

2026 YOU MATTER AWARD WINNER



John McHugh



Cynwyd Elementary School



John is one of the most caring, hardworking, committed, and positive people in our entire school community. He doesn't just "do his job," he makes families and kids feel like they truly matter. What stands out most is how consistently John shows up for the school community. He is outside each morning in the carpool line no matter the weather, including during the recent stretch of extreme cold, greeting children with a smile. He welcomes parents and guardians, helps kids safely out of cars with their backpacks and belongings, and makes sure every child gets into the building safely. That steady presence sends a powerful message to every student: you are seen, you are safe, and you belong here.

Behind the scenes, John takes enormous pride in keeping Cynwyd clean, organized, and ready for learning every day. Because of John and his dedicated team, our school feels cared for — not just maintained. It's clear he treats the building as more than a workplace; he treats it like a home for the entire Cynwyd community. John also goes above and beyond to support the HSA with whatever is needed, often early mornings, evenings, weekends — whenever help is required. He has even come out in the middle of winter storms to check on the school and ensure everything is safe and prepared ahead of snow and severe weather.

At times, I joke that he must live at the school — but what that really reflects is how deeply he cares. John McHugh is outstanding, and he absolutely deserves to be recognized for the way he supports students, staff, and families — and for the way he helps make Cynwyd a place where people feel valued and connected.