna Tremble
Paraeducator

Tianna Tremble is a new team member at Benton. She has brought a level of professionalism and work ethic to our students and staff as a paraeducator. Tianna is willing to help in all areas of the school. She always has a kind word and never complains of a challenge. She works hard to help all students achieve their goals in the classroom. We are honored to have Tianna on our Benton Bobcat team!

Black Traditional
Magnet



Serresa Boswell
Paraeducator

Serresa Boswell shows up each day with a positive presence, a deep amount of patience, and a clear dedication to student success. Whether working one-on-one with a student needing extra support or assisting with classroom routines, she brings intention and care to everything she does. She doesn't just support instruction, she enhances it. Beyond academics, Serresa plays a key role in helping students build confidence, manage emotions, and develop the soft skills essential for future success. She listens, encourages, and never loses sight of a student's potential, no matter the challenge. Serresa's commitment, professionalism, and compassion make her a steady and trusted presence in our school community. It's clear that her efforts help create the kind of educational experience that truly prepares students, not just for school, but for life.



Krista Schrag
Librarian

Krista Schrag consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to student success by supporting reading tier groups and ensuring all students have access to literature that inspires, challenges, and excites them. She is intentional about curating engaging and diverse reading materials, and she goes the extra mile to make sure every student feels seen and supported through the books they read and the library space she creates. Krista has made our library a welcoming hub for students and staff alike. Her positive energy and approachable nature make the library a safe space where students feel empowered to explore and grow. She helps organize expert speakers for student Project Based Learning units; building bridges between our classrooms and the broader community. Her support of PBL has been invaluable—not only does she help students with research and planning, but she actively collaborates with teachers to ensure students have the resources they need to thrive. Krista also led our school's Battle of the Books team to an undefeated finish! Her leadership and enthusiasm inspired a love of reading and a spirit of teamwork among our students. She is not just an excellent librarian—she is a vital part of our school community.

Bostic Traditional
Magnet



Dustin Dent
Head Custodian

Dustin Dent has gone above and beyond to support our building this year. Dustin's dedication and hard work have made a significant difference in maintaining a clean and welcoming environment for everyone. We are truly grateful for Dustin's exceptional efforts and commitment to excellence.

Brooks Center for STEM
and the Arts Magnet
Middle School



Abigail Dedeaux
Social Worker
Janis Stucky
School Psychologist
Jennifer Perry
School Nurse
Carina Riley
Campus Support
Katy Pierce
School Counselor
Matthew Bortnick
School Counselor



Rebecca Foster
School Librarian



Lauren Gilmore
Art Teacher and After
School Program
Coordinator



The Child Study Team at Brooks goes above and beyond the call of duty on a consistent basis to make sure the needs of the entire community are met. They work collaboratively and support one another through the many challenges they have encountered throughout this school year. We could not do what we do without their combined hard work and dedication.

Ms. Foster demonstrates patience as she guides students to discovering their potential through different lessons and activities. Her commitment to teamwork and her willingness to go above and beyond make a profound difference in the lives of both students and colleagues alike. Whether preparing for Library lessons, Battle of the Books, supporting building testing or Bus Duty, she demonstrates a dedication to our school community that is unmatched.

Mrs. Gilmore is a talented Art teacher, who demonstrates excellence in the classroom. Her students have a high level of respect for her which is a testament to the relationships she builds and maintains. In addition, she has resurrected our After School Program and has done an excellent job engaging our students through our after school activities. Well done, Mrs. Gilmore!

Caldwell Elementary
School



Jean Balungcas Evans
Interrelated Teacher



Jason Titus
3rd Grade Teacher



Jacinda Unruh
Instructional Coach

Over the past two years, Jacinda has been paramount in assisting our cafeteria, especially during times when we were short-staffed. Her dedication and willingness to support our team have been invaluable. Mrs. Unruh is known for her warm and welcoming demeanor. She always greets everyone with a big smile and a friendly hello, making her a true joy to be around. Her positivity radiates throughout the school, and her willingness to offer help whenever needed is truly commendable. Jacinda's contributions have had a significant impact on our department.

Jean Evans is a beloved interrelated teacher. She works hard at establishing a connection with every child. She is observant and listens carefully to each child, following up to ensure their well-being both in and out of school. She holds students accountable and sets individual goals. Her end-of-the-year celebration last year was a phenomenal exhibit of learning and something that highlighted each child. We are lucky to have her at Caldwell.

We proudly nominate Jason Titus for his dedication beyond the classroom. As PTO leader, he strengthens school-community ties. Mr. Titus plans events like carnival and game night, bringing joy to students and families. Additionally, he creates digital announcements, ensuring clear communication. His passion and commitment leave a lasting impact.

Cessna Elementary
School



Marcie Sawyer
Librarian

During her first year at Caldwell, Marcie has been a tremendous team player and help to the specials team. She goes out of her way to be flexible and accommodating whenever it is needed and is always ready to find a solution. We appreciate her and are glad she's part of our Caldwell family.

Amie Smith
Behavior Interventionist

Amie works tirelessly every day to assist students with self-regulation and de-escalation techniques. She works with students that are in crisis and need someone to help them work through their anger, anxieties, and trauma as they often do not know how to communicate their feelings in an appropriate manner. She collaborates with teachers, parents, and students. She comes to work early and stays late because she cares so much for the students at our building. The job of a behavior interventionist is not easy, and her work is often taken for granted. Cessna is incredibly fortunate to have a resource like Amie at our school.



Kelsey Millege has a natural ability to support young students. She arrives to

Kelsey Millege
Paraeducator

the classroom with a welcoming smile and the energy to take on academic and behavioral challenges. Kelsey is equipped with the knowledge to support academic success no matter the student's level of learning. She keeps a calm demeanor throughout the difficulties of behaviors that arise. Kelsey is understanding of those needing support emotionally, physically and academically. Her expertise doesn't stop there; she enjoys making visuals for students, keeps up on data tracking, and has a knack for organization.



Sean Hudspeth
Chief Human Resource Officer

Through a serious event that happened at our school, Mr. Hudspeth, lovingly referred to as The Train Man, attend a few meetings at Cessna where he met a very dynamic young kindergartner who won his heart. Over the course of the school year, Mr. Hudspeth has become a mentor and friend to this child. He has served as a valuable male role model in his life and has been a motivating force in helping this student work on behavior management. He has attended our Family Soup Fest with him, visited him for lunch, and just done random check ins. He has helped to change the trajectory of this student's academic career. Thank you, Mr. Train Man for being such a devoted advocate for students.

Chisholm Life Skills Center



Christina Osborne
Social worker

This is Christina's first year at Chisholm Life Skills, and she has done a phenomenal job! She is kind, hardworking, and really cares about students and their families. She never gets tired or decides to give up. We are lucky to have her!



Amy Pugh
Social Worker

Amy goes above and beyond to create a safe and inclusive environment where every student feels a sense of

Christa McAuliffe
Academy



Yvonne Sanders
6th Grade Team Lead and
ELA Teacher

belonging. Her commitment to collaborate with families is truly commendable. She works tirelessly to ensure every student has what they need.

