



ACE AWARDS



A Champion in Education

MAY 4, 2023
SOUTH EUGENE HIGH SCHOOL
EUGENE SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J



2023 ACE AWARDS CELEBRATION

5:00 p.m.
Reception

Music by
South Eugene High School String Quartet

Food by
South Fork Catering (South Eugene High School Culinary Arts)

6:00 p.m.
Awards Ceremony

Musical Performance by
Gillian Harris-Swem and Wilder Teague

Introduction
Matt Templeman, Emcee

Welcome Remarks
Dr. Andy Dey, Superintendent

Recognition of Nominees & Presentation of Awards

Dr. Andy Dey, Superintendent
Collina Beard, 4J Chief Administrative Officer
Jenna McCulley, 4J Director of Communications

2023 ACE Award: Administrator & Supervisor
2023 ACE Award: Classified Staff
2023 ACE Award: Volunteer
2023 ACE Award: Teacher & Licensed Specialist
2023 ACE Award: Lifetime Achievement

Good Night
Matt Templeman, Emcee

ABOUT THE ACE AWARDS

Eugene School District 4J has exceptional staff and volunteers who make a difference for students every day. A Champion in Education (ACE) Awards honor 4J employees and volunteers who have been nominated by students, parents and colleagues for their excellence in education.

ACE Nomination Categories

Administrator & Supervisor

This category recognizes administrators, managers, professional staff and supervisors for their steadfast commitment to the development of both staff and students, their encouragement of staff to create environments where students love learning, their advocacy for the school, the district and education, and contributions to the community.

Classified Staff

This category includes office managers and other clerical support, educational assistants, bus drivers, food service workers, custodians and other classified employees. It recognizes them for their support of the education mission, their dedication to enhancing the student experience through collaboration and communication and their commitment to fostering a safe and positive school environment.

Volunteer

Volunteers play an invaluable role in our schools. This category includes anyone who consistently contributes time and/or resources on a volunteer basis to a school and demonstrates dedication to supporting students' needs through encouragement, mentorship and inspiration, addressing significant needs of the school, and helping to connect the school with the community.

Teacher & Licensed Specialist

This category recognizes teachers and licensed specialists, such as counselors and nurses, for their commitment to guiding students to reach their full potential, leading both through instruction and teamwork, and effectively communicating with and positively influencing both the school community and the community at large.

Lifetime Achievement

This award honors an individual (often, but not necessarily, at or nearing retirement) who has dedicated their career to supporting and strengthening education and helping students grow, thrive and reach their fullest potential.

2023 ACE AWARD NOMINEES



Administrators & Supervisors

Bernadette Adeniran, Administrator, Human Resources Department

"In my nearly decade in public service, I've never met anyone as dedicated to serving the needs of a school district as Bernadette. I find it a privilege and honor to know her and call her a colleague, and I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award."

Eric Anderson, Director of Curriculum, Instruction Department

"Eric is known as the go-to for all things curricula, receiving multiple calls a day from people across the district seeking his experience, expertise and know-how for information and advice. Eric is helpful, kind, resourceful and happy to offer service, no matter the task. Eric simply sees what needs to be done and does it; this is just who Eric is."

Peter Barsotti, Principal, Madison Middle School

"Peter deserves to be honored for his compassion, commitment to students, transparent communication, and for the all-around great example that he sets for students. He treats the middle school students with respect and compassion, always taking time to explain how and why decisions are made and giving them options for moving forward with autonomy. He doesn't treat them like little kids but rather like the adults that he hopes they will become."

Hobie Blackhorn, Principal, Camas Ridge Elementary School

"Hobie has worked tirelessly with us all, students, staff and families, to bring Camas back to itself. He believes in our collective vision of Camas as a community and has fostered staff and families to come back together to create the amazing-ness that is Camas — a school full of wonder, growth and exploration, and a community full of love, joy and compassion. We all keep remarking that Camas feels like Camas once again!"

Dana Brummett, Principal, McCornack Elementary School

"Dana is the embodiment of what an elementary school principal should be. She focuses on the wellbeing of each student as a whole and individual human, and advocates for each one tirelessly as if they were her own. I smile each day when I see students running to visit her in the morning—gone is the scary principal trope of my youth. The kids at McCornack know if they need support in any way, Ms. Dana will come through for them."

Regine Childs, *Assistant Principal, Sheldon High School*

"The level of kindness, dedication and professionalism that Regine shows on a daily basis is more than any other administrator that I have previously worked with. She will take the time to answer any question or address any concern no matter how small it may seem. Regine is an absolute gem and she should be cherished."

Ann Christianson, *Regional Equity Manager, North Eugene High School*

"Ann stands up for what is right. She speaks up about what is wrong. She models love and empowerment for all those around her. She is wholeheartedly committed to the students and families in the North Region. Ann is what a true champion looks like."

Laura Clark, *Assistant Principal, Churchill High School*

"Laura is a servant leader. She is calm, collected, organized and a steady presence at our school. She is an anchor and has helped keep things moving throughout our crazy year. She listens, understands and follows through with her commitments."

Missy Cole, *Principal, Churchill High School*

"Missy is a level headed leader who has helped the community in ways that cannot be put into words. She has provided leadership to the school staff, teachers and students in a way that cannot be trained nor explained but simply because she has that 'it' factor that cannot be taught. What an incredible principal and we are lucky that she is leading Churchill! She is an absolutely wonderful person who leads the school with her contagiously positive attitude."

Josh Davies, *Administrator, NATIVES Program*

"Josh has done an exceptional job this year with the NATIVES program. He is here to help Native kids feel connected to their culture while also teaching all students about Native culture. The shoes he is filling are big but he is overachieving on the expectations the NATIVES community had at the beginning of the year. He is always engaging with the kids and helping them with anything they might need. The NATIVES program and our greater 4J community is so lucky to have Josh and his wonderful family with us."

Lancelot Falcon, *Assistant Principal, Churchill High School*

"Lance is a very passionate and kind-hearted assistant principal, he reminds us of why we get up and come to school everyday to become smart and learn life lessons and skills we need to know. He encourages us through every step of the way. He has built relationships with families, students, and staff that become amazing bonds—seeing those bonds is so incredibly warming to the heart. We are so grateful for Lance's dedication and leadership at Churchill."

Ricci Huling, *Assistant Principal, South Eugene High School*

"Ricci is a stand-out administrator because of her ability to connect with and encourage our most at-risk students. She allows them their humanity, redirects these students on the right pathway, and is patient with their growth, while recognizing that change does not happen overnight. She also supports staff as they learn how to support students who do not easily adapt to the school environment. Because of these skills, Ricci has kept students in school, connected and tethered to the school programs. She sets the example at South that all students are welcome and have a right to be there. This example has changed many lives, not just those particular students, but all those around them who have to stretch their thinking about what it means to allow all students to learn, grow and develop as part of an inclusive, robust community."

Carey Killen, *Principal, South Eugene High School*

"Carey has spent a lifetime helping students and staff achieve their goals. She leads by both guiding students and staff, rather than dictating. While creating an environment of collaboration, respect and inclusion, she is approachable, kind, caring and leads by example. She is one of the best supervisors I have ever had in my long career, both in industry and education. She has been a great mentor to me and so many others along the way."

Roger Morris, *Senior Systems Administrator, Technology Department*

"Roger works tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our server infrastructure running. He is professional, respectful, and trustworthy. He always does the right thing, and does what is necessary to get a job done. He is a team player, always willing to help. He understands that everyone is coming from a different place in terms of knowledge and experience. He is happy to share his knowledge, while giving his teammates room to grow on their own."

Lavinia Page, *Principal, Gilham Elementary School*

"Mrs. Page is an exceptional leader who deserves all the recognition! With such grace, she has fostered a sense of support and appreciation that allows us as educators to improve our practice daily. Her long hours and hard work make such a difference to ensure the learning and growth of both our students and staff. Her vision, wisdom, and passion for this school is apparent each and every day. Her impact has really made a difference, and I speak for many when I say we are forever grateful for all she does at Gilham."

Adrienne Pierce, Curriculum Administrator, Instruction Department

"Adrienne is a professional who knows what needs to be done and does it. Her super power is her ability to connect with people with compassion and kindness and inspiring them to be and do more than they believed possible. Because Adrienne is so attuned with others, she noticed right away, without me even saying a word, that I experienced a hardship earlier this year. It is such a joy to nominate Adrienne Pierce for the 2023 ACE Award."

Karen Ramirez Guterrez, Principal, River Road/Camino del Río Elementary School

"For Karen, it is obvious that her job isn't just a job and that she is truly passionate about student success, providing a positive work environment, and building community both within the school walls and out. She is an incredible bridge in a bilingual environment. Her efforts are always for the betterment of the staff, students, and families she serves."

