

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Daniela Beechner

TEACHER

Daniela Beechner shows initiative and works collaboratively. She works seamlessly with the math team, scheduling students, and organizing classes so that maximum instructions are delivered. She is truly a DWSA star!

DENZEL WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Monica Johnson
TEACHER

Monica Johnson has become an arts leader. She took on additional responsibilities by working with the Wendy Wasserstein project. She is inspiring a new generation of dancers while teaching social emotional skills.

DENZEL WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Patricia Brown

TEACHER

Patricia Brown is not only a stellar teacher, she is an awesome organizer. She assists with testing, while encouraging students to be passionate about reading.

DENZEL WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Susan Whyte

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Susan Whyte has become essential to the DWSA team. She is an organizer, and she loves her students. She pours herself into everything that she does with excellence and integrity.

DENZEL WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Kevin Sibblies

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Kevin Sibblies' love for the children is so obvious.
His enthusiasm and effervescence is so refreshing.
He greets every student with a smile.

DENZEL WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Danisha Fountain

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Ms. Fountain embodies the creed of DWSA. She serves her community and her students with integrity. She loves her job and it shows.

DENZEL WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

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Avery Looney
TEACHER

Avery Looney consistently brings a positive, can-do attitude to everything she does. She willingly supports schoolwide initiatives using her creative talent to elevate our work beyond expectations. Colleagues regularly describe her as the best art teacher they have worked with, not just for her instructional skills, but for her creative lessons. She takes pride in her work and makes our school feel inspiring for scholars and staff alike.

REBECCA TURNER ACADEMY



REBECCA TURNER ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants RECOGNITION 2026

Saroya Brown
TEACHER

Saroya Brown consistently plans engaging, student-centered lessons that meet scholars exactly where they are. She thoughtfully differentiates instruction, ensuring all scholars are actively involved and challenged throughout the lesson. Her deep knowledge of her students allows her to provide targeted, individualized support when needed. She brings creativity and her own unique style to instruction and the classroom environment, and it's clear from her classroom culture that scholars genuinely enjoy learning with her.

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Jacqueline Ojeda
TEACHER

Jacqueline Ojeda is a strong and consistent advocate for her scholars, ensuring they are fully included in all aspects of school life. She actively creates opportunities for them to make announcements, lead presentations, and be visible leaders within our school community. Beyond her classroom, she is always willing to assist wherever needed and plays an active role on school committees and teams. Her efforts to help make our hallways welcoming and inviting reflect her commitment to creating an inclusive, supportive school environment for all.

REBECCA TURNER ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Marsha Hunter
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Marsha Hunter stepped up and led the class during a transition period until a certified special education teacher was in place. She did not simply “hold the room”, she planned purposeful lessons, prepared the classroom for learning, and ensured scholars continued to make progress. She remains creative, responsive, and proactive in meeting scholars’ needs, including effectively de-escalating behaviors and building on her knowledge of each scholar’s strengths, interests, and needs. Her initiative and commitment made a meaningful difference for her scholars and the classroom community.

REBECCA TURNER ACADEMY



REBECCA TURNER ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants **RECOGNITION 2026**

Lorretta Weekes
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Lorretta Weekes confidently leads the class in the absence of a teacher and does so with purpose and skill. She develops lessons aligned to scholars' individual needs and interests and effectively supervises colleagues to ensure intentional, coordinated support during instruction. She demonstrates strong classroom management and has successfully transformed behaviors of scholars who were previously considered challenging. Currently pursuing her teaching certification, she is already demonstrating the mindset and practice of an effective educator and is well on her way to becoming an outstanding teacher.

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Jacinta Peter
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Jacinta Peter effectively leads the class in the absence of a teacher and plans lessons that are responsive to scholars' individual needs. She collaborates well with colleagues and maintains a proactive approach to classroom management, creating a structured and supportive learning environment. As a result of her intentional support, scholars in her class are demonstrating clear growth. Her positive, nurturing spirit has truly transformed the classroom climate.

REBECCA TURNER ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Stephanie Di Matteo
TEACHER

Stephanie Di Matteo is a dedicated and consistent kindergarten teacher who has served our district for 12 years. As a mentor and team player, she brings strong pedagogy, patience, and joy to learning. She maximizes instructional time and ensures every student receives a full, meaningful kindergarten experience.

