



Memorandum

To: Board of Education
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications
RE: Extra Mile Service Award
Date: November 13, 2025

Alyssa Cordell is a rising star in Bentonville Schools. While this is Alyssa's first year teaching, she quickly embraced the importance of career and technical coursework for junior high students. As the business teacher at Lincoln Jr. High School, Alyssa jumped into the district's first-ever Elev8 event to encourage her students to identify their purpose and path.

Alyssa teaches students skills that will serve them well long after they leave her classroom: how to apply for a job, what it means to maintain positive professional relationships and to think creatively to solve problems.

Kelly Boortz, Executive Director of Middle Level Education, noted Alyssa's work and nominated her for the Extra Mile Award.

"The curriculum tied to the Elev8 event is hands-on and engaging," Kelly wrote. "Alyssa has embraced the challenge, and she's leading the charge in our district to develop district lesson plans to set our students up for success in high school and beyond," she added.

Alyssa told us it's a beautiful challenge to study a child's personality and then tailor instruction to help that child long after graduation.

"I find it meaningful to help them develop skills that will support them throughout their lives," Alyssa said. "I also value the relationships I build with my students. Getting to know their strengths and goals allows me to support them in a way that feels personal and fulfilling."

Alyssa's efforts to prepare students for a professional future inspire confidence, and a confident student is more likely to do big things wherever life leads.

Join us as we celebrate Alyssa Cordell.

