



Memorandum

To: Board of Education
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications
RE: Extra Mile Service Award
Date: July 19, 2022

Maria Stevenson joined Willowbrook Elementary three years ago. During that time, Maria suffered immeasurable loss in the midst of the already painful COVID pandemic. While working to support the students and staff of Willowbrook, she lost her husband after he suffered a sudden heart attack. Don Hoover, Executive Director of Student Services, wrote, "Her perseverance during that time and her continued efforts to serve in our district are just a great example of the wonderful people that we have working here in Bentonville."

Maria has not only persevered, but she has grown in her role. Recently, she accepted the opportunity to serve all families in Bentonville as the summer registrar. In this capacity, she has helped many families get needed support rather than waiting for the start of school. The feedback we've received regarding Maria has been overwhelming and outstanding.

We asked her what has kept her going over these last three years. She told us that it is her faith in Jesus Christ and her desire to serve. "When our families are pleased, I'm happy."

Join us in appreciating Maria Stevenson, Willowbrook Elementary Registrar.

About the Extra Mile Award

Any individual may nominate a Bentonville Schools employee at bentonvillek12.org. Nominations will be considered by administration and that employee's direct supervisor. Nomination rules and considerations are posted on our website.