EDWARD WILLIAMS SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Kristen Herbert
TEACHER

Kristen Herbert is an organized and devoted Pre-K teacher who leads her classroom with integrity. She collaborates closely with her support team and works tirelessly to prepare our youngest learners for kindergarten.

EDWARD WILLIAMS SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Ashley Fortuna
TEACHER

Ashley Fortuna is committed to supporting students and staff in every capacity. As our Title I coordinator and a special educator, she went above and beyond this year by stepping back into the classroom to fill a vacancy and ensure students continued receiving high-quality instruction. She is a true team player who leads with dedication and heart.

EDWARD WILLIAMS SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Ericka Morrison-Hassell
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Ericka Morrison-Hassell is a hardworking and attentive Pre-K teaching assistant who consistently supports students with care, dedication, and mindfulness.

EDWARD WILLIAMS SCHOOL

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Andrea Ramsey
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Andrea Ramsey is a vital part of our school community. She ensures our bus students are well cared for and has been an exceptional classroom assistant, always dependable and student-focused.

EDWARD WILLIAMS SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Karen Morris
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Karen Morris brings creativity and intentionality to her role. Her beautifully crafted, themed bulletin boards help brighten and elevate our school environment for all.



EDWARD WILLIAMS SCHOOL

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Sharon Allwood
TEACHER

Sharon Allwood is a hard worker and cares about her students. She uses best practices in the classroom and her students are motivated and respectful.

GRIMES SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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RECOGNITION 2026



Donna Bailey
TEACHER

Donna Bailey has tremendous work ethic and goes above and beyond in the classroom. She wants to see our students win. She is versatile and gets results from the students in her class.

GRIMES SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Tom Itri
TEACHER

Tom Itri functions as a third administrator in our building. He supports the scheduling team, handles coverage, and ensures students have great field-day activities. Mr. Itri is collaborative, a team player, and an essential piece to our Grimes teams.

GRIMES SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Charlicia Watson
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Charlicia Watson is the building unifier. She helps to strengthen morale and she goes above and beyond for our Grimes students.

GRIMES SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Marcia Brown

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Marcia Brown is a team player and willing to help administration in multiple ways.

GRIMES SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Sharon Young
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Sharon Young is the leader among our teaching assistants. She ensures that the teaching assistants' voices are heard. When the classroom teacher is out, the students don't miss a beat. She is great at what she does.

GRIMES SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants RECOGNITION 2026



Annalynn Taylor
TEACHER

Annalynn Taylor exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding educator. Her classroom is consistently vibrant and engaging, creating an environment where learning thrives. Students demonstrate deep respect and admiration for her, a testament to the strong relationships she fosters. Beyond her instructional excellence, Ms. Taylor goes above and beyond to ensure her scholars have access to culturally relevant, high-interest literature that reflects their experiences and broadens their perspectives. Her dedication to student success extends well beyond the classroom, making her an invaluable asset to our school community.

HAMILTON SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Monsia Allen
TEACHER

Monsia Allen's passion and vibrant energy are felt throughout the entire building. There is not a single day that goes by without hearing her actively and enthusiastically engaging her students in the Foundations program. Her dedication to literacy instruction is matched only by her deep commitment to her students' growth and success. Mrs. Allen consistently demonstrates the core values of Love, Leadership, Optimism, Virtue, and Excellence in her daily practice, making her an exceptional educator and a true asset to our school community.

HAMILTON SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Sandra Dannenhoffer
TEACHER

Sandra Dannenhoffer is an exceptional educator whose dedication to her students and leadership within the PTA make a lasting impact on our school community. Her passion for teaching is evident in her constant smile, positive presence, and deep knowledge of her craft. Whether delivering strong instruction in Math or leading effective Foundations lessons, she is always at the forefront—teaching, learning, and collaborating with her colleagues. Mrs. Dannenhoffer is a true leader, a role model for both students and staff, and truly a gem within our school.

HAMILTON SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026

Jheanell Isaacs

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Jheanell Isaacs demonstrates outstanding professionalism through her immaculate attendance, reliability, and dedication to her students and team. She is an active and engaged member of the 8:1:2 classroom, always ready to assist, support, and step into leadership when needed. Her positive attitude, collaborative spirit, and “gung-ho” approach to her work make her an invaluable part of our school community and a tremendous support to both students and staff.



