

Ashe County Schools Honors May Employees of the Month

Ashe County Schools is proud to recognize its **May Employees of the Month**, selected by their peers for the positive impact they make each day in their schools and classrooms. These dedicated employees play important roles in supporting students, staff, and school success through their hard work, leadership, and care for others.

The May Employees of the Month are:

- **Jimmy Black** — Instructional Assistant at Blue Ridge Elementary School
- **Laura Lipford** — Math Specialist at Westwood Elementary School



As an instructional assistant, **Jimmy Black** helps support students and teachers in the classroom each day, creating a positive and encouraging environment for learning. Colleagues say his caring attitude and dedication make a meaningful difference for both students and staff:

“Jimmy has been working hard to help out in all three 1st grade classrooms. He is always willing to do what he can to make things easier on everyone. The most important part is how wonderful he is with the kids — they all love him.”

“Jimmy is always positive! He truly loves the children and it shows in his everyday dedication to the classrooms.”

As Math Specialist at Westwood Elementary, **Laura Lipford** provides instructional support to students, collaborates closely with teachers, and helps guide data-driven decision making throughout the school. Her leadership and flexibility help ensure students receive the support they need to succeed in math. Her colleagues praised her:

“Laura is student centered. Each week her planning changes in an effort to meet the needs of staff and students. Her week-by-week schedule provides the flexibility necessary to serve the large number of students that require extra math help. In addition, she does all things data for school administration. She breaks down the numbers and helps us make data driven decisions. This extends to the staff where she weekly leads grade level Math PLCs.”

“Laura reinstated our Math Buddies Program where our 6th graders go help our kindergarten students with a math lesson prepared in advance (by Laura) on a topic that has just been covered by Kindergarten teachers. She has been instrumental in training a new teacher on the math standards and assisting her with lesson plans. The list goes on and on as to the impact she makes daily at WWES.”

Ashe County Schools congratulates Jimmy Black and Laura Lipford on this well-deserved recognition and thanks them for the many ways they support students, staff, and their school communities each day.