Yvonne's dedication and innovative approach have made a significant impact on our students and staff. As the 6th grade team lead, Yvonne does a phenomenal job working with her team to set 6th graders up for success. Her collaborative spirit extends beyond her immediate team, as she actively engages with our 5th grade teachers and Seltzer's to ensure a seamless transition for students. In her classroom, Yvonne is not afraid to think outside the box to create engaging lessons that captivate and inspire her students. Her creativity and commitment to excellence make her an invaluable asset to our school community.



Danielle Banos
Kindergarten Teacher

Danielle's resilience and commitment to her students have made a profound impact on our school community. Despite facing numerous behavioral challenges in her classroom, Danielle consistently demonstrates an unwavering dedication to her students' success. She collaborates closely with administration and support staff to problem-solve and implement effective strategies, ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive. Danielle's ability to remain patient and resourceful in the face of adversity is truly commendable. Her proactive approach and willingness to seek out solutions exemplify the qualities of an outstanding educator.



Heidi Flores
Assistant Principal

Heidi collaborates and leads with student well-being as her foremost priority. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure both students

Cloud Elementary
School



Tosha Symes
Paraeducator

and staff are supported, and her unwavering dedication to creating a nurturing environment is inspiring. Her approach to leadership fosters a culture of growth and learning, and her effective communication with colleagues motivates them to reach their full potential, both professionally and personally.

Tosha is dedicated to student success and goes out of her way to set high expectations with appropriate support. She has been given charge to some really challenging students and never wavers in the face of a difficult situation. Her value at Cloud is unmeasured. Thank you, Tosha for your support and dedication to the success of our students!



Lisa Fanning
4th Grade Teacher

Lisa Fanning consistently puts strong effort into her class and her team. She has a positive attitude that uplifts her entire class and the school community. She brings unique ideas to her team and is innovative in her classroom. Lisa always treats students and staff with respect and a smile.



Rebekah Shurtz
PBS Teacher
Darlene Rice
PBS Teacher
Allie Gilmore
PBS Teacher

This team is a powerhouse of knowledge and wisdom. They are always willing to do whatever it takes for their kids to be successful. They are solution focused which helps create such a positive environment for student growth. They're caring, truthful, compassionate, laid-back and they LOVE THEIR JOBS!!! It's incredible to see them show up every day for each other, for themselves and, most of all, for our kids.

Coleman Environmental
Magnet Middle School



Jason West
Technology Teacher,
Exploratory Team Leader,
Multi-sport Coach

Mr. West has significantly enhanced Coleman through robotics, sports, and leadership, earning a Worlds berth in robotics and guiding the boys' basketball team to success. His



dedication to providing year-round opportunities, teaching life skills, and ensuring inclusivity makes him truly deserving of recognition.



Leslie Pate
ESOL Newcomer Teacher
Dr. Nicole Perez
ESOL Newcomer Teacher
Jennifer Thorpe
ESOL Newcomer Teacher
Tracey Wallace
ESOL Newcomer Teacher



Katie Erickson
Counselor
Cleoanne Hundley
Counselor

The Newcomer Team has been a phenomenal addition to Coleman, leading with engaging instruction and building-wide impact. Their leadership and dedication have made the program a success. Coleman is better because of them. They've absolutely knocked its inauguration out of the park.

Katie and Cleoanne tirelessly support students and staff with dedication and professionalism. They foster an inclusive environment for all and are especially supportive of our Newcomer and ESOL learners. Their collaborative spirit and positivity make a huge difference every day.

Kristine consistently demonstrates exceptional qualities that make her an outstanding educator. She is an excellent listener, always taking the time to understand others' perspectives and concerns. Her inclusive nature ensures that all

students feel valued and supported, fostering a welcoming and collaborative environment for everyone. She is also incredibly kind and patient, taking the time to offer guidance and encouragement when needed. Her collaborative spirit is evident in her approach to teamwork, where she is always willing to share ideas and support her colleagues. Kristine also serves on many committees throughout the building and is always willing to jump in and help. Kristine's positive attitude is infectious, contributing to a work atmosphere that is both uplifting and motivating. She is truly an asset to any team.



Phoebe Urban
2nd Grade Teacher

Phoebe consistently demonstrates an impressive level of organization and dedication, including her leadership in the Tutoring Program at College Hill. She has a natural ability to collaborate and work effectively with others, creating a positive and productive team environment. Phoebe is always open to trying new strategies in her classroom, constantly striving to improve her teaching techniques and meet the diverse needs of her students. Her data-driven approach to instruction is one of her many strengths, as she carefully monitors student progress to ensure every child receives the support they need to succeed. Above all, Phoebe is a passionate advocate for her students, always creating opportunities for their growth and ensuring that they have the tools to reach their full potential.

Diane and Heidi's dedication to serving students, staff, and families is unparalleled, and they consistently go above and beyond to ensure the smooth operation of our school. Diane and Heidi are always ready to assist with any questions or concerns,



Diane Cooke
Administrative Assistant
Heidi Petersen
Administrative Assistant

Dodge Literacy Magnet



Teri Cella
Volunteer

offering timely and helpful support to staff and families alike. Their remarkable organizational skills and efficiency in managing their responsibilities ensure that every day runs smoothly. Whether it's managing schedules, coordinating events, or handling the countless details that keep our school functioning, Diane and Heidi consistently deliver exceptional results. Their professionalism, commitment, and unwavering support make them invaluable members of our school community.

Teri Cella is a retired 1st grade teacher who volunteers daily at Dodge Literacy Magnet. She works with 1st grade students in reading and is using her LETRS Volume 1 and 2 expertise in literacy to help our students grow in reading and writing.



Janet Houk
Assistant Principal

Janet Houk joined our Dodge Literacy Magnet administrative team mid-year. She has exceeded all expectations. Her dedication to students, problem-solving abilities, efficiency, and warm, collaborative spirit have been appreciated. She consistently goes above and beyond without hesitation while remaining steadfast with support. Janet has exceptional interpersonal skills and communicates well with students, staff, and families.



Sierra Pohl
1st Grade Teacher

Sierra Pohl is a dedicated educator who brings enthusiasm and a genuine love for teaching into her classroom each day. She cultivates a warm, positive learning environment where all students feel supported, valued, and empowered to succeed. She has

Dunbar Support Center



Taran Mason
ESOL Testing Paraeducator

taken on leadership roles, and demonstrates initiative and a strong commitment to her students and colleagues. She is incredibly generous in her resources and words of encouragement. Sierra's passion for teaching is unmistakable--it shines and is contagious.

Taran Mason leads the efforts at Multilingual Education Services by supporting families and students through the KELPA Screener process. With a warm and compassionate approach, Taran excels in managing detailed spreadsheets and is highly skilled in building strong, positive relationships with our ESOL families. Her dedication and organizational expertise make her an invaluable resource to both families and the MES community.



Tatiana Minchin
Parent Involvement
Worker, Parents as
Teachers

Tatiana plays a vital role in bridging educational gaps for families, particularly in the area of literacy. She is dedicated to supporting families' needs through community outreach opportunities, providing valuable resources and guidance to help them thrive. Tatiana's commitment to empowering families ensures they have the tools and support necessary for success.



Hazel Martinez Garcia
Translator, Multilingual
Education Services

Hazel Martinez Garcia is a skilled Spanish translator who provides essential support to families, schools, and students throughout the district. In addition to assisting the Board of Education, Hazel attends IEP meetings, offers accurate written translations, and consistently demonstrates a

East High School



Kellie Loudermilk
Analytic and Assessment
Leader

positive demeanor when working with both staff and parents. Her professionalism and dedication make her a valuable asset to the district's efforts in fostering clear communication and strong relationships.