HAMILTON SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
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HAMILTON SCHOOL

Candice Seawright
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Ms. Candice Seawright is the definition of reliability and excellence. She is truly the “Swiss Army knife” of Hamilton a staff member who consistently rises to every challenge and can always be counted on to step in, lead, and roll up her sleeves wherever the need is greatest. From student bussing and daily operations to classroom coverage and crisis support, Ms. Seawright handles each responsibility with professionalism, urgency, and a positive spirit. Her willingness to go above and beyond, often without being asked, makes her a true diamond within our building and an indispensable asset to both staff and students.

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Annette Lugo
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Annette Lugo is an exceptional team player whose dedication to students is evident in everything she does. As a vital member of the Special Education classroom, she consistently goes above and beyond to support her students' academic, social, and personal needs. Ms. Lugo is never hesitant to step in wherever she is needed — whether providing direct instruction, assisting with daily routines, or supporting students with personal care and toileting. Her hands-on approach, patience, and compassion create a safe and nurturing environment where students feel supported and valued. Ms. Lugo works seamlessly with her colleagues, always placing the needs of students first and strengthening the entire instructional team through her reliability and positive attitude. She is truly an indispensable part of our Special Education program and a powerful example of what it means to serve with heart.

HAMILTON SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Kaylan Robstad
TEACHER

Kaylan Robstad makes meaningful connections with the students she serves as a reading specialist. She is also involved with many school-wide events such as the science fair, family math night, and parent involvement day. She always has a smile on her face and works to support her fellow colleagues.

LINCOLN SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
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John Reynolds
TEACHER

In addition to being a dynamic social studies teacher to our middle school students, John Reynolds also leads the Lincoln student government. Mr. Reynolds also is instrumental in planning eighth grade activities, such as the prom and trip to Holiday Hills.

LINCOLN SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026

Modesta Spies
TEACHER

Modesta Spies is often the first one here and the last one to leave. She works tirelessly to support her fourth grade students. She is also a mentor to fellow colleagues and an MVFT union representative.



LINCOLN SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Mark Gayle
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Mark Gayle creates bonds with the students he serves. He encourages and promotes positive behavior in the classroom. Mr. Gayle always have a positive attitude and is admired by staff and students.

LINCOLN SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Jeaneen Strand
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Jeaneen Strand serves her students with a calm and patient demeanor. She encourages students to be their best. She often volunteers to use her creative talents to assist colleagues with bulletin boards and art projects.

LINCOLN SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Duranda Mack
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Ms. Mack has a warm and friendly manner which brightens the days of those around her. She has a good sense of humor and creates special bonds with students.

LINCOLN SCHOOL



MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants RECOGNITION 2026

Nicole Ambrosio

TEACHER

Nicole Ambrosio deserves to be recognized for her steady dedication, professionalism, and genuine commitment to supporting our school community. She consistently steps up when needed, offering help with a positive attitude and a willingness to do whatever it takes to make our school run smoothly. Her reliability and calm, solutions-oriented approach make her an invaluable member of our team.

NELSON MANDELA/DR. HOSEA ZOLLICOFFER SCHOOL



MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants RECOGNITION 2026

Isabel Garcia

TEACHER

Isabel Garcia deserves to be recognized for her consistent dedication and willingness to support our school wherever she is needed. She brings a positive attitude, reliability, and a strong commitment to helping students and staff alike. Her steady presence and teamwork make a meaningful difference each day.

NELSON MANDELA/DR. HOSEA ZOLLICOFFER SCHOOL



MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants RECOGNITION 2026

Simone Oliver
TEACHER

Simone Oliver deserves to be celebrated because she brings creativity, initiative, and an unwavering commitment to the success of our entire school community. Her ability to think outside the box consistently elevates the learning environment for students and colleagues alike. She doesn't wait to be asked—she anticipates needs, offers solutions, and steps forward with positivity and purpose. Her leadership in starting our SCAT Team (Student Centered Activities Team) is a perfect example of her impact. She identified a schoolwide need, took ownership of the idea, and transformed it into a meaningful structure that strengthens support for students and staff. This kind of forward thinking doesn't just make our school run more smoothly—it builds culture, fosters collaboration, and helps us serve students more effectively. Her dedication reflects a deep belief in our mission and a genuine love for the work. Recognizing her honors not only the contributions she has already made, but also the spirit of service and innovation that she models for others. She truly makes our building better every single day.