Stephanie Randall, Principal, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School

"Directora Randall is an exceptional administrator who serves staff, students, families and volunteers at Buena Vista. She is energetic, fun, caring and creative, and inspires all to do their best. Under her leadership BV has bloomed into a beautiful community. She greets students every morning at the breakfast line or at the front door, and knows all students by name as well as their parents or guardians. The connection between her and the staff ripples down to the children, which then continues to travel home to the families. Stephanie is an outstanding leader, advocate, and role model!"

Alma Reyes Guillen, Regional Equity Manager, Sheldon High School

"I believe Alma is making a meaningful impact in the life of many students by advocating for them, creating a safe space for them, and by bridging connections to important resources students need. Alma is welcoming to all students and shows her dedication by also engaging with them and interacting with them, whether it be lunchtime BSU (Black Student Union) meetings or helping LSU (Latinx Student Union) organize an entire Hispanic Heritage month celebration. Alma sees our students for all they are, embraces and respects them, and if they need her she is there."

Sun Saeteurn, Principal, Monroe Middle School

"Sun is the best administrator I have ever seen! As staff, we continually pinch ourselves at what an amazing administrator we have! He has created a school environment that puts students first, is positive, authentic, motivating, and engaging. Sun has created a culture at Monroe where every teacher feels supported, seen, encouraged, trusted, and valued. He is a servant-leader, leading by consistent example. He has shifted the culture at Monroe, and this approach continues to be a viral source of good. This has been a magnet for parent and community involvement and integration, making Monroe Middle School an amazing place to be."

Travis Sheaffer, *Assistant Principal, North Eugene High School*

"Travis as both an administrator and supervisor has learned to listen to the voices around him to understand areas of concern. He has learned to empathize and create a safe place, not only for students but also for staff members. He is always willing to learn and work to better serve those in the school. Your efforts are seen and valued!"

Kari Skinner, *Director, Risk Management & School Safety*

"I believe Kari is beyond deserving of this award. Kari is an energetic and tireless advocate for students and employees, as well as one of the most humble leaders I've ever met. She truly inspires people across the board. With her knowledge and background, she can tackle some of the hardest tasks with so much love, patience and compassion."

Jared Tiecke, *Principal, Awbrey Park Elementary School*

"Jared exceeds all expectations of what a supervisor and principal should be. His positive, supportive and caring attitude is what makes the team strong at Awbrey Park. In his short time here, Jared has managed to build relationships with staff and students that bring us all together as a team. Jared is a pleasure to work with and exemplifies communication skills that let you know that you are valued at Awbrey Park."

Brian Watson, *Assistant Principal, Monroe Middle School*

"Brian is excellent in his role as assistant principal at Monroe. He is kind, consistent, and an excellent communicator. Brian is calm in stressful situations and proficient in following up with parents and students. He takes the safety and wellbeing of all students seriously and is willing and eager to go the extra mile for them. He is consistent, and treats all students with kindness and respect "

Classified Staff

Faten Abdelhamid, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, Sheldon High School*

"Faten's commitment to making sure high school special education students know they are valued, can succeed, and can overcome obstacles is what makes her an amazing educational assistant and person. Her passion and commitment to teaching math, as well as her ability to balance a number of levels at once, make her truly unique."

Juan Abril, *Behavioral Support Assistant, River Road/Camino del Río Elementary School*

"Juan works tirelessly to grow a welcoming community and supportive atmosphere that encourages all students and staff to reach their highest potential. Juan can always be counted on to help in a crisis or cheer on a student who is trying something new. He embodies an accepting and joyous school community where families, students and staff are eager to participate in."

Kelly Ayres, *Registrar, Roosevelt Middle School*

"Working with Kelly in the front office, the Roosevelt staff has come to know her as a dedicated, thorough, and detail-oriented individual. We have been tremendously impressed with Kelly's professionalism, integrity, and willingness to go the extra mile to support students' success. She performs the functions of her job with efficiency and accuracy, always ensuring that students' grades, schedules, transcripts, and records are meticulously maintained. On a daily basis, Kelly exceeds the expectations of her job description as she goes above and beyond to support students, families, and staff in the Roosevelt community."

Tyson Biggerstaff, *Behavior Support Assistant, Charlemagne French Immersion Elementary School*

"Tyson loves his job and his students, coming to work and starting the day energetic and with a smile. He is able to remain calm in every situation. With his strength and positive attitude, he makes my job as a teacher a little lighter and joyful. I love working alongside him every day. I have learned a lot from him, and I appreciate his insights and observations."

Kathy Boozer, *Management Assistant, Facilities Department*

"Answering the main line at Facilities can not be easy. I know from the variety of requests and questions that I've presented that Kathy's days are definitely not boring. Yet I have never called and been made to feel like I am interrupting or asking a question that I should already know the answer to. Kathy's customer service and dedication is stellar!"

Brian Bowen, *Carpenter, Facilities Department*

"Brian loves his job and the people he works with and for. He is always positive and willing to help and is a blessing for the teachers and students who work in the buildings he helps maintain."

Ana Boyd, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, Cal Young Middle School*

"Since 2009, Ana Boyd has been making the Cal Young community a better, safer, more inclusive, and more caring community. Her ability to listen deeply with genuine care, curiosity, and concern for young people and adults alike offers a kind of magic that is uniquely her own. The wisdom she shares allows for uncommon growth and reflection in the lives she touches."

Emily Brown, *Educational Assistant, Adams Elementary School*

"Emily is the ultimate team player. She goes out of her way to make sure that all students' needs are met. She helps with all school duties, and most importantly she does it all with a smile. Emily frequently works with students who need help de-escalating and her patience and kindness is limitless. But more than just that, she cares deeply about all the kids she works with. She will step in to help in any capacity needed from individual students, to helping staff when they are in need. She goes beyond the call of duty on a daily basis. The staff and students at Adams Elementary are grateful to have Emily Brown in our midst."

Racheal Bryant, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"Racheal goes above and beyond in her work to support students with disabilities. She is dedicated to learning and growing every day and translating that learning into her work. She is dependable and unwavering both for students and her team."

Henny Buditjahja, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, North Eugene High School*

"Henny deserves to be recognized for her work because she is the pinnacle of academic support in our team of educational assistants. When I think of how an EA should approach their work and what support means for our students, I look at how Henny does things. I'm reminded everyday of her positivity and impact around the school whenever I encounter her or the students and staff she works with."

Tanya Bunson, *Secretary, Edgewood Elementary School*

"Tanya is an incredibly dedicated, positive and enthusiastic member of our community at Edgewood. I am thrilled that she often is the first person whom families meet, because she sets everyone off on a positive note. She is multi-lingual and able to work through paperwork and family issues from various cultures with ease. The kids love her, the staff loves her—we all love Tanya!"

Ricki Campbell-Siebers, Secretary, Edison Elementary School

"Ricki is the perfect candidate for the ACE award for her dedication, hard work, and commitment to her students, teachers, and parents. She has been the secretary at Edison Elementary School for this school year and is an invaluable asset to the community. She is a true team player and advocate for her students, providing them with the resources and support they need to succeed; she is an integral part of our school community."

Kathrine Carnahan, Special Ed Educational Assistant, Charlemagne French Immersion Elementary School

"Kathrine joined our classroom in October this year. However, it's as if she has been a part of our team for years! She learned the ropes of our busy classroom very quickly and wasn't afraid to just jump right in. Not only did she not hesitate to help out, but she was almost instantly loved by all the students. Anytime Kathrine was thrown into a new situation, she handled it with such grace and confidence, you wouldn't even know she was new at it. She is a strong advocate for the special education students at Charlemagne and is so valuable to our classroom."

Rosa Castro, Bilingual Educational Assistant, North Eugene High School

"Rosa seeks continuous professional growth, going above and beyond meeting the needs of emerging multilingual students and students receiving special education services. As she helps them in accessing content, she is trusted by numerous students, community members and staff alike in her willingness to speak up against inequities, thereby advocating for students to improve their SEL (social emotional learning) and academic outcomes."

Jennifer Coats, Extended Day Program Educational Assistant, Sheldon High School

"Ms. Coats is amazing! She comes in every day with a smile on her face and is always willing to help wherever needed. She enthusiastically engages with students and staff alike and you can feel the passion that she has for the job. Ms. Coats goes above and beyond what is asked of her and never waivers in her dedication. She has been a tremendous addition to the high school extended day program and we are so grateful for all that she does for our students and for the program as a whole. We are truly blessed to have her!"

Sarah Dreyer, Educational Assistant, Willagillespie Elementary School

"Sarah cares about every student at Willagillespie. She supports students to do their best every single day. Sarah is always looking to find new ways to help her students. She is a pleasure to have at our school."