Franklin Elementary
School



Dave Moore
Administration
Assistant/Bookkeeper

Kellie has significantly impacted our team, benefitting both students and staff. Her expert data analysis has provided valuable insights that have improved our educational strategies and student outcomes. We are grateful for everything she has done for East High.

Dave is a wonderful administrative assistant/bookkeeper for our school. He is a FANTASTIC EMPLOYEE! Dave is a HARDWORKING and DEDICATED co-worker. He is extremely organized, and he always has a smile and goes the extra mile. He is always very quick to take care of everything for students, parents and staff. He usually does it all with a smile on his face. Dave is very efficient at taking care of everything so students can be successful. What is best about Dave is his interaction with students. He makes them feel important by always listening to them. He also makes our students laugh; laughter is wonderful for our students. We like seeing our students happy. We are extremely glad Dave is at our school.



Aubria Holzhauser
5th grade teacher

Mrs. Holzhauser has a remarkable ability to create a supportive classroom environment and ensures every student has the opportunity to succeed, makes sure every student feels valued and encouraged to participate. She builds great relationships with her students!

Gammon Elementary
School



Candace Decker
2nd grade teacher

Candace has worked incredibly hard at impacting the lives of her students in a positive manner. She meets each of her students where they are, and gives them confidence to grow. They feel her love and support and feel safe to try hard things. Her classroom is one of love and learning in the most creative ways. Most importantly, her students feel seen every single day.



Soo-Hyun Kim
ESOL Teacher

As an ESOL teacher at Gammon, Soo has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her students' academic and personal growth. Soo works tirelessly to prepare her students not only for academic success but also for life beyond the classroom. She understands the unique challenges faced by her students and goes above and beyond to equip them

with essential life skills. Her dedication extends beyond the school day, as she frequently partners with families, often working after hours to ensure they are well-informed and supported. In addition to her work with families, Soo collaborates closely with her colleagues to ensure her instruction aligns with classroom content. She is a team player who values the importance of a cohesive educational experience for her students. Her efforts to integrate her teaching with the broader curriculum have significantly contributed to the success of her students. She works without seeking recognition, always putting her students' needs first. Her selflessness and dedication have made a profound impact on the lives of her students, helping them achieve their full potential.



Clarissa Sandoval
Bookkeeper
Tiffany Whitson
Clerk
Arleth Lopez
Clerk

Their dedication to students, staff, and families is truly unmatched. They work tirelessly, ensuring the school functions seamlessly each day. Beyond handling their own responsibilities, they step in as nurses, support students who are struggling, and manage every phone call with patience and professionalism. They keep our school running, from ensuring we have the supplies we need to creating a

Gardiner Elementary
School



Hayley Jones
Counselor

warm and welcoming environment for everyone who walks through our doors. They are the silent heroes of Gammon, caring for all of us with grace and kindness. We are incredibly lucky to have them!

Gordon Parks Academy



D'Marcquiz Smith
Paraeducator

Thriving in her role as school counselor, Ms. Hayley has truly stepped up this year, embodying collaboration, teamwork, and a commitment to the well-being of each student. Her dedication to doing what is best for children and her willingness to assist wherever needed make her an invaluable asset to our school community.

Mr. Smith works with students who need additional assistance in core classes. He currently supports our Social Studies class which has a long-term substitute teacher. He helps the substitute with lesson planning and other facets of the classroom, making sure all students are academically successful and is willing to assist in any way possible.



Jacob Morse
5th Grade Teacher

Mr. Morse is an invaluable member of the Gordon Parks Academy community, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to excellence, fairness and integrity. His consistency, fairness and firm, yet compassionate, approach with students creates a learning environment where everyone feels seen, respected, and challenged. His dedication to maintaining high standards while supporting students through every step of their learning



Sandy Londano
PTO President
Marissa Barnes
PTO Secretary
Mary Stegall
PTO Treasurer

journey sets him apart as an educator who truly makes a difference.

Our PTO team is small but mighty. Every year they have worked hard to raise funds, provide incentives, and facilitate activities for our students. They work alongside our Family Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator to provide items for our families and students. The staff and students at Gordon Parks Academy are very appreciative of their work.

Griffith Elementary
School



Leigh Anne Petersen
Paraeducator

Leigh Anne has been a teacher and mentor, and (most importantly) a friend to many people in the Griffith family. We'd be lost without her humble leadership and guidance.



Tammy Lockwood
5th Grade Teacher

Tammy fosters a positive and structured learning environment where students feel supported and motivated. She skillfully balances structure and flexibility, allowing for creativity while maintaining clear expectations. Her ability to connect with students and meet diverse learning needs is truly commendable.



Angelica Gutierrez
Parent (Community
Member)

Angelica offers a helping hand with anything to make the classroom successful. She chaperoned our field trips and helped students as needed to accomplish our learning. Angelica always steps up to support teachers and collaborate for student success.

Harry Street Elementary



Lenore Castillo
Building Guest

Lenore's flexibility and willingness to jump in wherever she is needed each day have made her an invaluable asset to our school community. Lenore's

dedication to our students and staff is evident in the care and compassion she shows everyone she interacts with. Her ability to adapt to various classroom environments and seamlessly integrate herself into the daily routines of our school is truly remarkable. Whether she is stepping in to cover a class at the last minute or providing support to a colleague, Lenore consistently demonstrates a positive attitude and a genuine desire to help. Students and staff alike value Lenore for her kindness and empathy. She has a unique ability to connect with students, making them feel heard and understood. Her presence in the classroom creates a nurturing and supportive atmosphere where students can thrive. Lenore's interactions with staff are equally impactful, as she fosters a collaborative and respectful environment that encourages teamwork and mutual support.



Pam Rivera
5th Grade Teacher

Pam's remarkable care for her students and her ability to tackle challenges head-on have made her a highly valued member of our school community. Pam stepped into her role as a 5th grade teacher in the middle of the school year, a time when many might shy away from such a daunting task. However, Pam embraced the challenge with grace and determination. She has since transformed her classroom into a vibrant and engaging learning environment where students are not

only cared for but also held to high academic standards. Pam's commitment to rigorous learning ensures that her students are constantly challenged and motivated to achieve their best. In Pam's classroom, students are provided with a calm and nurturing atmosphere that fosters both academic and personal growth. Her ability to create a supportive environment where students feel safe and valued is truly remarkable. Pam's high expectations for her students are balanced with her genuine care and compassion, allowing each child to thrive and succeed. Her dedication to building strong relationships with her students and their families is evident in the positive impact she has on their lives. Pam's willingness to advocate for her students and provide them with the tools they need to succeed is a testament to her commitment to education.