NELSON MANDELA/DR. HOSEA ZOLLIFFER SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
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Maria Green
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Maria Green deserves to be recognized because she consistently goes above and beyond in everything she does. She is the kind of educator who steps in wherever she is needed—willingly, graciously, and with a genuine desire to support our school community. Whether she is assisting colleagues, responding to student needs, or taking on additional responsibilities, she approaches every task with professionalism, creativity, and heart.

NELSON MANDELA/DR. HOSEA ZOLLICOFFER SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants RECOGNITION 2026



Rhoda Hughes-Morrison
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Rhoda Hughes-Morrison deserves recognition because she continues to go above and beyond. Her willingness to help at any moment, in any area, reflects her deep commitment to our students and our shared mission. Her reliability and positive attitude make her a true asset to our building, and her contributions strengthen the culture and operations of our school each day. She exemplifies what it means to be a team player.

NELSON MANDELA/DR. HOSEA ZOLLIFFER SCHOOL



MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
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Ronald Limato

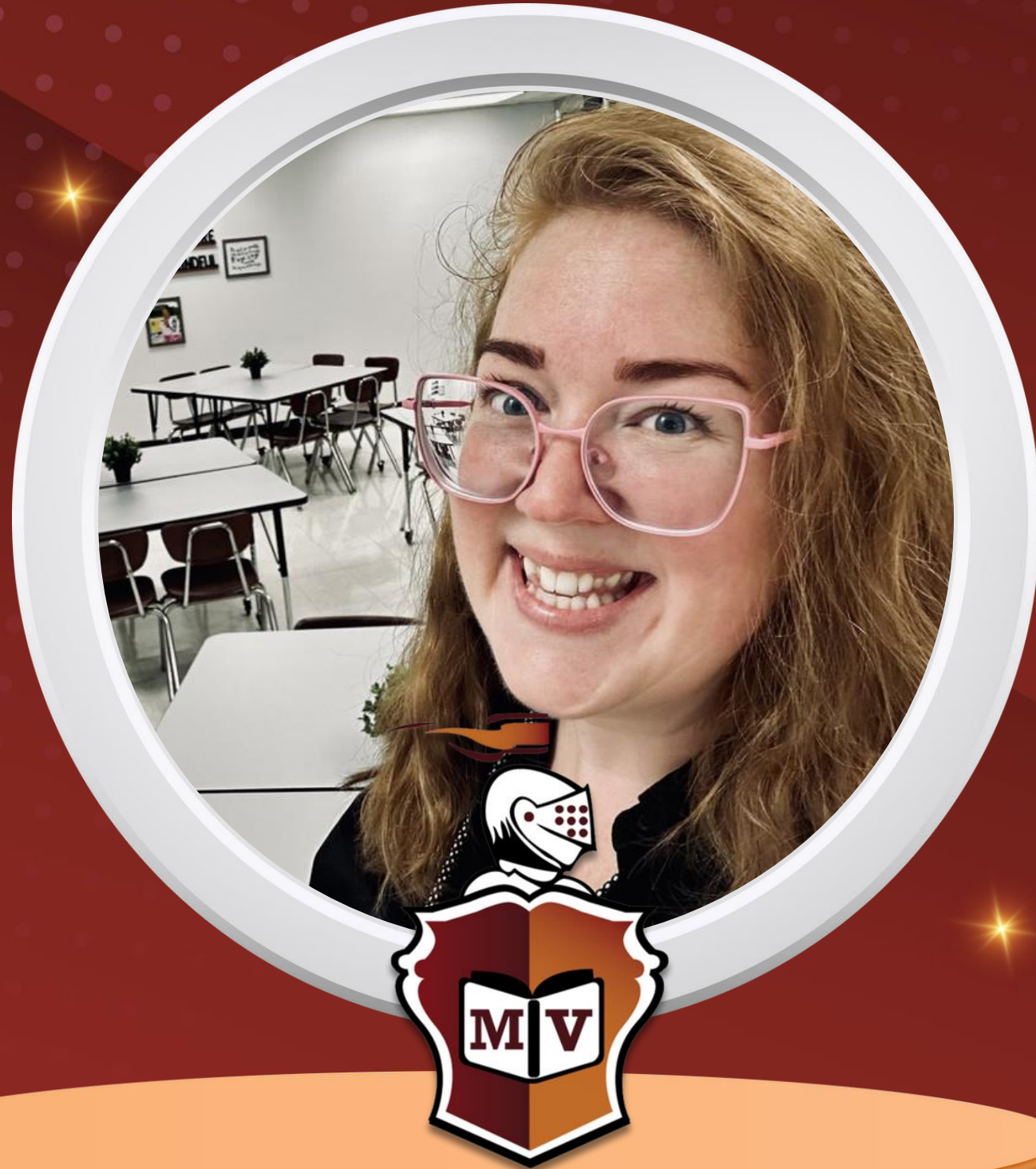
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Ronald Limato deserves to be recognized for his unwavering dedication, reliability, and constant willingness to support our school community. He consistently goes above and beyond his daily responsibilities, stepping in wherever he is needed and doing so with professionalism, kindness, and a genuine commitment to our students and staff.

