



Memorandum

To: Board of Education
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications
RE: Extra Mile Service Award
Date: August 20, 2024

Grace Brownell is a music teacher at Apple Glen Elementary and a nine-year Bentonville Schools veteran. She was nominated for the Extra Mile Award by an Apple Glen mother who was impressed by the work Grace put into a production of the musical *Annie*. In her nomination, she wrote, "From casting to rehearsals, every aspect of the production was meticulously handled by Mrs. Brownell. She not only ensured that each student found his or her place in the production but also pushed them to strive for excellence, helping them discover and nurture their artistic and musical abilities."

Grace shared with us she enjoys her role in Bentonville Schools because it allows her to instill an interest in music in each child she encounters. She said her love for musicals, the music and the dancing inspired her to bring the hard knock life to the Apple Glen stage.

"Growing up, *Annie* was my favorite musical. I felt as though I was Annie," she told us. "The story line, the music and the dancing drew me in!"

Musicals, she says, provide ample opportunity for all students to identify their creative gifts. "From main parts, sound and tech, stage crew and chorus, each student had an opportunity to make it special," Grace said.

Please join us in appreciating Grace for her work at Apple Glen Elementary.

About the Extra Mile Award

Any individual may nominate a Bentonville Schools employee by going to our [website](#). Nominations will be considered by administration and that employee's direct supervisor. Nomination rules and regulations will be posted on the website prior to the start of the nomination process.