David Hudspeth
Long-Term Guest
Paraeducator

David's calm demeanor, patience, and flexibility have made him a positive role model for many students, and his impact on our school community is truly appreciated. David's ability to connect with students and provide them with a supportive and nurturing environment is remarkable. His calm and patient approach creates a safe space where students feel comfortable and encouraged to learn. David's flexibility in adapting to various classroom settings and seamlessly integrating himself into the daily

Heights High School



John Close
Welding Teacher/Admin
Intern

routines of our school is a testament to his dedication and commitment. Students look up to David as a positive role model, and his interactions with them are always filled with kindness and empathy. He has a unique ability to understand and address the individual needs of each student, fostering a sense of belonging and confidence in their abilities. David's presence in the classroom has a calming effect, and his patience ensures that every student receives the attention and support they need to succeed. His willingness to step in wherever he is needed and his positive attitude make him an invaluable asset to our school community.

Mr. Close is a "Jack of all trades"! He stepped into an administrative role and knocked it out of the park! His love for the Heights' community is apparent in all that he does.

Hyde Leadership and
International
Explorations Magnet



Wesley Whitney
Intereelated Teacher

In his short time at Hyde, Mr. Whitney has developed strong relationships with students and staff. He is a great role model to some of our young gentlemen who do not have another male figure in their lives. They look forward to seeing him every day and are eager to make him proud. He checks in with them, rewards them when they're doing great, and encourages them when better choices need to be made. Mr. Whitney also advocates for his students so they can be the most successful versions of themselves. He holds his students



Christina Tobble
Counselor

accountable and has high expectations for them. He communicates and fosters relationships with his students' grown-ups. We are so glad that he joined our staff this year, and we are looking forward to seeing him continue to grow as a teacher, a mentor, and a colleague.

Christina has only been at Hyde for one semester, however the connections, supports and relationships that she has already brought to our school is impressive. Her ability to build meaningful relationships with students and staff creates a safe, welcoming environment where everyone feels seen and heard. Her guidance, empathy, and steady presence are invaluable to our community, and we are truly grateful for the heart and hope she brings into every space. Thank you for being such an essential part of what makes our school special.

Isley Traditional Magnet



Kelli Boyle
3rd Grade Teacher

Kelli Boyle is an exceptional educator as she demonstrates unwavering commitment to her students, consistently going above and beyond to ensure every learner's success. One area in which she truly stands out is in her ability to differentiate instruction to meet the diverse needs of all students. Her compassionate approach makes a profound difference in the lives of her students.

Jefferson Elementary
School



**Tamara (Tammy)
McDonald**

I don't know what we would have done without Tammy this year at Jefferson. She has been instrumental in collaborating with our long-term

Special Education Campus
Support-LIC Interrelated
Programs



**Marianela (Maria)
Aguilera**
Instructional Coach

interrelated substitute to help with anything from forming groups, curriculum needs, to student needs. She has worked with the paras on student data collection. She has also worked with students on data collection to monitor progress and write effective IEPs. The knowledge she brings to CST is invaluable as she helps us problem solve an array of needs and issues.

Maria's caring and problem-solving approach to working with staff does not go unnoticed. She is a great mentor for our new staff and a valuable resource for our veteran staff. She has a wealth of knowledge about curriculum along with instructional and behavioral strategies. She is a valuable and respected member of the Jefferson staff, and we are so lucky to have her!



Tammy Wood
Interrelated Special
Education Teacher-
Continuum Classroom

Tammy has brought her amazing talents to the new continuum room this year at Jefferson. She has created a classroom community that is both welcoming and nurturing. She has incredible patience and empathy for her students along with a deep understanding of their individual needs. She has high expectations for her students while making learning fun and engaging. She provides the necessary scaffolds, accommodations, and modifications they need to be successful. She always comes to the table with a problem-solving mindset looking for interventions and ways to help students.

Joyce Focht
Instructional Support
Center/Education
Imagine Academy



Lena Grill
Truancy Grants Supervisor

Lena supports all students and schools in the district. With a focus on reducing chronic absenteeism, Lena plays an important role in schools meeting this goal. Lena's background in Social Work allows her to communicate and provide guidance to families in helping their student find educational success.



Emily Widrig
Talent Acquisition
Specialist

Emily supports WPS alternative schools in the hiring process. She has taken the time to understand alternative settings and how each school operates. She works closely with EIA to update positions and job descriptions so they represent the job functions of virtual school. She provides efficient support and helps find the right people to work at EIA.



Sharon Rye
Director of Employee
Relations and Title IX

Sharon ensures EIA students have in-person science labs and PE. She consistently communicates and proactively solves logistical conflicts on behalf of EIA at the district administrative center. Sharon understands the importance of socialization and collaboration for students at EIA and is instrumental in their ability to provide innovative solutions. We're thankful for her.

Kelly Elementary School



Katy Ostrander
Mixed Abilities
Paraeducator

Katy is an exceptional paraprofessional in the Mixed Abilities classroom. Her dedication and passion for motivating students to realize their full potential are truly inspiring. Katy tirelessly engages with all her students, creating

a supportive and enriching environment. Her positive outlook, commitment to celebrating achievements, and willingness to go above and beyond make a meaningful impact on both students and staff. We are incredibly fortunate to have Katy as part of the Kelly team. Every school would be lucky to have someone like her.



Pamela Larkin
Junior Achievement
Volunteer

Pamela Larkin has been a dedicated Junior Achievement volunteer at Kelly for 10 years, working primarily with the 5th grade classes. After retiring from Cox Communications in 2024, she continued to volunteer on her own. Recently she volunteered to chaperone a 5th grade field trip to Topeka where she shared her experiences as a young child in Georgia, enriching the history of the students' learning about Brown vs. Board of Education. Pamela's commitment and impact are truly remarkable and we are grateful for her partnership!



Cheryl Caton
Kindergarten Teacher
Melissa Wait
Kindergarten Teacher
Mariam Hassan
Kindergarten Teacher

Kelly's Kindergarten team has truly shined this year! Their dedication to implementing Purposeful Play in their classrooms has been remarkable. The team's enthusiasm and effort have been outstanding. They also took the initiative to start Everyday Math with their students before it went district-wide. As leaders at Kelly, they continuously strive to innovate and do what is best for kids. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and the positive impact they have made.



Jennifer Bouska
Classroom Teacher

Mrs. Bouska puts in so much extra time and effort to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all learners. She builds strong and caring relationships with her students and

Lawrence Elementary
School



Keyla Nunez
Paraeducator

empowers them to become leaders.
We are so lucky to have her!

Keyla's dedication to differentiated support ensures that every student receives impactful educational experiences tailored to their unique needs. Keyla builds strong relationships with our students and families, embraces diversity, and creates an inclusive and safe environment. She believes in the success of all students and works tirelessly to make it happen!



Carrie Branson
Classroom Teacher

Carrie is constantly learning and keeping up with changes and challenges we face in education which allows her to continually grow as an educator. Carrie is able to utilize the strengths of others around her to ensure her students are growing academically and socially. She encourages and helps each member of her team and her students to be his or her best every day!



Olivia Burbach
4th Grade Teacher/Family
Engagement Coordinator

Olivia is a model classroom teacher, known for her engaging strategies with vocabulary words, amazing classroom management and love for her students. Her commitment to Family Engagement is a blessing to Lawrence. Traditions include Fall Fest, Heritage Night, and many others. Olivia works tirelessly to make sure students have what they need and that families are engaged and celebrated. She is a great asset to the success we see here at Lawrence.