NELSON MANDELA/DR. HOSEA ZOLLICOFFER SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Ashley Wallace
TEACHER

Ashley Wallace does the monthly newsletter and is a member of the school climate committee.

MOUNT VERNON STEAM ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Alton Hyman
TEACHER

Alton Hyman organized the first STEAM-Giving celebration in November. Actively involved in the Sunshine club.

MOUNT VERNON STEAM ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
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Laura Grosso

TEACHER

Laura Grosso successfully administered the PSAT, SAT, and STEAM Entrance Exams.

MOUNT VERNON STEAM ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Cherylann Wallace
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Cherylann Wallace is very willing to assist the staff
as a new TA to STEAM.

MOUNT VERNON STEAM ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Shevonne Philip

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Shevonne Philip is a hard working TA who is flexible who has a good relation with staff and student.

MOUNT VERNON STEAM ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Lady Matos
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Lady Matos is hard working and pleasant TA who follows through with her duties.

MOUNT VERNON STEAM ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
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Douglas Marolla
TEACHER

With more than 30 years of dedicated service to our district, Mr. Marolla continues to exemplify what it means to be a committed and passionate educator. His steady presence, sharp wit, and unwavering dedication have left a lasting impact on generations of students. Each evening, he remains long after the final bell—carefully grading student work and thoughtfully preparing for the next day's learning. Always willing to step up and embrace new courses, he consistently adapts to meet the evolving needs of our programs. We are grateful for his tireless service and celebrate his outstanding contribution to our school community.

MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026

Sonia Flannory
TEACHER

Sonia Flannory is the kind of educator whose commitment transforms student outcomes and inspires an entire school community. Known affectionately as the “Word Whisperer,” she willingly gives up her lunch periods and stays after school each day to support students in mastering the skills they need to succeed. Her dedication shows in the results—every student who prepares for the Regents exam with her passes. Colleagues describe her as an exceptional educator; students say she is an amazing human being. Sonia’s generosity of time, her deep belief in her students, and her unwavering passion for teaching make her a model of excellence. We are proud to celebrate her remarkable impact and honor her as Teacher of the Month.



MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL



MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants **RECOGNITION 2026**

Margarite Tsiakas
TEACHER

Margarite Tsiakas brings unwavering structure, preparation, and professionalism to every one of her classes. Her lessons are thoughtfully organized, her expectations are clear, and her students benefit each day from the consistency and care she brings to the classroom. Beyond her work with students, Margarite generously extends her expertise to her colleagues, offering support, guidance, and collaboration whenever it is needed. Even as a new mom balancing many responsibilities, Margarite manages her time with remarkable intention—ensuring that her students are always served with excellence. She follows through on every commitment, models reliability, and sets a standard of dedication that strengthens our school community. We proudly recognize Margarite Tsiakas for her exceptional work and her steadfast commitment to our students and staff.

MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL



MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants **RECOGNITION 2026**

Ramona Rodriguez
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Ramona Rodriguez brings a remarkable energy and spirit to our school—one that uplifts everyone around her. Her school pride is truly infectious, and it shows in the thoughtful and creative ways she beautifies our shared spaces. Romona consistently updates our bulletin boards with messages that highlight the importance of literacy and social-emotional learning, ensuring that students are surrounded by positive, meaningful reminders each day. She takes great care in adorning hallways and common areas, transforming them into welcoming, comforting, and homelike environments where students and staff feel valued. Her attention to detail and dedication to creating an inviting atmosphere contribute greatly to the overall culture of our school. We are proud to recognize Romona Rodriguez for her creativity, her school spirit, and her unwavering commitment to making our building a warm and inspiring place for all.

MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL



MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants RECOGNITION 2026

Andre Upson
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Andre Upson brings a calm, caring presence to our school community each and every day. Known for his welcoming nature, he meets students and staff with patience, kindness, and an unwavering willingness to help. His giving spirit shines through in every interaction—whether he is offering support in the classroom, lending a hand to a colleague, or taking the extra time to make sure a student feels seen and supported. Andre's reliability, compassion, and steady demeanor make him an essential part of our school family. His daily contributions strengthen our culture and ensure that our students experience the warmth and encouragement they need to thrive. We are proud to honor Andre Upson for his kindness, generosity, and outstanding commitment to the well-being of our school community.

MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants RECOGNITION 2026



Lylia Anderson
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Lylia Anderson embodies kindness, generosity, and true selflessness in everything she does. Reliable and deeply committed, she consistently steps into a teacher's role with commendable excellence—always prepared, always steady, and always focused on what is best for students. Lylia has a remarkable gift for connecting with even our most challenging learners. Her patience, empathy, and calm presence create an environment where students feel understood, supported, and capable. If “selfless” were a person, it would be her—she is continuously willing to help, serve, and lift up those around her. Her contributions extend far beyond her formal responsibilities. Lylia is the colleague you can count on, the support every teacher values, and the caring adult every student deserves. We proudly honor Lylia Anderson for her extraordinary heart, her unwavering reliability, and her exceptional dedication to our school community.

MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Nicole Boone-Muckler
TEACHER

Nicole Boone-Muckler has worked diligently with our students and is a tremendous asset to our middle school team. Her dedication and commitment are truly appreciated.

PENNINGTON SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Stacia Johnson
TEACHER

As a newer teacher, Stacia Johnson has quickly made a positive impact in both elementary and special education. She organized our first coat drive this year and brings enthusiasm and initiative to our school community. She has a bright future ahead.

PENNINGTON SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
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Victoria Katechis
TEACHER

Victoria Katechis is an incredible asset to Pennington. As a team leader, she brings people together and helps keep everyone connected and moving forward.

PENNINGTON SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Kerry Bradshaw
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Kerry Bradshaw is a true asset to our building. She is always visible, approachable, and ready to jump in wherever she's needed. She supports our teachers with a positive attitude and genuine care, and her presence makes a real difference each day.

PENNINGTON SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Tiffany Wright
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Tiffany Wright works as a 1:1 assistant and is always available when support is needed. She is dependable, responsive, and consistently willing to step in to help students and staff.

PENNINGTON SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
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Donna Menzie
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Donna Menzie consistently goes above and beyond in her support of our students. She willingly assists in multiple roles, including helping with morning bus arrival, and does so with flexibility, positivity, and a constant smile.

PENNINGTON SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Megan Carlisto
TEACHER

Megan Carlisto, a resource teacher, is a consummate professional who continually seeks to strengthen her instructional practice to best meet the needs of the students she serves. She collaborates closely with classroom teachers to develop engaging lesson plans, provide appropriate accommodations, and maintain open communication with families. Ms. Carlisto serves on several building-level committees and is an integral member of the MTSS team.

TRAPHAGEN SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Lauren Petrillo

TEACHER

Lauren Petrillo is a dedicated professional who demonstrates compassion, care, and strong support for her students. She is intentional in her planning to meet the diverse needs of all learners. She consistently comes prepared to MTSS meetings with progress-monitoring data and samples of student work, ensuring meaningful discussion and effective decision-making.

