



Memorandum

To: Board of Education
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications
RE: Extra Mile Service Award
Date: December 17, 2024

We as a global community talk a lot about Christmas angels during the holiday season. If yuletide angels are more common this time of year, and we hope they are, they are joined by Marisa Snow.

Marisa is a 24-year veteran of Bentonville Schools and currently serves as a counselor at Vaughn Elementary. In 2022, she helped open that school, chartering the counseling program on campus. In previous years, she launched a mentoring program for middle school students, built an on-site community pantry and facilitated several programs to serve our most vulnerable students.

She was nominated by Vaughn Elementary mom, Anisha Fouse, who called out Marisa's work to pioneer a program called Eagles Give Back. The program, named for the Vaughn mascot, was created to serve students in need of necessities such as shoes, clothing and food over the weekend.

"Marisa shows up for everyone and everything. She's truly a blessing to Vaughn, and we're so lucky to have her," Anisha wrote in her nomination.

Marisa told us her priority is to serve students by being a safe place for them to spill out their emotions, the good, bad and the ugly.

"All kids need a champion, and I hope I'm that person for as many children as possible."

A champion, a protector or an angel. Any of those titles fit, as does a beautiful human, and we're proud to call her ours.

Please join us in appreciating Marisa Snow.