Sophia Durant, *Human Services Coordinator, McCornack Elementary School*

"Sophia works exceptionally hard to make sure families have access to food, clothing, toiletries and other essential supplies. Her special skill is making sure families do not feel that they're a handout but just Miss Sophia sharing with the world. One of my third graders wanted to thank her for providing a 'Bag of Love' filled with clothing and a special stuffie. The little girl told me she could not believe that anyone could really fill a bag with love, but that 'Miss Sophia really did it!'"

Theresa Elmore, *Attendance Clerk, Roosevelt Middle School*

"Theresa Elmore gives more than 100% every day of the year. She creates a culture of respect, knows all the students' names, and will step in to help out students in any way she can. Her commitment and service helps make Roosevelt a safe and happy place for the students."

Kaisa Erickson, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, Spring Creek Elementary School*

"Kaisa is very grounded and inspires students to learn. She is able to multitask and stay attentive to student and family needs. She is an invaluable employee and a wonderful person, whom we are fortunate to have met."

Don Evans, *Custodian, ECCO*

"We knew Don was a great guy, and we appreciated that he maintained and cleaned our building. We didn't know he was an actual lifesaver until we had an emergency, and Don responded by administering the automated external defibrillator and performing CPR. We are lucky to have him."

Keith Fjordbeck, *Lead Custodian, Churchill High School*

"Keith makes Churchill beautiful, taking pride in his own work and that of his team. As if this is not enough, he is always calm and full of humor. Something I do not think I could manage if I were in his position. He is like nobody else I have ever met as a lead custodian. He makes everyone's day better with either a kind word or a quick wit."

Kirsten Frazer, *Title I Educational Assistant, Edison Elementary School*

"Kirsten's nurturing demeanor creates an inviting and enriching environment. This is the person you want as your child's role model. Kirsten listens with an intent to understand rather than to reply. When she does respond, she does so with thought and compassion. Her passion to help and support children changes students' perspectives about school."

Pat Frees, *Carpenter/Maintenance Worker III, Facilities Department*

"Pat is a really good person and a team player. If I have a problem with a job, I ask him for advice on how to best approach it. He always helps his coworkers and he is a joy to work around. He would never lead anyone astray. It's not in his character. There were a few times when I needed some help with a demo or a really heavy white board and he would always stop what he was doing to help me. He strives to be better everyday and is always in a good mood."

Livia Fremouw, *Educational Assistant, Edison Elementary School*

"Livia is an outstanding educational assistant. Her curiosity and compassion fuel her efforts to support students. She pays close attention to students strengths and challenges and actively seeks solutions to help her students succeed. Livia is a rock star and we are extremely lucky to have her at Edison!"

Elsa Gallegos, *Bilingual Educational Assistant, River Road/Camino del Río Elementary School*

"Elsa joined our team last year and has immediately become an integral part of our family here at Camino del Río. She is always ready to help her students and colleagues, with no task too big or too small, and her positive energy has affected every aspect of our day. Elsa has a big heart and her students adore her. Her warmth and kindness shine through in every interaction. We are so lucky to have Elsa Gallegos with us and we feel grateful for her every day."

Angie Gee, *Human Services Coordinator, Chávez Elementary School*

"Ms. Angie is the heart and soul of Chávez who knows the school, the staff, the children and the parents. She is someone anyone can turn to for help, for encouragement and for comfort. Seeing her standing outside at pickup creates a feeling that, yes, today was a good day."

Lisa Goff, *Educational Assistant, Holt Elementary School*

"Lisa is one of the kindest people I have ever met. She comes to work everyday ready to laugh, learn, and grow. She fills every room she enters with joy. Ms. Lisa never ceases to amaze me with her humor, grace, and positive attitude. The kids and staff at Holt Elementary are lucky to have her in our lives."

Elayne Goodban, *Behavior Support Assistant, Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School*

"Elayne works extremely hard and she is always kind and caring! She is a skillful educational assistant who has extensive experience in 4J. Her experience and legacy at Corridor Elementary where she was working as a Learning Center EA was passed on to her current role as a behavior EA at YG. She understands and knows how to serve each different student. Her experience and wisdom are definitely valuable and appreciated at this culturally diverse school!"

Perla Grado, *Secretary, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Perla is a pillar in the Buena Vista community. Her smile greets the students every morning letting them know they are all welcomed and loved. Her willingness to help in any situation helps grow our community. Perla makes the school great."

Ruth Guzman Sanchez, *Behavior Support Assistant, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Maestra Guzmán has taught countless students how to handle big emotions and feelings in a safe way. Her teaching of the Zones of Regulation has been so helpful to students throughout the school. She is the first person I call when we have challenging behaviors, and I count on her perspective on a daily basis. We couldn't do our jobs without her!"

Machiko Hadwen, *Bilingual Educational Assistant, Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School*

"Machiko embraces the connection with students as students recognize her as a source of nurturing and guidance. Her presence at school tremendously helps students to feel safe and recognized. She listens to them on their level, and students trust her. Despite being a part-time employee, her love and caring for the students and school never stops. It is a rare to have such an unconditionally compassionate team member."

Wendy Harris, *Educational Assistant, Edison Elementary School*

"Wendy is a champion of neurodiversity!"

Jason Harter, *Behavior Support Assistant, Arts & Technology Academy*

"Having worked at 4J for many years, Jason is skilled at behavioral support, building relationships and collaborating with colleagues. He is a leader among his peers and always willing to provide support to teachers, other classified staff and administrators."

Zoe Haupt, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, Madison Middle School*

"In her first year at Madison, Zoe Haupt worked hard to help get our Refocus Room up and running. She also helps facilitate our PASS behavioral intervention program. Zoe takes the initiative and is an excellent communicator who coaches track after school. Kids seek her out to get advice or help solving problems, and we are so lucky to have her on the Madison team!"

Christian Hill, *Communications Specialist, Communications Department*

"Christian works hard to effectively build and strengthen relationships between 4J and staff, students, parents and the community. Beside being a great communicator, Christian is also a joy to work with! He is a positive, professional and proactive team player."

Jenna Hoagland, Behavior Support Assistant, Twin Oaks Elementary School

"Jenna is such an asset to Twin Oaks and our students are so blessed to have her support. She views them as a promise, not a problem. She is compassionate, caring, encouraging and dependable. Jenna takes this position very seriously and attends many meetings off-site to see what more she can learn to improve on what she is already doing. I don't think our students would be becoming who they are without her guiding support."

Morgan Houghton, Administrative Assistant, Human Resources & Financial Services Departments

"Morgan's dedication to providing strong customer service makes a positive impact on our 4J community. The work she does is behind the scenes and not often seen by students, families and community members. However, her work is incredibly important to the success of our organization, and her willingness to take on new tasks and share in the workload has made her a superstar!"

Emily Iverson, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Interpreter, Spring Creek Elementary School

"Emily is an amazing communicator and interpreter. She is intuitive and proactive, and she works hard to create positive student and staff relationships, as well. In physical education, she often supports students during activities by discussing various ideas with me to ensure students are moving, growing in their skill sets and having fun. Emily is a joy to work with, and her enthusiasm and humor is infectious!"

Lisa Jenkins-Easton, Records and Scheduling Assistant, Sheldon High School

"Lisa has served in many roles over the last 15+ years with 4J. She has been a consistent parent volunteer, a strong advocate for libraries, and a dependable educational assistant, to name a few. Lisa's advocacy for libraries has been unyielding, donating hundreds of volunteer hours so that kids of all ages may explore the joys of reading. She has navigated the difficult road of 504s and IEPs and as a result, has been a tremendous resource and advocate for parents and students. Lisa truly embodies what the ACE award represents. She is a team player, strong communicator, supporter of her community and, above all else, strives for the success of all students!"

Heather Kendrick, Secretary, Spring Creek Elementary School

"Heather is the amazing face of our school, and it's evident the moment you meet her that she loves and cares for all students, families, and staff. She is incredibly positive and dedicated, helping everyone navigate through changes without hesitation, and always with a welcoming smile. Heather is an excellent communicator, who patiently and effortlessly shows a willingness to help others, even if it means dropping everything she is doing at that moment. There is no job too big or too unimportant for her, and she is an all around wonderful human, with a fantastic sense of humor. We are so lucky to have Heather at Spring Creek!"

Debora Kovensky, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, Roosevelt Middle School*

"Debora is one of the kindest, most positive and resilient staff members we have. She is unflappable, navigating herself through crowded hallways on her mobility scooter, pausing to chat with students, offer a joke, share a story, or just check in. Every day, she seeks out her admin team to share a fun, celebratory moment of the day about a student and truly honors students by cheering them on, no matter what."

Sandy Krupicka, *Educational Assistant, Camas Ridge Elementary School*

"Sandy acutely recognizes how her actions impact our classroom, helping create a productive environment for learning. She understands the context in which each student feels safe and supported, and she makes the subtle adjustments to recreate that particular space for them. She hears and validates her students' feelings. Sandy knows what success is for each student, however small, and she celebrates every win."