Tristan Burrow
Behavior Interventionist

Tristan has a way with students that creates respect and rapport that is much appreciated by his peers. He is able to maintain positive relationships with students while dealing with

Linwood Elementary
School



Linda Drouhard
Paraeducator

difficult behaviors. He not only supports students, but he is also support to the staff. Tristan provides a sense of calm in heightened situations. Tristan builds relationships with all students and makes it a point to make time for the students he does not regularly see. He has been instrumental in getting Prime Fit organized at Lawrence and works hard every day to make sure our students are ready to face the challenges of the working world.



Melissa Viramontes
Paraeducator

Linda's positive attitude and willingness to help out wherever needed is a huge blessing to Lawrence. This positive and helpful attitude helps ensure our school runs effectively and efficiently. Linda is always smiling and has a passion for working with all of her students. Linda's dedication to education does not go unnoticed as she has gone to college while working and is getting her degree in Elementary Education. Linda has shown she has what it takes to help students be successful.



Jeff Wilson
5th Grade Teacher

Ms. Mell consistently arrives each day with a positive attitude, demonstrating her commitment and dedication to the students she serves. She is committed to fostering success for all students, ensuring that each individual feels valued and acknowledged. Ms. Mell emphasizes accountability, guiding students towards becoming independent learners by enhancing their confidence in the academic environment.

With this being Mr. Wilson's second career, it is awesome to see what he has accomplished with his students. Mr. Wilson requires his students to be ready to work at all times, give effort and be ready to show the grit needed

to succeed. Mr. Wilson sets up a environment with repetition and rhythm that students thrive in.



Lori Landwehr
ESOL Teacher/STS

Lori is a dynamo when it comes to technology in the building and helping the staff out in this area. She works with staff to make sure they are on the cutting edge with the latest technology, so they can be ready to work with their students. Lori works with our ESOL students with grace and high expectations so that they are ultimately successful.

Little Early Childhood
Center



Alison Stanley
Speech Language
Pathologist

Ms. Alison is an SLP extraordinaire! Her expressive personality is fun and engaging in helping her student learn to communicate through pictures, words or signs. Her students love how she makes practicing communication skills more fun. Alison is proactive in educating families and helping them with resources and ideas to practice communication at home. Alison takes initiative with challenging students and frequently helps support students outside of her scheduled therapy time. She also coordinates our school PTO group to help connect our families to school. She has a big impact on our entire school family.

McCollom Elementary
School



Ashley Cating
Art teacher

Ashley is a thoughtful, enthusiastic, and inclusive art teacher who considers the individual needs of all

our students, both in regular education and special education programs. In addition to planning creative lessons that weave in other subject areas, she carefully reads IEPs and thoughtfully incorporates modifications and accommodations into her lessons to meet the needs of all learners. Ashley represents all that it means to teach for ALL students. She makes kids feel safe and heard, and she goes the extra mile to ensure everyone feels like they belong. Her positive energy is noticed by all staff, and she is a delight to be around, which impacts our school culture.



Kendra Renfro
Behavior Interventionist

Kendra Renfro has been an exceptional asset to McCollom. She assists both staff and students in problem-solving by identifying root causes and implementing replacement behaviors. She is extremely collaborative and includes the voices of students, parents, and staff in creating detailed plans that consider the whole child and apply the NME lens. These plans address various states and how to appropriately support them, ensuring our kids feel safe, regulated, and ready to learn each day. Our staff, families and students are fortunate to work with such a proactive and restorative Behavior Interventionist.



Katie Bishop
Interrelated Paraeducator
Melissa Norton

The interrelated paraprofessional team at McCollom is a crucial part of our building. They are dedicated to helping all students reach their fullest potential

Interrelated Paraeducator
Elisa Marquez Oder
Interrelated Paraeducator
Debbie Elkins
Interrelated Paraeducator
Tina Crafton
Interrelated Paraeducator
Hilda Damato
Interrelated Paraeducator

and participate fully in their education alongside their peers. Our team not only provides the necessary support and strategies to meet each student's unique learning requirements, but they also offer classroom management, individualized instruction, data collection, lesson planning, communication skills, and participate in professional development to continually enhance their skills. We are immensely grateful for their commitment and passion in making a profound difference in the lives of our students and the overall success of our school community.

Mead Middle School



Matt Stevens
Teacher

Matt has made exceptional contributions as Mead's Technology Specialist and Bus Duty Supervisor. He has consistently demonstrated his reliability and diligence in addressing a wide array of technological challenges and requests. His role as bus supervisor guarantees student safety and orderliness. Beyond these responsibilities, Matt excels as a teacher, providing engaging content that appeals to students. Matt's dedication sets a high standard for excellence.



Jasmine Johnson
Teacher

Jasmine's passion for both her subject and her students shines through in everything she does. With a calm, caring presence, she creates a classroom environment that feels safe, welcoming, and engaging. Mead is incredibly fortunate to have such a



Minneha Core
Knowledge Magnet



Cathryn Horn
PE Teacher

compassionate and inspiring educator on its team.

Sidney Gradney
Parapeducator

Sidney has been a breath of fresh air at Mead Middle School, continuously seeking ways to get involved and build positive relationships with students. He has worked with students in Leadership, Basketball, and Soccer, making a significant impact on our school community. As Sidney transitions to becoming a Kansas State Trooper this summer, we wish him the best of luck. He will be greatly missed.

Cathryn consistently goes above and beyond in supporting her team and the school community. She demonstrates exceptional dedication by willingly taking on doubles whenever one of her teammates is absent, ensuring that teachers still have their planning time without disruption. Beyond her classroom duties, Cathryn serves on the Leadership team, offering valuable insights and perspectives that help shape the school's growth and success. She is also an active participant in multiple committees, always striving to improve the school environment for both staff and students. Cathryn is highly dependable, consistently showing up for her recess duties and making sure to communicate any changes in advance. Her unwavering support for her team, her commitment to the school's mission, and her constant willingness to give her time

make her a truly deserving candidate for this recognition.



Jason Janssen
PE Teacher

Jason is an invaluable member of our team, consistently going above and beyond to support his colleagues and enhance the student experience. He regularly takes on doubles to ensure that teachers can have their planning time, demonstrating his commitment to both his team and the success of the school. In addition to supporting his fellow teachers, Jason creates engaging and dynamic physical activities for students, promoting healthy lifestyles and making recess both fun and meaningful. He also reliably fulfills his recess duty, always present and dedicated to creating a positive environment for students. Jason's unwavering support for his team and his proactive efforts to contribute to the overall success of the school make him an outstanding candidate for this recognition.



Laura Friedberg
President of PTO
Sarah Malone
Vice President of PTO
Stephanie Werth
Treasurer for PTO
Brittany Fugleberg
Secretary of PTO

The Minneha PTO is always available and takes great care in addressing the needs of the staff, ensuring they have the resources and support necessary to thrive. Their commitment extends beyond just the staff, as they consistently plan and organize events that bring families and staff together, fostering a strong sense of community within the school.

Additionally, Minneha PTO has made a significant impact on student learning by actively supporting classroom initiatives and volunteering countless hours to assist with various school activities and events. Their dedication to the students is unmatched, as they work tirelessly to create an environment where students can succeed.

Mueller Aerospace and
Engineering Discovery
Magnet



Carmen Franklin
Paraeducator

Carmen Franklin has been an important part of the Mueller community for nearly a decade. She consistently steps in when needed and has shown true commitment and determination in supporting her students and teammates — especially in those last-minute moments. Her encouragement has helped motivate students to do their best, and her presence has left a lasting impact. As Carmen prepares to retire this year, she will always have a special place in our hearts at Mueller.



