



PRESS RELEASE

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Annual West Bend School District Support Staff of the Year Awards Honor Five

West Bend — Five support staff employees of the West Bend School District have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to the West Bend School District with Support Staff of the Year Awards. Employees eligible include aides, coordinators, custodians and maintenance workers, drivers, clerical workers, school nutrition workers, or other office staff. The 2026 winners include:

Karen Eichmann, Instructional Tech, East and West High Schools

Karen brings an unmatched level of dedication to both students and staff and consistently approaches her work with enthusiasm, patience, and a strong belief that every student can succeed. Whether supporting students academically or helping them navigate challenges, she builds meaningful relationships that encourage growth, confidence, and accountability. In her role supporting students in the Academic Support Center and now the Freshman Focus Study Hall, Karen has consistently demonstrated flexibility and initiative. She took on a complex and evolving assignment and transformed it into a structured, supportive, and welcoming environment for students.

Kristine Glisch, Office Assistant, East and West High Schools

Since joining the West Bend School District in August 2021, Kristine has demonstrated exceptional dedication, adaptability, and professionalism in her service. She is an incredible asset to the WBHS office. Her ability to learn new skills and adapt to new responsibilities is remarkable. She approaches every task with an “all in” mindset and is consistently willing to support students, staff, and colleagues wherever needed. Her flexibility, efficiency, and strong work ethic allow her to manage multiple priorities at once while maintaining accuracy and professionalism in a fast-paced environment. She also fosters a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone who interacts with the office, whether student, staff member, or family.

Dawn Goralski, Instructional Tech, East and West High Schools

Dawn has made a lasting impact on countless students and colleagues through her dedication, patience, and care. She is known for the strong, supportive relationships she builds with students, particularly those who need additional guidance and encouragement. She consistently meets students where they are, helping them develop the academic and personal skills needed to succeed. Her ability to connect with students and earn their trust allows her to make a meaningful difference in their growth and confidence. Dawn approaches each day with empathy, positivity, and a strong work ethic.

Abby Haug Special Education Aide, Jackson Elementary

Abby has made a meaningful impact through her dedication to students, her collaborative spirit, and her commitment to continuous growth. She prioritizes relationships with students above all else, creating a safe, supportive environment where children feel valued and understood. Her ability to connect with students is truly remarkable. Abby builds trust and respect, allowing her to support students through both their challenges and successes. She is a steady and encouraging presence, always willing to try new strategies and adapt to meet individual needs.

Maija Mayer, Administrative Assistant, West Athletics

Maija is an indispensable member of the West Bend West Athletic Department. She ensures that schedules, transportation, eligibility needs, communication, and daily operational details are accurately coordinated and consistently maintained. Her ability to anticipate needs, respond quickly to changing circumstances, and keep complex logistics organized allows the athletic department to function smoothly and efficiently. She is known for her professionalism, accuracy, and unwavering commitment to supporting students, staff, coaches, and families. In addition to her technical expertise, Maija is recognized for her approachable and positive demeanor.

The West Bend Joint School District #1 is proud to serve about 5,000 students and their families from the city of West Bend, villages of Jackson and Newburg, and townships of Barton, Polk, Trenton, Jackson, West Bend, and Addison. We strive to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts, and co-curricular activities. Within our community-based 4K program, Head Start program, five elementary schools (K-4), one intermediate school (5-6), one middle school (7-8), and two high schools (9-12), families can expect a caring, inclusive learning environment that supports the development of the whole child. Visit www.west-bend.k12.wi.us for more information.

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