Darin Lomsdalen, *Campus Safety & Security Monitor, Risk Management & School Safety Department*

"Darin takes his vast experience as an educator and now applies it daily by supporting emotionally and physically safe schools for our region's communities. He is a skilled and dedicated member of the Churchill team who recognizes that safe schools are those where students, staff and families are connected."

Jennifer MacPherson, *Library/IMC Assistant, Churchill High School*

"Jennifer makes a special place, like the library, even more so. Everyone is valued by Jennifer and it shows."

Lindsay Manley, *Educational Assistant, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"Lindsay is a wonderful individual who's constantly positive with her approaches to helping students succeed. Whether she's in the classroom or outside during recess duty, she makes the students feel safe and is easily approachable. She does her job with a smile and lots of care. Her co-workers would also agree that she is a gem who brings unity and positivity to people around her. We are so very lucky to have her be a part of our school."

Fabiola Marroquin, *Bilingual Human Services Coordinator, North Eugene High School*

"Fabiola is an exceptional classified staff member who cares deeply about students and the community. She is always lifting up students and helping them reach their full potential. She makes sure students' basic, emotional and academic support needs are met. Fabiola is a person you can trust who's a great listener and, overall, does an amazing job with students and Spanish-speaking families. She is an excellent asset to our district!"

Michele Marzullo, *Educational Assistant, South Eugene High School*

"Michele welcomes and encourages students in a manner in which they feel safe and supported. Michele has helped several students find success in my classroom. For example, we work with a student who would prefer to skip class, but, because of Michele, they choose to attend. The student shows up to class late every day and immediately gravitates to Michele for help. At the beginning of the year, they skipped class entirely. As the year has progressed they are less tardy every week, largely due to their feeling welcomed and successful with Michelle's help. I am so thankful for her help in my classroom."

Gerry Morgan, *Behavior Support Assistant, Edison Elementary School*

"My child is supposed to go to breakfast but likes to wait until they think I am gone to try to wander in the opposite direction. Gerry redirects them and makes sure they get to breakfast!. Gerry keeps my child safe on the playground and makes my child feel welcome at school!"

Jane Morgan, *Department Assistant, Churchill High School*

"Jane is the embodiment of care. She makes every person she works with feel supported and valued."

Marcus Morris, *Campus Safety & Security Monitor, Risk Management & School Safety Department*

"Marcus has a very calming manner and cares about students. He is there for students and staff on the difficult days but at the same time there to celebrate the good ones. Marcus makes the students feel like he has time to be there for them and lets them know they matter. He builds connections with students and finds a way to help."

Denice Mullaney, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, North Eugene High School*

"Denice deserves to be recognized for her work because she models character and compassion everyday at work. These traits are things we expect from ourselves and from our students and Denice works everyday to instill that with those she works with."

Haley Myers, *School Assistant, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"Haley creates a welcoming environment in the front office at Willagillespie. She is kind and cheerful with the students and friendly with the parents. She sees the good in every child and makes them feel special. Haley has shown great kindness to our son who looks forward to seeing her every day. She has made a huge difference in his life by making him feel valued, respected and heard. We are so grateful to have her at Willagillespie!"

Kelly Oberfoell, *Custodial/Maintenance Coordinator II, Roosevelt Middle School*

"Kelly's daily work at Roosevelt goes far beyond keeping our space clean, tidy and welcoming, which he does faithfully. As a fountain of knowledge about our school, Kelly's keen insights about student actions, behaviors and social trends continually prove invaluable in keeping our students safe and creating the healthiest school community possible. Those eagle eyes and ears are always attuned to our students' well-being. He's a steady and important part of our Roosevelt team."

Guy Okili Da Graca, *Campus Safety & Security Monitor, Risk Management & School Safety*

"As a building principal, I greatly appreciate the immediacy with which Guy responds to my calls, questions, and requests for support. I trust him to partner with our team and me during emergency responses, and value his collaboration as we work to improve our systems in the building and across the district. Guy is not just a gem on our campus monitor team, he is a truly inspiring human. The McCornack community is incredibly fortunate to have Guy Okili Da Graca!"

Jana Ouimet, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, Gilham Elementary School*

"Janna is kind and supportive to the students that are having a hard time with daily activities. She will always step in where help is needed. She goes above and beyond for everyone."

Danny Parlette, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, Charlemagne French Immersion Elementary School*

"Danny has spent years dedicated to working with special education students, and his passion for this field of education still remains. All of his co-workers know how valuable he is and how lucky the school is to have him. Danny is a strong advocate for his students, and he encourages and shares ideas on how to improve inclusion throughout the school. The whole classroom loves Mr. Danny!"

Nicole Patrick, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, Chávez Elementary School*

"Nicole is always here to help! She shares her kindness, support and knowledge with students, staff, and families. Nicole is always checking in on new staff to see if they have the curriculum, resources and support needed to be successful. She goes above and beyond to make her students feel safe and seen in her groups and at school, and is invested in their success. She is the epitome of a team player. Thank you, Nicole!"

Stephanie Perez, *Secretary, Monroe Middle School*

"Stephanie is caring, community orientated, equity minded, and supports anyone and everyone she interacts with. She goes above and beyond in ways I have never seen to support the needs of students, staff, and families!"

Jael Perez Diaz, *Bilingual Educational Assistant, River Road/Camino del Río Elementary School*

"Maestra Jael is very insightful, intuitive, and a major help in the first grade classroom. She is very attuned to student needs and helps in whatever capacity she can. She puts the needs of students above everything and shares meaningful and insightful solutions to help students succeed. I am so grateful for her help in the classroom!"

Mary Peterson, *Secretary, Madison Middle School*

"The Queen of Madison goes above and beyond her role as office manager. Mary knows every detail of our school along with the entire staff. She takes care of all of us, whatever we need, want or wish to do things she has us covered. From ordering supplies, taking field trips to the coast and maybe a business lunch she is on it. No matter what the need, she will drop everything, figure it out and take care of what needs to be done in an urgent manner without question."

Pete Peterson, *Behavior Support Assistant, Roosevelt Middle School*

"Pete has the unique ability to communicate with students with compassion while also maintaining expectations. He is very skilled at supporting our most at-risk students. Pete is an expert relationship builder while also emphasizing academic excellence."

Jennifer Plueard, *Behavior Support Assistant, Cal Young Middle School*

"Jen shines because of her ability to build relationships with students, patiently interacting with them and focusing on the positives in a role that often requires helping students reflect on their mistakes. She doesn't give up on struggling students, even after a frustrating day."

Jennifer Potterf, *Food Service Coordinator II, Cal Young Middle School*

"Jennifer is a dedicated and compassionate food services coordinator and head chef at Cal Young Middle School. With her support, our students have their most basic needs met and can participate in learning and gaining a good education. She treats students and staff with kindness, respect and high expectations. She runs an efficient kitchen, shows outstanding leadership and is an inspirational example to all who interact with her."

Julia Rice, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, Charlemagne French Immersion Elementary School*

"Julia is a one-of-a-kind educational assistant who is passionate about her work with special education students and strives to learn more about them every day. She constantly is brainstorming new ways to work with her students. She is the best co-worker and team player around, and she is someone that all EAs depend upon. In addition, Julia is a strong advocate for her students and is dedicated to being their voice in any situation."

Steve Rogers, Custodial/Maintenance Coordinator II, Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School & Kelly Middle School

"Steve is a hard-working, flexible and an essential part of our school community. As building changes have occurred during the pandemic, Steve has repeatedly shown his adaptable demeanor and dedication. Staff have come and gone, but Steve has picked up all and every job that has needed attending to. He has patiently and calmly handled all the changes while always remaining in a great mood and staying dedicated to maintaining a professional workplace. Steve, your hard work is noticed and appreciated!"

Izumi Sakimoto, Educational Assistant, Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School

"Izumi connects with students and fosters a love of learning. She makes learning fun for all students and helps with the organization and flow of our building. She wears too many hats to count and is always going above and beyond for our community. Izumi is an amazing colleague and an inspiration!"

Fabi Salgado Aradillas, Secretary, Camas Ridge Elementary School

"Fabi represents the best of 4J as an inclusive and caring partner for administrators, teachers, staff members, parents and, most of all, students. Our school is better because she is a part of it."

Grace Salud, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Interpreter, Spring Creek Elementary School

"Grace is an incredible interpreter and colleague, always putting students' needs first in every decision she makes throughout the day. She works hard to build positive relationships, demonstrating patience and kindness in any situation that may arise. Grace's calm demeanor, amazing communication skills and epic sense of humor adds to student engagement and success."

James Samora-Walker, Educational Assistant, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School

"James is a wonderful addition to the classroom, school, and honestly the world. He truly enjoys talking, helping, and just being with the children and it shows on the kids faces and attitude. He brightens the classroom with his smile and willingness to help in any way possible."