Char'ee Wright
3rd Grade Teacher



Char'ee has the Wright stuff (pun intended). Her hard work is incredibly inspiring. Not only does she show up daily, but she quietly grinds toward her goals with positivity and consistency. There are few people as dedicated to our kids as she is. She consistently prepares engaging lessons, upholds high expectations, and challenges students to reach for the stars. Her love for her students shines through in everything she does — even showing up to support them at extracurricular events on the weekends. Char'ee embodies the spirit of kindness and brings joy to those around her with her infectious laugh. She has built a strong classroom community grounded in integrity, empathy, and passion. Time spent in her classroom is truly a gift, and her example offers valuable lessons to everyone around her.

Leslie Smith
Mixed Abilities
paraeducator
Carleta Cheaney
Mixed Abilities
paraeducator

We are thrilled to recognize Leslie Smith and Carleta Cheaney for stepping up to lead our 4th and 5th Grade Mixed Abilities classroom. Their initiative, commitment, and willingness to learn new curriculum and behavior strategies have made a meaningful impact on their students' growth and success. Thank you both for your hard work, adaptability, and dedication to the Mueller community.

North High School



Sandra Sanchez
Pando Initiative Student
Support Advocate and
HALO co-sponsor

Sandra's dedication to the students and families in our community is truly exceptional. She is an advocate for all students at North High School. Her commitment to student safety and welfare is evident in her willingness to assist at any time, whether it involves escorting students, participating in crisis drills, translating, or providing supervision. Her presence is a constant source of support and reassurance for both students and staff. One of Sandra's remarkable contributions is her ability to secure numerous donations from the community. These donations are vital in providing essential resources to students and families in need. Sandra's efforts ensure that our students have access to the support they require to thrive academically and personally. Sandra's impact extends beyond her official duties. She is always willing to lend a helping hand, demonstrating a



Jill Robinson
FACS Teacher and
Department Chair

genuine care for the well-being of our students. Her proactive approach and dedication make her an invaluable asset to our school and community.

Jill is a visionary leader, diligent hawk of safety and belonging, and loyal Redhawk role model. She has improved her department through fair and transparent leadership. She stresses safety and belonging while working with many different stakeholders from students, CDC staff, colleagues, and program partners. Jill is a professional and positive role model for everyone around her.



Jason Tovar
Building Engineer

In every aspect of his role, Jason exemplifies what it means to go above and beyond. He is not only a skilled and reliable engineer, but also someone who brings heart, professionalism, and integrity to every task, whether it's handling emergency maintenance in the middle of the day or taking the time to make sure students and staff feel safe and comfortable in their environment. One of the many things that sets Jason apart is his constant willingness to help and positive attitude. Jason is known around the building not just for fixing what's broken, but for doing so with a smile and genuine care. Whether it's responding quickly to unexpected issues or taking the initiative to prevent them altogether, Jason is the quiet hero who keeps everything running smoothly behind the scenes. We often say that a good building engineer makes a building functional—

but a great one makes it feel like home.

Northwest High School



Meagan Wofford
ELA Teacher

Meagan is not just an outstanding educator, she is a tireless advocate for students, a trusted colleague, and a leader in shaping the future of college and career readiness in our district. She was instrumental in planning and facilitating the annual USD 259 College/Career Bootcamp, working closely with College and Career Counselors to guide more than 350 juniors through an intensive week of preparation for their futures. She also plays a critical role in making sure students are financially prepared for college, organizing in classroom FSA ID events, and providing essential support during FAFSA completion events, helping countless students unlock opportunities for higher education. As a teacher, Meagan has spent six years shaping young minds as an AVID teacher, and in her current role as a Freshman teacher in the Early College Academy at Northwest High School, she continues to provide students with

the skills and confidence they need to thrive academically. She is a mentor, a motivator, and a champion for her students. Her work in scholarships and post-secondary planning changes lives, opening doors for students who may not have otherwise believed college was within reach. Meagan also volunteers as an assistant swim coach for both the men's and women's teams.



Michelle Murphy
SPED Teacher

Michelle cares about each of her students and treats them with respect and dignity each time they walk through the front doors of the school. She has an open door policy in her room and provides water and snacks to anyone who is in need, no questions asked. Students can stop by her room between classes and grab a snack or water and a smile. During our team meetings she provides the teachers with chocolate and her humor. She sends out weekly Friday emails of encouragement and humor to help staff get through the week. She approaches each challenge with positivity and embodies our district goal of belonging.



Cedric Johnson
JROTC Instructor
Efrem Gibson
JROTC Instructor

Sgt. Johnson and Col. Gibson's work and dedication to our students is evident when watching our students participate and compete in JROTC events. The students exhibit a sense of preparation, personal achievement, and perseverance. Over the course of

OK Elementary School



Marcy Ramsey
Mixed Abilities Teacher

the work in this program, our students gain more confidence and a positive attitude of personal self-worth. Sgt. Johnson and Col. Gibson push our students to become better versions of themselves, and teach them to embrace the core values of the JROTC program and the values of Northwest High School. Their work with our kids embodies our core values of Pride, Respect, and Excellence.

Peterson Elementary



Christopher Hughes
Custodian



Lori Randleman
Food Service



Vickie Shook
Nurse

Marcy Ramsey is a dedicated, inspiring educator who empowers all students to succeed. Her compassion, collaboration, and commitment to growth make her a transformative teacher.

Mr. Hughes takes care of all custodial needs when he is here and then goes above and beyond in helping students and be a friendly presence.

Ms. Randleman is dedicated to our students and taking care of all things food at Peterson. Ms. Randleman always has everything prepared and ready for students; she also is very friendly and kind to all students as they get food.

Nurse Vickie takes care of all our health-related items as well as helping friends that are struggling. Nurse Vickie goes above and beyond at Peterson.

Pleasant Valley
Elementary



Amy Kuttler
ESOL Paraeducator

Amy is an exceptional ESOL paraprofessional who consistently demonstrates outstanding dedication and initiative. Her extensive knowledge of USD 259 decoding routines and classroom curriculum allows her to seamlessly transition between grade levels, from kindergarten to 5th grade.

Pleasant Valley Middle School



Nayeli Navarro-Bravo
Pando Initiative Student Support Advocate

Amy's calm and composed demeanor in stressful situations, combined with her creativity and high expectations for students, make her an invaluable asset. She is always prepared, organized, and willing to take on new challenges with grace and enthusiasm. Amy's reliability and proactive approach truly set her apart.

Nayeli Navarro-Bravo makes a meaningful impact through her student lunch groups, the ABC Store, and assisting students and families with essential needs. Her kindness, dedication, and positive energy have made her a beloved and invaluable part of our team.



Miri Gordon
Language Arts Teacher

Miri Gordon is a dedicated 8th-grade ELA teacher who has made a tremendous impact at Pleasant Valley Middle School. She embraced the challenge of teaching Honors ELA and built the cheerleading program from scratch, fundraising for uniforms and inspiring school spirit. Her hard work and passion make PVMS proud!