TRAPHAGEN SCHOOL



TRAPHAGEN SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants **RECOGNITION 2026**

Lisa DeSalvo
TEACHER

Lisa DeSalvo, a third-grade teacher, works closely and collaboratively with her grade-level colleagues. She continually seeks opportunities to develop and refine her instructional practice. Ms. DeSalvo has been intentionally working on strengthening student engagement strategies in her classroom so that all students are actively engaged in learning rather than simply complying. She is highly receptive to feedback and applies it to enhance her instruction. Ms. DeSalvo comes prepared to all PLC and MTSS meetings, bringing student work samples and progress-monitoring tools that support meaningful discussion and informed decision-making.

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Denada Golemi
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Ms. Golemi is well respected by her colleagues, administration, parents, students, and staff. She is compassionate, caring, supportive, and encouraging with all the students she works with. Ms. Golemi consistently puts forth the effort needed to support students with disabilities. She is patient and works closely with the classroom teacher to design and implement targeted instructional strategies, provide accommodations, and ensure that each student's individual needs are met effectively.

TRAPHAGEN SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants RECOGNITION 2026



Reno Benitez
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Reno Benitez takes initiative in every learning situation and forms positive, trusting relationships with students. He is well respected by students, staff, parents, and administration. Mr. Benitez is compassionate and caring with all students and works closely with the classroom teacher to implement and deliver effective lessons. He demonstrates strong classroom-management skills and connects well with learners of all backgrounds and needs. Mr. Benitez is a valued member of our school community who is flexible, supportive, and consistently willing to go above and beyond to meet the needs of students and staff. His positive attitude and collaborative spirit make him an asset to every classroom he supports.

TRAPHAGEN SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Latisha Glover
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Latisha Glover is an enthusiastic, loving, compassionate, and caring teaching assistant who builds strong, positive rapport with all students she supports. She is professional and works collaboratively with the classroom teacher to ensure instructional consistency. Ms. Glover works effectively with students in small groups and provides targeted support aligned with their IEP goals and accommodations. She is flexible, supportive, and collaborative in all learning environments. Ms. Glover is receptive to constructive feedback and thoughtfully applies it to her practice.

TRAPHAGEN SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Rita Colucci
TEACHER

Rita Colucci focuses on teaching and learning. She cares and supports students, co-workers and the administration. She is also a MVFT Building Representative.

GRAHAM SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



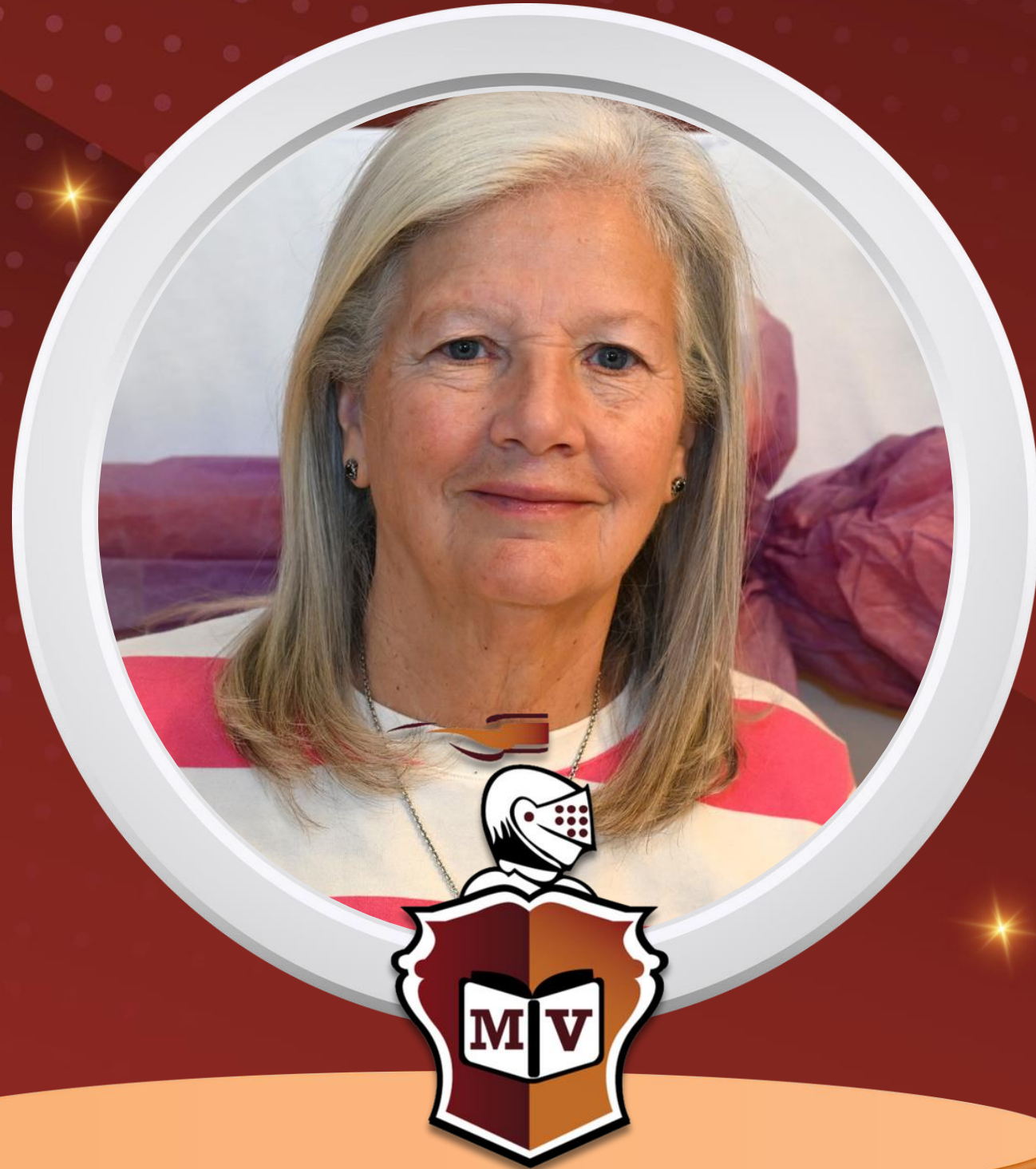
Anthony Puleo
TEACHER

Anthony Puleo has excellent attendance. He is passionate about student achievement in the MS math and regents course.

GRAHAM SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Annabelle Strozza
TEACHER

Annabelle Strozza goes above and beyond to support students, families, staff and the administration. She is an amazing asset to Graham School and the MVCSD for the past 19 years!

GRAHAM SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Karen Manna
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Beside being a teaching assistant, Karen Manna is a bus monitor ensuring students arrive and depart safely. She is simply dedicated! She supports the Pre-k program and always willing to lend a helping hand.

GRAHAM SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Cynthia Melendez
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Cynthia Melendez works above and beyond to support the Pre-k program. She is patient and supportive of students and colleagues.

GRAHAM SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Keisha Esson
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Keisha Esson is always hands-on and willing to lend support. She has a positive attitude and works tirelessly to support student needs daily.

GRAHAM SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Omar Lammie
TEACHER

Omar Lammie is a consummate professional who works well with colleagues and serves as a resource to the entire school community.

BENJAMIN TURNER ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Gabrielle Gilpin

TEACHER

Gabrielle Gilpin serves as a mentor and role model within the speech and language community. She is patient and takes great pride in her role to provide communicative services.

BENJAMIN TURNER ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Nicole Giustino
TEACHER

Nicole Giustino is a Kindergarten Teacher extraordinaire! She is nurturing and brings lessons to life with our precious and inquisitive kindergarteners.

BENJAMIN TURNER ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Kadeen Jarrett
TEACHER

Kadeen Jarrett is patient, calm and creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere for her students.

BENJAMIN TURNER ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Lauren Brown
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Lauren Brown has exemplified leadership in and outside of the classroom. She serves as an integral member of the 8th grade graduation committee and resident photographer

BENJAMIN TURNER ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Ebony Bannister
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Ebony Bannister is an all-around team player who does not hesitate to assist in any capacity. She is beloved by students, staff and is a role model.

BENJAMIN TURNER ACADEMY

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers & Teaching Assistants
RECOGNITION 2026



Deja Lovitt
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Deja Lovitt has adapted to her role and provides ongoing support in the classroom.

BENJAMIN TURNER ACADEMY