Maria Schaad, Program Coordinator, Eugene Education Options

"Maria is an invaluable part of helping our most underserved students stay connected to school. She plays a vital role in 4J's high school alternative education program and referral processes. Maria is an 'air traffic controller' when it comes to reaching out, tracking and communicating with students and families. She provides regular outreach to students who drop out, without growing weary or discouraged. Many students are reconnected to our schools due to Maria's singular efforts."

Kimo Sears, Mechanic II, Transportation Department

"Kimo, our senior shop mechanic, supports the people that support our students by keeping the district vehicles and equipment in tip-top condition. In addition, he is sweet and friendly with the children when he is needed to drive a school bus. He may be the nicest person you will ever meet!"

Debbie Serra, Secretary, Willagillespie Elementary School

"Debbie is invaluable to the students, staff and families of Willagillespie. She is a role model who has undeniable passion for supporting kids and their well-being. Debbie goes above and beyond her duties, serving many roles as the center of the school. She not only takes care of the management of the front office but is also a confidant and friend to so many. We are lucky to have Debbie Serra at WillaG!"

Hollie Service, School Assistant, Gilham Elementary School

"Hollie's kind and welcoming demeanor sets the tone for the office and for everyone entering the building. She gives her undivided attention in a busy environment and helps each student and adult feel that their needs are important. She thinks quickly, has excellent organizational skills and pays attention to the smallest details to help meet those many needs."

Debra Short, Library/IMC assistant, Cal Young Middle School

"It is hard to imagine Cal Young without Debra in the library; however, as she nears retirement at the end of this school year, that is exactly where we find ourselves. The far-reaching impact she has made on students and staff alike can not be understated. And the safe haven that she has created for so many young people over the years leaves big shoes to fill."

Mollie Smith, Secretary, Monroe Middle School

"Mollie has been a true blessing. The definition of a team player, she helps with all aspects of the front office and whenever assistance is needed. Her presence positively influences the entire front office, creating both a positive and safe space for students and staff. Mollie is always analyzing and processing what is needed, what can be improved, and how she can help. She is rock solid with staff, students and parents."

Christina Snyder, Custodial/Maintenance Coordinator II, Cal Young Middle School

"Christina is a treasure, and anyone who works with her will attest to that. She handles adversity and frustration in the workplace with so much grace, humor and positivity."

Janesta Sola, *Educational Assistant, Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School*

"Janesta is a caring and thoughtful professional who is driven to serve students and make the Y-G community better for our families. She keeps a watchful eye, protecting the children and keeping parents well-informed. A wonderful educator and friend to students and parents alike, she's also an active advocate and has been a positive presence for us all."

Abby Spencer, *Behavior Support Assistant, Spring Creek Elementary School*

"Ms. Spencer tirelessly supports students in achieving their reading goals and makes being a part of Oregon Battle of the Books accessible to all students, of all reading abilities. My student read 10 more books this year in all genres to get to be a part of her super fun OBOB team."

Brenda Sturgis, *Bus Driver, Transportation Department*

"Ms. Brenda possesses such a warm and welcoming demeanor and is a cheerful face to start and end our son's school day. The interaction on the school bus is just a small slice of a student's day, but it is important. We value the positive interactions that Ms. Brenda offers. It is so important for children's well-being to be supported by positive adults. We are so thankful to have Ms. Brenda as our neighborhood bus driver."

Campbell Trangmar, *Custodian, South Eugene High School*

"Campbell's smile and positive energy are contagious and are the best way to start the day. It is impossible not to smile and have a positive mindset after talking to Campbell. Teachers were asked to think of a person that makes them feel good at school and unanimously they thought of Campbell. He is kind, supportive, and makes both staff and students feel at home in their work environment, which is rare!"

Becky Uhler, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, Twin Oaks Elementary School*

"Becky's unwavering positivity and patience are an inspiration to many of us at Twin Oaks. I am inspired by Becky's ability to find bright spots even in the most challenging situations — celebrating students and making them feel special and seen. Becky is a quiet leader, modeling for our students and staff members what it looks like to see the very best in each child and help them to succeed and reach their goals."

Alison Wagner, *Educational Assistant/McKinney-Vento Liaison, Edison Elementary School & Roosevelt Middle School*

"Alison's first priority is always our students. She keeps them safe crossing the busy 24th Avenue, supervises and supports our (sometimes) wily and wild students at lunch, and advocates tirelessly for our vulnerable families as our McKinney-Vento liaison. She displays patience, compassion and creativity every day, and is an integral part of the Roosevelt team."

Judy Weber, *Educational Assistant, Edgewood Elementary School*

"Judy is kind and compassionate while also being firm in her expectations for students. She is incredibly hard working. Judy shares her great sense of humor with students and staff, bringing laughter to everyone around her."

Mallory Whitaker, *Secretary, Chinese Immersion School*

"It's not in her job description, but not only does Mallory perform her duties as secretary for the school, she is also a counselor (for students and teachers!), nurse, substitute teacher and professional organizer. The kids don't just see Mallory at her desk in the front office she's on the playground, in the cafeteria and helping out in the classrooms."

Stefan Williams, *Educational Assistant, South Eugene High School*

"Stefan is a crucial part of this school running smoothly. He interacts with the staff and students in all sorts of ways. He is observant and thoughtful and goes above and beyond everyday to help the students and staff. He wears so many hats I lose count, and his professionalism is unmatched. On days he is not here it is noticeable."

Ari Windstein Nayak, *Special Ed Educational Assistant, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"Ari has been such a valuable member of the Willagillespie team. She is a wonderful educator, co-worker, and overall great friend. Ari has made a huge impact on those around her. She has a big heart and is kind to others."

Nora Young, *Educational Assistant, Chávez Elementary School*

"Nora is the recess queen extraordinaire. She is absolutely the champion of all children and goes out of her way to encourage, support, celebrate and respect them. She works tirelessly to give them the best recess experience they can have and always with an upbeat and positive attitude in whatever weather. Her dedication to education is untiring and phenomenal, as she goes out of her way to create fun and informative lessons for her small groups."

Alex Zuniga, *Bilingual Office Support, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Alex has spent many years in the school making sure everyone in the school feel welcomed and cared for. Without him and all the work he does, I don't know where the school or our family would be. He puts his heart into this school every day, and it truly shows."

Volunteers

Jordan Blair, *Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Jordan is a complete gem of a human and has gone sky high above and beyond as a parent volunteer. We would not have had the enormous success of our book fair without her talents and tenacity. In addition, her countless hours focused on our Library now ensure every single student has access to books (Spanish and English) to take home and enjoy. Buena Vista would not be the same if it were not for the efforts, leadership and hours of time the fabulous Jordan gives the school!"

Amy Lee, *Gilham Elementary School*

"Amy brings capability, positivity and her best effort to every capacity she serves at Gilham. Whether that's helping students find books during library hour or prepare the best class parties, her creativity to think outside the box in terms of bringing students and families together leaves me in awe. Amy has been an incredible asset to not only me as encouraging parent but also our class and school!"

Tom Mohr, *Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School*

"Tom is a huge part of our community at Yujin Gakuen and Kelly. He spends every morning and afternoon making sure every child is safe and taken care of and volunteers in our fifth grade classrooms in between. Every child that enters our school knows about Tom, his fun hats and his fist bumps. Our school would not be the same without him!"

Sara Nelson, *Spencer Butte Middle School*

"Sara Nelson, parent volunteer coordinator, inspires everyone who has the opportunity to meet and work with her. She motivates other parents to become involved as volunteers, and she brings an enthusiasm and dedication for Spencer Butte Middle School to everything that she does for the school community. Sara is creative, energetic, and she brings a suite of skills to share through her volunteerism in a diversity of places and programs here at Spencer Butte. Simply put, Sara is a spectacular and inspiring volunteer, community member and mom!"

Michael Rangeloff, *South Eugene High School*

"Volunteers in general are amazing. But Michael stands out because of his ability to work with literally every student and give them a rich work experience at the Axpresso Cafe. This school-based business works at the pace of a regular business, and he coaches students with ease and wisdom. He has worked with students who are shy and inspired them to become chatty! His work has instilled a strong sense of confidence in the students."

Lindsay Selser, Camas Ridge Elementary School

"Lindsay attended PTO meetings before her daughter even started kindergarten because she believes so deeply in the power of the local schools. Her commitment & belief in the power of our public school communities has only strengthened over time. She is a safe space & reliable resource when students & staff are in need. Everyone needs a Lindsay at their school!"

Caroline Snider, Spring Creek Elementary School

"Caroline isn't a volunteer who only helps in her child's class. She is someone who supports all students at our school! This year Caroline was a vital volunteer in our library, she helped prepare many of our students for their OBOB battles, and worked as a volunteer with our artist-in-residence. Her presence has been felt by all students and her help has been appreciated by Spring Creek's entire staff."

