



# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025

For more information contact:

Katie Carlson • Director of Communications • (316) 788-8427

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## **Derby Public Schools I Make A Difference Award Winners Announced at Board of Education Meeting on May 27**

Justin McCubbin, staff, and Amie Stambaugh, volunteer, are the May recipients of the I Make A Difference Award.

This month's Staff I Make A Difference Award winner is Justin McCubbin, an Assistant Principal at Derby High School. Mr. McCubbin's leadership, dedication and compassion have made a meaningful impact on students, staff and the greater Derby community. Now in his second year as an administrator in Derby, he brings over a decade of experience in education and 16 years of service in the Army Reserves. Mr. McCubbin's unique background blends discipline, heart and a deep commitment to student success.

As the 10th grade principal, he oversees staff evaluations, supervises athletic and activity events, school safety and security, leads the PDC process, manages in-school suspensions, supports PIT/GEI teams and coordinates homebound education services. Beyond the daily duties, Mr. McCubbin makes a point to create meaningful connections with students. Through his military service, he developed a special connection with Derby's AFJROTC cadets, many of whom are military-connected students. When invited by a cadet to participate in a physical training session, he didn't hesitate. Mr. McCubbin stepped into the role of a mentor, demonstrating to cadets that physical fitness, leadership and character building are lifelong commitments.

Ahead of the end-of-year awards ceremony for JROTC, his impact was again felt in a small yet powerful moment. When a cadet became anxious about preparing his service dress uniform for an awards ceremony, with limited time between classes, he turned to Mr. McCubbin for help. Promptly, Mr. McCubbin took time out of his day to help the student align his tie, belt and insignias, ensuring he was sharp and confident for the ceremony. That moment, simple as it may seem, spoke volumes. It wasn't just about fixing a uniform—it was about trust, respect and reassurance. The student reached out to Mr. McCubbin because he knew he cared, took the time to be with these students and has a strong military knowledge. This act of service turned a student's moment of anxiety into one of pride.

Mr. McCubbin's ability to lead with integrity, show up when it matters most and care for students has left a lasting impact on the Derby community.

This month's volunteer I Make A Difference Award winner is Amie Stambaugh, volunteer at El Paso Elementary. Amie first became involved at El Paso Elementary when her son was in Janny Baldwin's 4th grade class. She has thoughtfully donated snacks, party supplies and made sure students had any classroom

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Derby Public Schools strives to create a safe and inclusive culture and a comprehensive educational experience that propels students toward their fullest potential so they can positively impact their community.

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materials they might need. During class holiday parties, Amie would organize and host interactive games for the students to enjoy. She even brought in a treasure chest filled with prizes for Mrs. Baldwin to use in her classroom.

What makes Amie's contributions truly special is that her generosity didn't stop when her son moved on from elementary school. Five years later, she continues to support Mrs. Baldwin's classroom in meaningful ways. This year, she provided several boxes of gently used books for the 4th-grade classroom libraries—so many, in fact, that other grade levels were also able to benefit from her donation. Amie regularly scours garage sales to find fun and engaging items for the treasure chest she originally donated years ago, ensuring that students continue to feel valued and rewarded.

Amie is a strong example of what it means to be a school and community partner. Her quiet, ongoing support behind the scenes makes a difference in the day-to-day lives of both teachers and students. Janny Baldwin, 4th Grade Teacher shared, "She is kind, thoughtful and so giving. I really appreciate her!"

Amie's kind and selfless character is seen in her support of students in the El Paso Community.



**Pictured:** (Pictured left to right) Amie Stambaugh and Justin McCubbin

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