Price-Harris Communications Magnet Elementary School



Crystal Barber
PE Teacher
Ramona Bomgardner
Librarian
Kari Plagmann
Music 1 Teacher
Christina Parsley
Art Teacher
Alora Hickert
Music 2 Teacher
Naomi Severt
Librarian 2

Kaleigh Klim
1st grade teacher

The Price-Harris Specials Team has come together and created an incredible experience for our students. They build students up, support staff, and foster a positive, thriving school culture. Your dedication and teamwork make all the difference!



Kaleigh is making fantastic growth as an endorsed classroom teacher. She connects with students, applies ESOL strategies, and provides students with

the necessary tools to help them become successful learners. The class' growth is inspirational. Kaleigh is flexible and easy to work with. Thank you for all you do!

Riverside Leadership
Magnet Elementary



Jake Edwards
Paraeducator

Jake deserves recognition for continuing to collaborate with colleagues and encourage them with his positive ideas. Jake keeps a calmness about him while he monitors and considers safety of all students at Riverside. Jake is considerate of our families as he follows individual supports and strategies with their children. He takes his job seriously in making sure students feel safe at Riverside and helps them to recognize their purpose and belonging. Our recess is a positive learning experience for our students because of Jake's leadership approach of friendly and proactive interactions.



Marissa Ontiveros
Paraeducator

Marissa deserves recognition for her willingness and flexibility while she works with individual students. Marissa makes individuals feel safe and connected and in turn can encourage and cheer on their successes. Teachers who have the privilege to include Marissa in their classroom support know that she will be the positive element to motivate students to give

their best. In addition, Marissa leads in our building by noticing where she can provide support and jumping right in. She often notices where we can make improvements so both students and staff feel safe and supported. Her diligent work extends from first thing in the morning breakfast help, to ending the day with bus dismissal and a safe and fun latchkey program.



Jennifer Solis
Kindergarten Teacher

Jennifer is a calm and caring teacher who embraces every child right where they are. She also has a positive attitude with her students no matter how challenging some of their behaviors can be. Her consistency in the classroom helps all students make great growth. She has high expectations that set her little learners up for years of success as she is modeling what it is to be a leader at Riverside from day one. She is very deserving of this special recognition.

School Service Center



Dickson Gidibmaa
Crewperson - Paint
Department

Dickson is an unsung hero. He is talented, hard-working, and humble. He is a team player and an excellent instructor. Dickson assists in teaching the Heights' construction class and is patient and encouraging with the students. His work ethic and example is much appreciated and should be recognized. He never seeks praise for his accomplishments. He just wants to continue to learn everything about what our department has to offer and how he can be a part of it all.



Paul Roberts

Supervisor, Paint
Department



Margo Rufle
Manager, Environmental
Services Dept.
Tim McCarty
Safety Technician
Stephanie Mays
Environmental Inspector
Jeremy Herren
Environmental Inspector

Paul is a good communicator and makes sure his team has what they need to get the job done. He is dependable and caring and a respected supervisor.

Over the past few years, Environmental Services was given the task to test water fixtures and to perform radon testing in USD 259 buildings. To date, radon testing has been completed in 5,046 rooms in 91 district buildings and 8,475 water fixtures have been tested for lead. This small team has made a huge impact and ensured that our buildings are trusted as safe spaces for staff, students & parents.

Seltzer Elementary
School



Jeanette Ballard
Clerk

Jeanette is a wonderful colleague! She is new to Seltzer this year and has quickly become part of the Seltzer Family. She is kind, considerate, and patient with anyone that walks into Seltzer. She has learned our families and has made amazing relationships with our students. Jeanette is hard working and sees things through. Her happiness and laughter add joy to those of us lucky enough to get to work with her.



Melody Ward
Long Term Sub - Clerk

Melody has been a long term sub in our front office since September. She has quickly become a part of our staff. Melody is quick to help out in any way she can and is always stepping up and taking care of Families, Staff, and Students. Melody has a way of helping out in the most kind and caring way, making sure anyone coming into the office feels taken care of. We appreciate Melody so much this year!



Chesney Lund
Interrelated Teacher

Chesney is an amazing Interrelated Teacher with a way of working with all children that makes each one feel as though they are the most important

child. She goes out of her way to meet each child's needs ensuring they have all their Social, Emotional and Academic needs met. Regardless of the circumstances, Chesney attacks each day with a smile and a positive attitude. This positivity is present in all she does, with kindness and positivity in all her interactions with colleagues. We appreciate her hard work for Seltzer kids and staff!

Southeast High School



Sarah Lewis
ESOL Department Head

Sarah has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership and compassion as a leader. Due to her compassionate leadership and high expectations our ESOL students are empowered learners who are self-motivated and have a passion for learning. Her focus is on creating future-ready students.



Yesenia Perez Gonzalez
ESOL Department
Head/Teacher

Yesenia has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership and compassion as a leader. Due to her compassionate leadership and high expectations our ESOL students are empowered learners who are self-motivated and have a passion for learning. Her focus is on creating future-ready students.

Sowers Alternative High
School



Emily Hellewell
Teacher

Miss Em has been educating students at Sowers since 2011. She continues to give her all to students and staff and is highly dedicated to ensuring our students feel safe, seen, valued and connected to the school community. She is an outstanding teacher and is a champion for all students.



Candace Staker

Behavioral Health School
Liaison



Andrew Jansson
School Resource Officer
Wichita Police Department

Candace is a team player and cornerstone of our culture. Her collaboration with students and families to connect with mental health services provides safety and support, helping students be successful. She continuously exhibits professionalism, compassion, and an unshakable commitment to students.

Officer Jansson has been our Thursday SRO for about a year now and has been an asset to our school community. He is great at getting to know our students and forming relationships with them. He is always patient, calm, kind, and compassionate with our students, staff, and families.

Stanley Elementary
School



Leonor Loughridge
Pando Initiative Student
Support Advocate

Mrs. L has played a huge part in why Stanley is what it is today. She not only is our Pando liaison, she serves on our PTO as well. Mrs. L has created morning reading groups and multiple grade-level lunch groups. Stanley staff, students, and families adore Mrs. L and are forever grateful for the time we have had with her.



Bethany Beal
Social worker

Ms. Beal spends her day from start to long after the finish serving our staff, students, and families. Ms. Beal works to improve attendance by contacting families to see what supports they may need, organizes and delivers food for kids bags every week, and she is always the first way to jump in and offer support where needed. Ms. Beal works to make sure Stanley is the best place to be.



Brad Zubke
5th grade teacher

Mr. Zubke exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding teacher, consistently demonstrating a commitment to fostering a positive and engaging learning environment. His innovative teaching methods not only captivate

Truesdell Middle School



Alize Taylor
Administrative Assistant

his students' interest but also cater to the diverse needs of his classroom.

Ever since Ms. Ali joined the Truesdell community, she jumped straight in, learned all about us and those we serve, and hasn't regretted a day! She provides quality customer service wearing a genuine smile, helps whenever and wherever help is needed, and is always looking to learn something new. Ms. Ali sets the standard for the work we do at Truesdell.



Robert Anderson
Teacher
Katherine Belshe
Teacher
Alexis Mann
Paraeducator

Truesdell's "608" team has surpassed expectations in their mission to inspire students and staff members, fostering future-ready individuals and cultivating a stronger community. Their unwavering dedication to enhancing the safety and sense of belonging for every student, particularly those who may feel marginalized, is evident in their daily efforts. Through consistent check-ins and meaningful conversations, they not only equip students with essential life skills and social-emotional competencies but also instill a profound sense of community and belonging within Truesdell. The team exemplifies respectful behavior towards both students and staff, ensuring that every student is treated with dignity and equity. Their commitment to going above and beyond for the benefit of students and staff each day is truly remarkable.

Washington Accelerated
Learning Elementary



Bailey Wise
Paraeducator

Every morning Bailey is stationed in the foyer at arrival. While she could just monitor and make sure students

are going to the right place, she uses this time to personally connect with every single student that enters our doors greeting each one by name as they head straight to her for their morning hug. Some of our younger friends stand and hold her hand for a while before moving on and it's obvious this is their favorite part of their morning routine. Bailey makes sure all students feel welcomed, cared for, and seen. Ms. Bailey is the most outgoing, well-connected and loving person.



Shelly McKinley
3rd Grade Teacher

Mrs. McKinley wears many hats that are greatly appreciated by all. From being a model of dedication, organization, and persistence in keeping high expectations for her students, to being a UTW rep and leading the school building committee. She also keeps up staff morale, running the McKinley Cafe full of snacks, drinks, and always hot coffee, to now also taking on the huge role as assessment coordinator. Shelly is humble and works behind the scenes, doing all things simply to support our students and staff and to ensure Washington continues to be the amazing place that it is!



Ivory Reed
Pando Initiative Student
Support Advocate

Our 1st year with The Pando Initiative has been nothing short of amazing, and this is all due to Mrs. Ivory Reed! Mrs. Reed has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to students by providing a listening ear, and compassionate heart while still holding them accountable. She acknowledges students' identity and allows their voice to be heard. She does this with their parents as well. Mrs. Reed has

Wells Middle School



Anne Barker
Vocal Music Teacher

made great improvements in the attitudes of students. Her pro-active approach has made a huge difference in the classrooms. We are very lucky to have Mrs. Reed on our staff!

Anne Barker has brought music to life at Wells. They've created concerts, introduced instruments, and made class a space students love. Their impact goes beyond music—they build trust, joy, and confidence in students who need it most!



Sharon Mounce
Guest Teacher

Sharon Mounce has been a steady, positive presence at Wells for five years. As a long-term guest teacher, she builds strong relationships, supports students with care, and is a trusted, respected part of our team. We're lucky to have her every day!



Gary Cooper
QBI - Intervention Specialist - BHSL
Marqus Wilson
QBI - Intervention Specialist - BHSL
Erin Blow
QBI - Social Worker
Jackie Kitt
QBI - Counselor
Carissa Cummings
QBI - Counselor

The QBI team brings calm, steady support to tough situations. They've helped students make real behavior progress and built strong plans with staff. Their care, patience, and commitment make a daily difference for our students and school!

West High School



Brandi Bookout
STS

Brandi has gone above and beyond what we could have ever anticipated from site technology specialist. Not only is she extremely knowledgeable in what she does, but she makes EVERYONE feel valued, important, and a priority. She is never too busy to help anyone. Her kindness and willingness

White Elementary
School



Heather Manganiello
Social Worker

to help everyone at the drop of a hat has made all of us here feel extremely important.

Heather has an exceptional and courageous work ethic in ensuring the best support for all students. She does an exceptional job of ensuring everyone's needs are met. It has been an honor to learn from such an excellent person, who always seeks and advocates for the best interests of students and their families. She also does an exceptional job assisting and supporting the support staff and her team. She always goes above and beyond no matter the task.



Jamie Lansang
Behavior Intervention
Teacher
Carmelo Jones
Behavior Intervention
Paraeducator

Jamie and Carmelo go above and beyond to make sure that the staff at White Elementary feel supported, both with students' behaviors, as well as self-care. They are flexible to a fault and often set aside their own needs to make sure others are taken care of. Our school is blessed to have them here!



Isabella Klim
3rd Grade Teacher
Ashley Sims
3rd Grade Teacher
K.C. Udarbe
3rd Grade Teacher

Our 3rd grade team does a phenomenal job of intentionally planning lessons to include ALL students. They craft engaging lessons that are filled with meaningful instruction and hands-on/tactile learning when possible. They strive to be inclusive and ensure that all students feel welcome in their classrooms. They serve as a true example for other teams in our school, as well as in the district!



Eric Lowe
2nd Grade Teacher

Mr. Lowe is an amazing teacher who cares so much about his students. He takes his LETRS training seriously and he incorporates what he has learned into his classroom. He is a team player and is always happy to help other

Wilbur Middle School



Kendra Reynolds
Social Studies
Teacher/Administrative Intern

teachers and students. He is always ready to learn anything new that would benefit him in the classroom.



Julie Cochran
Paraeducator

In addition to being an amazing teacher and an administration intern, Kendra has consistently demonstrated remarkable dedication and excellence in her role, making a significant impact on our school community. One of her most impressive qualities is her ability to seamlessly fill in for administration without missing a beat, all while managing her own classroom responsibilities. Her commitment to ensuring the smooth operation of the school is truly commendable. Kendra runs a school-wide policy tracking system with great efficiency and follows up with outstanding parent communication. This proactive approach ensures that policies are adhered to and that parents are kept well-informed, contributing to a strong and supportive school community.

Julie is a consistent staff member we rely on at Wilbur. Her work especially shines in the classrooms where she helps support and lead lessons and leads reading groups during the day and after school. She is always willing to help out the staff with student or classroom needs and works to lighten the load of others. She has made a

Woodman Elementary
School



Dani Glasscock
Interrelated Paraeducator

great impact here at Wilbur and should be recognized for the efforts she shows us each day.

Ms. Dani began supporting a different grade level mid year and has been a wonderful addition to the team. She stepped right in and hasn't missed a beat. She is reliable and hard working. Dani truly cares about our students and pours into them daily. The students love to see her and can count on her for a smile, hug, or to ask them how their day is going.



Esme Tavares
Interrelated paraeducator

Esme consistently demonstrates outstanding dedication, patience, and care for some of our youngest learners. She is a natural with children, creating a warm and supportive environment, where every student feels valued and encouraged. She is a team player who is always willing to step in and help wherever needed. Her positive attitude and strong work ethic have made her an invaluable member of our school community.



Pam Cornejo
School Nurse

We are incredibly fortunate to have Nurse Pam as a vital part of our team. Her dedication and compassion make a significant impact on our school community every day. Her unwavering willingness to jump in and assist wherever needed is remarkable. She excels in forming meaningful relationships with everyone here at Woodman. She has a unique ability to connect with students and ensures all feel safe to share their needs and concerns. Her dedication to her work and her genuine concern for others make her an exceptional role model for both students and colleagues.



The Wichita Public Schools is committed to ensuring an environment that is free of discrimination and to fostering a climate in which all employees and students may participate, contribute, and grow to their fullest potential.

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

The Wichita Public Schools does not discriminate any legally protected classification in its programs and activities.

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

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination statement:

Section 504 Coordinator for Adults and
Title IX Coordinator for Adults and Students
903 South Edgemoor
Wichita, KS 67218
(316) 973-4420

Section 504 Coordinator for Students
903 South Edgemoor
Wichita, KS 67218
(316) 973-4475