



Memorandum

To: Board of Education
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications
Date: December 15, 2020
RE: Extra Mile Service Award

Katy Moore is the December Extra Mile Award recipient. Mrs. Moore teaches AP Language and Composition at Bentonville West High School and was nominated no less than four times for this honor. Two of those nominations were submitted by students Jessica Johns and Emilio Arrietae. The word magical repeatedly surfaces when students talk of Mrs. Moore. She's clearly found a way to take the written language and present it in a way that transcends everyday lesson planning. Katy describes her classroom as a safe place where students are encouraged to fail forward. "Real learning requires risk," she says. She makes sure though to camouflage that risk so it doesn't feel intimidating. "Risk is hidden among the unicorns and polka dots and far too much glitter." Emilio and Jessica both spoke of her willingness to be vulnerable...her willingness to admit she doesn't know every answer. "In our classroom, we truly believe every voice has a place and a purpose. Every voice matters. And a few unicorns and a little glitter always help," Katy shared. This perfect combination of art, language and unguarded but safe discussion is difficult to label but, it resonates with her students and colleagues. And if students call it magic, so be it. Bentonville Schools is a better place for it.

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.