



Memorandum

To: Board of Education
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications
Date: November 17, 2020
RE: Extra Mile Service Award

We're proud to present counselor Ammie Burrow to the Bentonville Board of Education as our November Extra Mile Award recipient. Ammie was nominated by Elm Tree Elementary parent Elizabeth Gillespie. Elizabeth felt compelled to do so after watching Ammie with her kindergarten son, Gray, this year at Elm Tree. Kindergarten for a number of reasons, the most obvious being a global pandemic, brought reservations for the Gillespie family but there is an even more profound reason Gray was hesitant. When he was just two he lost his infant brother. As you might imagine saying goodbye is difficult for young Gray. Elizabeth made the point to connect with Gray's school counselor early and often so the staff at Elm Tree would be aware.

Ammie was prepared to welcome Gray to school on his first day. She took the time to teach him what it means to match our emotions to our problems. After reassuring Gray that mom would return for him at the end of every day, the two built a relationship based on trust. Gray eventually decided drop off was a small problem and, therefore, warranted a small response. The tears stopped.

Elizabeth now says Gray steps out of the car each morning with confidence and that has, in turn, given her confidence. Please join us in celebrating Ammie Burrow for going the Extra Mile for Gray, his family and so many Bentonville families in the last 26 years.

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.