Kalleen Stoddard, Cal Young Middle School

"Kalleen is an invaluable asset to our school community, always looking for ways to improve the student experience. She spends her time working to strengthen the links between students and the surrounding community. She has been integral to multiple programs at Cal Young. She supports the Green Earth Club, the Lego Robotics Club, the PTA and recruits other parents to volunteer with the goal of creating a positive school climate."

Lisa Wahi, Gilham Elementary School

"Lisa has put in countless hours to build up our staff, students, and parents—and bring them together to rebuild the 'Gilham Community' that took such a hit during COVID. Her presence and encouragement is a morale booster for our entire community as she does so much to make each of our lives a little easier and brighter. I am not only personally thankful for Lisa and her support within my classroom, but grateful for her impact on all of us at Gilham."

Teachers & Licensed Specialists

David Adee, *Music Teacher, River Road/Camino del Río Elementary School*

"Maestro Adee is the dictionary definition of kinetic energy! His enthusiasm for music is contagious. He truly cares about exposing his students (and their families) to music in many forms, giving them a lifelong gift that will travel beyond the classroom. He is always so positive and enthusiastic about teaching and always available to collaborate, provide extra support to individual students and help staff problem solve. David seems to have endless energy for bringing meaningful music experiences to students."

Holly Albone, *Art Teacher, Churchill High School*

"Holly is that teacher who really believes in a growth mindset. She teaches this to her students every day and she also shows them by example. She gets to know her students and really tries to meet their needs so that they feel welcomed and understood while in her room. She has perfected walking through the classroom and offering small bits of advice that keep her students moving forward to get just a little bit more from them. Holly is also willing to support new teachers by taking on student teachers and helping them learn how to create lesson plans in an art classroom."

Michelynah Anderegg, *Speech-Language Pathologist, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Michelynah is a fierce advocate for all students. She deeply understands her role in the school system but is constantly advocating for what is best for all students. She understands the systems and how to access them for students and families to get what they need to be successful. She is not afraid to ask the hard questions and do the work to serve students."

Aline Baissac, *Essential Skills Coordinator, River Road/Camino del Río Elementary School*

"River Road/Camino del Río is a school full of happy, enthusiastic readers and it is thanks to Aline's tireless efforts. Aline truly cares about academic enthusiasm among the student body and works very hard to provide both in-school and out-of-school events to encourage educationally related passions at River Road/Camino del Río. Her decisions are always based on countless hours looking at data and drawing on years of knowledge and expertise to ensure students continue to make gains throughout the year. She is gentle, kind, caring, and an undeniable force of positivity at school!"

Scott Baker, *Science Teacher, Cal Young Middle School*

"Scott Baker is an outstanding science teacher at Cal Young Middle School. His classes are hands-on and require students to think critically to explain phenomena and come up with unique solutions to problems. He believes in student agency and encourages students to create meaningful connections between subjects. His unique projects will inspire a love of learning and create memorable experiences that will last students their entire lives."

Kendallyn Ball, *Third Grade Teacher, Holt Elementary School*

"Ms. Kendallyn cares deeply for her students. My son says he likes her as much as he likes me. I can't think of a better compliment for any teacher. My son does not give compliments often, (practically never), but said he likes EVERYTHING about Ms. Kendallyn. She's exactly the kind of person I want taking care of my child at school. Her calm and pleasant personality is truly amazing. My son just loves going to school."

Kare Batten, *Fifth Grade Teacher, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Maestra Kare Batten is magical. They have created an inclusive, affirming and positive classroom environment where inquiry, discovery, collaboration, and respect is highly valued. Their communication skills are amazing and have bridged the gap between school and home flawlessly. They inspire their students to want to learn and want to be better humans along the way. Maestra Kare is open, engaging, smart, motivating and wonderful."

Mathilde Bégu, *French Teacher, South Eugene High School*

"Mathilde has rekindled the love of the French language for my daughter. She looks forward to her class everyday, even though it is first period! She has encouraged her to continue on into French 3A and get College Now credit. If it wasn't for Mathilde, I don't think my daughter would be as passionate about French and learning a foreign language."

Katie Burns, *Special Education Teacher, Fox Hollow Campus*

"Katie embodies what it means to be a hard-working, engaged and passionate educator. Despite being a busy graduate student and a first-year teacher, she displays exceptional organizational skills and a deep knowledge of how to best serve students with high needs—Katie is truly a superhero! She is an exemplary communicator with a positive attitude whose students appreciate her energy, dedication and fairness every day!"

Neil Callahan, *Student Success Coordinator, Chávez Elementary School*

"Mr. C is a fun and compassionate teacher who welcomes all kids and parents, and treats them as if they are family. He is the light of so many children's day. He is accessible and warm, a happy and solid presence. He is thoughtful and courageous. Mr. C is brave and models that for all who know him. The world is a better place with him in it."

Gloria Carbajal, *First Grade Teacher, River Road/Camino del Río Elementary School*

"Maestra Carbajal is an incredible bilingual teacher. She is on top of everything, especially communicating with her students, families, and colleagues. She knows how to keep her students engaged and involved. Working together, I can see all the extra work and long hours she puts in. She is smart, kind and loves to teach her shining stars from the bottom of her heart. She affectionately supports her students by providing fun and comprehensive lessons that students enjoy doing in her sparkling classroom every day."

Sebastian Catlin, *Student Achievement Specialist, South Eugene High School*

"Mr. Catlin is a very positive influence on all his students and is ready to help anyone succeed in any subject. My personal experience with Mr. Catlin has been amazing. I started out in his class with no motivation for school and lack of care. Mr Catlin's approach to teaching helped me get all my grades up to A's, feel confident in asking my teachers for help — and getting my math homework done."

Lisa Chinn, *Physical Education Teacher, Awbrey Park Elementary School*

"Lisa Chinn is more than deserving to receive such an award for going over and beyond every day she works. The kids always come first for her, from making sure they are safe to consoling them when needed. In addition, she always takes the extra step to help others in need. She's a top-notch PE teacher to say the least."

Courtney Christensen, *Special Education Teacher, Spring Creek Elementary School*

"Courtney has taken our program and turned it around, providing for students by giving them an education that they deserve. Courtney will fight for them to make sure all their needs are met. She also has taken on many roles by being a case manager for another class. She also sees what the students need to be able to grow and succeed. Thank you for everything you have done for our team and students!"

Katie Christian, *Math Teacher, North Eugene High School*

"Katie Christian is a great teacher who is always willing to help and support students when they reach out. She always has a smile on her face. She always communicates effectively and timely whether it is posting assignments or emailing announcements for the class. She interacts kindly and supportively with students and shows interest in supporting them in extracurriculars such as attending sports events, theatrical performances and other student activities."

Kyle Chunn, *Fifth Grade Teacher, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"Mr. Kyle is a consistent guide in the classroom by helping students grow their strengths, providing encouragement to step outside their comfort zone, stretching their minds and skills, and building self-confidence."

Mike Churchill, *Social Studies & AVID Teacher, North Eugene High School*

"Mr. Churchill is a teacher who dedicates himself to his students and is a mentor to all of his students. He prioritizes helping students understand themselves, their sense of future, all while making education fun and engaging. Churchill is selflessly persistent, and always available to help with any sort of problem. North is incredibly lucky to have such a patient, hard working, and reliable Champion in Education."

Jacob Clark, *Social Studies Teacher, South Eugene High School*

"Jacob Clark is someone who is passionate about teaching and honestly cares about his students and their success. He creates an atmosphere in the classroom where students are excited to learn, and encouraged to discuss the topic and to ask questions."

Meredith Coelho, *Language Arts Teacher, Roosevelt Middle School*

"Meredith is a caring and compassionate teacher who is dedicated to the success of all of her students. I have been enormously impressed by Meredith's positive attitude, her instructional excellence, and her deep commitment to students and the community. Meredith always sees new opportunities as learning experiences and has a positive attitude for the benefit of all. She is an instructional leader, a great communicator and a positive member of the Roosevelt community."

Timothy Coleman, *Counselor, Arts & Technology Academy*

"Counselor Timothy Coleman is the student whisperer of Arts & Technology Academy. Students surround him from the moment they get to school, where he is standing out front greeting them every day and setting the tone for a positive, jovial and successful day. Tim's heart is all for our students, and they thrive on the kind empathy and compassionate guidance he shows them."

Jim Conaghan, *School Psychologist, Student Services Department*

"Jim is a highly skilled, one-of-a-kind, hard-working and dedicated school psychologist who knows how to make children, families and teachers feel supported. He is personable, caring, intelligent and thoughtful, and he makes everything easier for all who have the opportunity to work alongside him. His humble and lighthearted attitude always makes those he encounters feel seen, heard and understood. Jim is a true ACE in every way!"

Sara Connors, *Elective Teacher, Cal Young Middle School*

"Not only does Sara encourage students to do their best work, but she also teaches kindness and acceptance in leading by example. She spends hours of her personal time writing grants so that the kids have access to technology. In addition, she started a Legos robotics club that the kids love. Middle school can be a tough time for kids, but she has made my son's time at Cal Young so much more enjoyable."

Jessyka Cook, *Third Grade Teacher, Spring Creek Elementary School*

"Jessyka is exceedingly kind and encouraging. As a new teacher she has such enthusiasm and patience, combined a desire to meet each kiddo's unique needs. She fosters a love of learning while meeting each kid where they are at. Thank you, Jessyka!"

Kelley Coplin, *American Sign Language Teacher, North Eugene High School*

"Kelley is supportive, caring, determined and just an amazing teacher in general. Her classroom is always filled with love and smiles. Any of the students who have taken her class will tell you hers is the best to be in. She's not only a teacher but an important part of multiple communities here at North. She's a person I feel I can easily come to talk to and ask for help from."

Annette Corbeau, *Third Grade Teacher, Gilham Elementary School*

"Mrs. Corbeau is truly exceptional with students and has been a game-changer for our family. Our daughter went from having severe anxiety about attending school, to loving learning! Somehow Mrs. Corbeau balances creating a fun and inclusive learning environment with also holding students to a high behavioral standard. I know that our daughter will remember her as one of the most influential teachers in her life!"

Jill Corrigan, *Language Arts Teacher, North Eugene High School*

"Jill is always looking for opportunities to provide for students. She is always willing to lend an ear, a book, or a hug for anyone who is looking. She has taken on two new College Now courses in the past two years while teaching a demanding IB curriculum and advising the Asian Student Union. She is a giver and a nurturer and she deserves all the accolades in the universe. She provides a safe place for students and staff alike. SHE is the definition of love and light."

Tom Cramer, *First Grade Teacher, Camas Ridge Elementary School*

"Tom shows extreme compassion towards his students, and he naturally commands and deserves his students' respect. During COVID, it was more than obvious that he continually went above and beyond to keep his students engaged with Zoom classes."

Vanessa Crane, *Physical Education Teacher, Spring Creek Elementary School*

"Every student is interested and excited to go to PE. With Vanessa's positive, energetic and approachable disposition, she does an amazing job getting the students to trust her and gets them involved and moving in whatever activity she has planned. She is hands down the best PE teacher we've ever had at Spring Creek."

Elysabeth Cummings, *Math Teacher, Monroe Middle School*

"Ms. Cummings is consistent and patient, willing to give students a chance to start over when there have been issues with behaviors or habits that are taking away from their learning. She is willing to hear their concerns and make sure to try to address things in class in a calm manner. What I appreciate most about Ms. Cummings is that she is always striving to meet kids where they are at while still challenging them."

Ben Dechter, *Physical Education Teacher, Camas Ridge & McCornack Elementary Schools*

"From the first day of school, when he was out front greeting everyone with energy and warmth, Coach Ben has been so welcoming and dynamic. He quickly established trust and rapport with my kindergartner and our whole family, and it meant so much to me as I transitioned to having my first child enrolled in school. Seeing him in the morning at drop-off gives me a daily dose of optimism for my child's day."

Kim DeLeon, *Special Education Teacher, McCornack Elementary School*

"Ms. Kim truly cares for each of her students. She gives of her time even after school to help students grow and succeed in their educational development. She also does an amazing job of communicating with her students' parents. She is by far the best teacher I have ever met. Her heart for the children she works with is very strong."

Julia DiFiore, *Third Grade Teacher, Chávez Elementary School*

"Ms. Julia is such a wonderful teacher. A teacher in full support of her students, one who is thoughtful and compassionate, fun and creative. She inspires the kids in her room to do their best with her, not for her. She is motivated and communicates so well with parents. She definitely helps create a world that gives hope."

Josh Dillow, *Band & Choir Teacher, Monroe Middle School*

"Leading the jazz band before school begins every day, Mr. Dillow knows how much the kids enjoy it and how important it is to their growth as people and musicians. He has created a safe space in the band room where students want to spend their lunch periods and flex time, building friendships, practicing their instruments and having a place where they feel welcome."

Louisa Dorsch, *Science Teacher, Churchill High School*

"Miss Dorsch teaches students to make learning a joyful and intentional act. Lessons that students access in her classes are very engaging, thoughtfully planned and connect students to the world around them, especially within their own community. Be it students learning about the types of forests that are in Oregon, building 3-D topographical maps or realizing a model of DNA strands, students are able to put their hands on scientific concepts and enmesh themselves in the activities."

Bea Downes, *Third Grade Teacher, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Bea is one of the most amazing humans I have ever met. She shows love and knowledge in everything she does. She makes Buena Vista, Eugene and the world a better place."

Carmen Duato, *Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher, Cal Young Middle School*

"Carmen is an enthusiastic and inspiring teacher leader. Under her direction, Cal Young now has its first ever digital newspaper, an ambitious project that teaches students teamwork, collaboration and encourages school pride. Carmen brings her excellence to every undertaking and has also taken on organizing 'No Place for Hate at Cal Young'. She works every day to make Cal Young a better place for everyone, students, staff and families alike."

Sara DuBose Shepard, *First Grade Teacher, Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School*

"Sara Sensei is a shining example of what an elementary school teacher should be, and makes school a place to feel happy, comfortable and supported. She is empathetic, understanding, patient, caring, responsive, and gives over 100%. In life, one always remembers that one really good elementary school teacher, and I have a feeling Sara Sensei will be the one embedded in my child's memories of YG."

Gregory Dunkin, *International Foods and Catering Teacher, South Eugene High School*

"Greg teaches more than cooking skills in his classes. He teaches students how to be good citizens and how to think critically and deeply. He mentors them to be leaders in his class and inspires them to be creative and reflective thinkers. He works as a member of the CTE team at SEHS to center students, create new pathways for learning, and model optimism. Greg's class is often the one that keeps kids coming to school. He brings light and energy to the school."

Michelle Dunn, *Adaptive Physical Education Specialist, Student Services Department*

"Michelle is constantly thinking outside the box to figure out the best way to help our students and staff successfully develop an equitable approach and inclusive implementation of health and wellness at school. From chatting about best practices for UDL (universal design for learning) in physical education, to encouraging others to prioritize self care, rest and refocus, she is a constant source of strength and humor. Michelle is quick to help those who need it, while offering timely, practical solutions, even if it means dropping everything to deliver a piece of adaptive equipment at the last minute, knowing that ALL of our students will benefit from her efforts and actions."

Shannon Edwards, *Second Grade Teacher, Gilham Elementary School*

"Ms. Edwards takes the time to observe the strengths and areas of opportunity for her students, working in concert with parents, to ensure each learner has the social skills/awareness and academic rigor necessary to keep them not only engaged in the classroom, but support their love of learning!"

Dene Eller, *Physical Education Teacher, River Road/El Camino del Río Elementary School*

"Ms. Dene approaches every student and every school day with energy, enthusiasm and fun! Her encouragement and connection extend beyond the gym. She is always finding innovative ways to get students excited about moving their bodies, as well as finding leadership roles for students in upper grades. Ms. Dene empowers students to realize their potential and their valuable role in the school community."

Haley Ellis, *Third Grade Teacher, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Haley is a gem who is kind, fun and connects with the children. The bonds she has with her students help her create success in her classroom."

Dani Emrick, *Counselor, Howard Elementary School*

"Counselor Dani Emrick is perhaps one of the kindest, most compassionate humans we have in our school system. She not only counsels students one to one, she leads small groups and does whole class presentations, grades kindergarten through fifth. She works with parents and staff and most importantly—students—to ensure they feel safe, valued and cared for."

Mariah Engle, *Kindergarten Teacher, Chávez Elementary School*

"We have had the pleasure of having Ms. Mariah as all three of our children's kindergarten teacher. To say she is deserving for this award is an understatement. She has helped all three of my children come out of their shells. She went above and beyond for me as a mom to make sure I had the resources I needed to help my student focus on their strengths. She always has a positive attitude, communication is exceptional and so appreciative."

Simon Estifanos, *Physical Education & Health Teacher, North Eugene High School*

"Simon bonds with his students, encourages them, makes the school feel brighter, lets students know they are safe with him. He gives his students a place where they can feel comfortable talking about their physical and mental problems and he helps them. He is overall an amazing person and teacher that lights up any room."

Sara Farmer, *Physical Education Teacher, Kennedy Middle School*

"Ms. Farmer has made it her mission to not leave any kids behind. Those are her kids and the success of those kids is her greatest accomplishment when they are on campus and in her classroom."

Zach Farnell, *Band Director, North Eugene High School*

"Mr. Farnell is kind and funny with his students and gives them a place to feel like they can be themselves. He deserves this award because he is a great teacher and person, and understands the students like no other teacher I know."

Catherine Field, *Science Teacher, Cal Young Middle School*

"Ms. Field encourages me to learn and provides me opportunities to connect science to many of my interests. The way she talks with her students inspires them to participate in conversations about science topics."

Angela Finneran, *Social Studies Teacher, Eugene Online Academy*

"Ms. Finneran is not just a caring teacher but she's also a mentor—not only to my daughter but to every EOA student. She continually makes herself available via Zoom and even in person! She does regular check-ins for academic progress and truly cares about the mental well being of her students."

Tina Fisher, *Physical Education & Health Teacher on Special Assignment, Instruction Department*

"Tina is an incredible communicator, and she walks the walk when it comes to getting things done as our TOSA for Elementary P.E.! Our professional development sessions are fun and productive, and she ensures that all of our needs are being met in terms of equipment, training, and resources. This timely and direct support trickles down, so that we can make sure every student at school has what they need to experience success in P.E., sparking a lifelong love of health and wellness. I am so grateful for Tina's professionalism, dedication and kindness. She is truly a rockstar!"

Alex Franz, *Physical Education Teacher, Holt Elementary School*

"Alex's energy in the class is one of enthusiasm, calm, structure and fun. Alex's lesson plans are well thought out and he adapts to the many levels of students in the class. He knows his students and communicates often with all the teachers. Alex's passion for physical education for all, playing together, learning and being active is contagious. Holt is lucky to have Alex as an experienced, committed and enthusiastic physical education teacher."

Selena Frazier, *Physical Education & Health Teacher, Spencer Butte Middle School*

"Ms. Frazier listens to and respects our children. She has proven herself to be a genuine ally to so many of our youth. I can only speak for myself, but I want everyone to know how much she has helped my son. For myself, just knowing Ms Frazier is there for my son, makes the world a little less scary. We so desperately need more people like Ms. Frazier educating our children."

Ayhana Gaines, *Counselor, Adams Elementary School*

"Ayhana provides inspiration and support to staff, students and families on a daily basis. She mentors students and staff with gratitude, and places students' needs first in the most humble way. Not only does she positively influence our school's community, she guides students to succeed and is happy doing it! Ayhana inspires others with her excellent communication skills and warm attitude. She truly is an asset to our school and community, we are very lucky to work with her!"

Vanessa Garcia-Badillo, *Spanish Immersion Teacher, Monroe Middle School*

"Vanessa cares with her head and heart, which is evident in how she connects with students, staff, and the greater community. Students love her and she is actively engaged in school-wide initiative and activities. She is always the first to volunteer to help out at concerts, dances, and other events. We're so thankful for her support as she goes above and beyond!"

Katie Gates, *Special Education Teacher, Howard Elementary School*

"Katie is the heart and soul of the Howard "Special Ks" student support team. For a decade, Katie has provided compassionate care to some of our most challenging students using art, academics, music, movement, and a heart of gold. Katie's students are 'her students' forever and become part of her family, quite literally at times."

Erica Goulding, *Special Education Teacher, Edgewood Elementary School*

"Miss G was able to get my student, who had been behind in math and reading, caught up very quickly. She continues to track his progress even though he's not in her class. Thanks to Miss G and her staff, he is now at grade level. We are so appreciative that she worked with our student to achieve this success."

Rebecca Gourgey, *Special Education Teacher, South Eugene High School*

"Rebecca is more than a teacher, she's an educator. She makes sure that her students and their families get informational equity. She's patient, she listens, she comes up with reasonable solutions and ensures my teen is on board before locking them into a plan. She has gone above and beyond to make sure my teen is working, showing up, healthy mentally and physically. She's like a second mother to my teen and I cannot fully describe how incredible she has been. Rebecca is a rare gem and deserves the highest award possible!"

Amanda Greene-Chacon, *Counselor, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Maestra Chacon teaches students things that are not in books (or online). She shows them things of the heart and soul, such as how to connect, deal and process their emotions. Buena Vista is very lucky to have Maestra Chacon in the building everyday making a difference."

Katie Hansen, *Special Education Teacher, Sheldon High School/Transition Education Network*

"Katie Hansen is a brilliant and tireless educator whose dedication to the development and well-being of our children is priceless beyond words. Katie's vibrant and warm presence enriches everyone around her, and her laughter pierces the tension of the most challenging days. She promotes love, compassion and inclusion for everyone. Katie never turns away from a challenge and lets everyone around her know that they are worthy and capable of incredible growth."

Lesli Harmon, *Kindergarten Teacher, Holt Elementary School*

"Lesli goes the extra mile to make school a fun and welcoming space for all of her students. Whether it be going all out on costumes for Spirit Day, learning some basic sign language to help a kiddo feel more included, and finding ways to accommodate specific needs and abilities of her students, she's all in!"

Jennifer Harris, *Counselor, North Eugene High School*

"Jennifer is a huge asset to the North Eugene High School community. When students are struggling with sensitive topics in their personal lives, she is my go-to counselor. She has a way about her that allows students to feel safe enough to share what they are going through, even if it is the first time meeting her. Every student that I have taken to her has come back to check in with me and said they feel so much better than when they first went in."

Laura Harris, *Fourth Grade Teacher, Edison Elementary School*

"Laura Harris is one of the hardest working and compassionate teachers that I have seen. She works tirelessly to support the school and its teachers, students, and families. It is clear from the ongoing connections she forms with students and families that she has made a deep impact in the lives of many members of the Edison community."

Jacob Havner, *Student Success Coordinator, River Road/Camino del Río Elementary School*

"Jacob is a supportive, kind, thoughtful, and an essential part of the River Road community because of the care he brings, the compassion he shows, and the intrinsic value he has for both the students and staff. He always has a shining smile and encouraging word and we are all honored to work alongside him!"

Joanne Heidel, *Social Studies Teacher, Eugene International High School*

"Whether it's comforting a student in crisis, leading a team of colleagues to develop a new course, or teaching the Cold War using Princess Bride memes, Joanne does everything with compassion, poise, and wit. She is a master at forging relationships with students and motivating them to give their best while her irreverent sense of humor keeps them engaged. Her ability to simultaneously address students' emotional and intellectual needs is truly a sight to behold!"

Marcela Hellman, *Kindergarten Teacher, River Road/Camino del Río Elementary School*

"Maestra Marcela exhibits an excellent level of care and respect as a Kindergarten teacher. Our transition to grade school has been thoughtfully supported by her. She is excellent at communicating with me to create cohesion between home and school. My child loves to learn and exhibits so much pride in showing me new things she's learning. I am deeply grateful for Maestra Marcela as a trusted person caring for my child."

Elizabeth Henderson, *Language Arts Teacher, Churchill High School*

"Ms. Henderson always works hard to make sure her students have fun while inspiring and helping them in any way she can! She acts like a second mom to me, which I really appreciate and she helps me get through my days when I'm feeling down."

Emily Henson, *Special Education Teacher, Holt Elementary School*

"Emily Henson is the Queen of Kindness. Even when a student is unkind or aggressive, Emily is always kind. Every teacher can depend on her to swiftly respond with kindness in a difficult situation. Students trust her so when they're having a hard time she is able to tune in to their needs. Emily always knows what to say to de-escalate a student. She inspires me to focus on kindness no matter the situation."

Katie Herzberg-Hachimoto, *Japanese Teacher, Kelly Middle School*

"Katie sensei puts her students' emotional needs as high of a priority as their academic needs and truly cares about the students and the whole family. Katie sensei has had compassion for what is going on with our daughter at home as well as school. She has allowed our student to bloom, to feel seen and to feel important in school like she matters. That is the kind of person we are glad to have as a role model for our daughter. We will be forever grateful for Katie sensei."

Heather Hickcox, *Special Education Teacher, Student Services Department*

"Heather is amazing! She takes on a whole school's worth of special needs without the assistance of additional EAs or other resources normally available to 4J teachers in her position. Not only that, but she also regularly arranges for these kids to participate in field trips and other activities (many of which will be a full weekend in length and will include overnights)."

Justin Hollander, *Social Studies Teacher, Kelly Middle School*

"Mr. Hollander may set high standards for all of his students, but he always makes sure that they understand anything that he assigns us, and he makes sure that all of his students are supported and successful. He is an inspiration to those around him and is a kind-hearted, funny, social studies teacher. He makes sure all of his students are listened to and respected, and he supports them all in every way he can."

Meaghan Holst, *First Grade Teacher, Gilham Elementary School*

"Ms. Meaghan is a champion in the classroom because she exudes a love for teaching and her students. She speaks to them well and finds fun ways for them to learn. