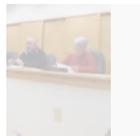


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TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: Honoring local educators for their valuable work



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By From press reports

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In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, The Genesis Group and First Source Federal Credit Union have teamed up to recognize community educators who are going above and beyond to make positive impacts in the lives of students. Working from remote locations, these teachers and professors are working under difficult circumstances to keep the learning environment going strong.

Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School

Recognizing **teachers at Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School**, who meet the criteria for going above and beyond, can't be limited to just one or two teachers. Over the past eight weeks, we've witnessed a teacher sing "Over the Rainbow" with a guitar to his students, a teacher drive around to her students' houses and beep the horn just to see the students smile, another teacher deliver groceries to a family in need, another created a silly video filled with jokes, and several others drop off goodie packets to students to lift the student spirits. These are just a small example of the wonderful memories teachers are creating with our students. Teachers at FSES go beyond the teaching and learning and truly touch the lives of our students and families.

Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School

Pam Musacchio has been a great inspiration in my high school career. She is always there for us and really cares about her students. She is a true professional. *(Musacchio was nominated by one of her students).*

Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES

The staff of **P-TECH OHM at OHM BOCES** is being recognized for their incredible contributions to our students and community during the recent events surrounding the global pandemic we are all facing. Although it has caused disruptions in the traditional ways of educating, these true heroes have risen above their current circumstances. Our STEM teacher has collaborated with one of our business partners, Trenton Technology, and CTE staff to create face shields in our FAB Lab that have been donated to medical facilities in our region. To date, they have produced 365 shields. Students have received meals sent to their homes by our math teacher and her family. Our English teacher offered to purchase every student a book from Barnes and Noble to “escape” from the reality of COVID-19. Although our social studies teacher and his wife just welcomed their second child into their family during the quarantine, he is still delivering instruction that leverages technology and student engagement through innovative approaches to teaching. Our school counselor has sent postcards to every student with a special message and implemented spirit week to promote positivity among students and staff. Our science teacher is hosting meetings to promote socialization among students by connecting their passion for scientific knowledge. The resource teacher holds daily sessions with students and parents to offer additional support for every subject area. Our social worker makes contacts with families all throughout the day to provide assistance anyway she can. Health and physical education teachers are supporting students’ physical and social-emotional wellbeing. Together, this team has provided an education that goes beyond just academics. They are essential to our organization, the students we serve, and the community we live in.

Utica City School District

Cortney Olmstead has worked for the Utica City School District since 2011. For the past five years, she has been a teacher at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary. She currently teaches the fifth grade but has taught first and third grade as well. Olmstead is an enthusiastic teacher who puts her heart into her lessons and instruction. She is always up for a challenge and is willing to do what it takes to make sure her students learn grade level skills and concepts. Olmstead has taken on distance learning with great determination and interest. She spends her days reaching out to her students to ensure they are signing into her Google Classroom, engaging in new instruction and completing lessons. Spending an hour on an individual phone call to ensure that a struggling student understands a lesson is something she does regularly. Although her students and colleagues get to see her via ZOOM, they all miss her high energy and fun personality.

Eastern Star Day Care

The families at **Eastern Star Day Care** feel so lucky that they have a caring group of teachers providing the

foundation necessary for the kids to learn and thrive. The entire staff makes such an amazing difference in our children's lives. They are well-trained and educated, and provide a loving and learning atmosphere to meet the needs of every individual child. Young working families often struggle to find the right learning environment for their children. We are very fortunate to have the teachers who care about our kids as if they are their own.

Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES

Janet Jury is a New Visions teacher at the Career and Technical Education Center at OHM BOCES. As part of the curriculum in this course for college-bound students, Jury also teaches government and economics through vibrant, entertaining lessons to engage students. Additionally, she instructs students in four sections of dual credit courses. During the school shut down, she has been challenged not only with maintaining the rigor of New Visions but also with providing content to replace the internships that students are now unable to attend. Jury has immersed herself in learning to utilize online platforms for instruction. Throughout the school closure, she continues to send encouraging messages to her students to support them in these difficult times while keeping them on their regular schedule as she continues pushing them forward in their academic journeys. On the day of Governor Cuomo's announcement extending the closure through the remainder of the school year, Jury's inbox was inundated with student messages lamenting their lost opportunity to complete their senior year in her classroom. Jury will be retiring at the end of this school year and her positive influence on her colleagues will be felt for years to come.

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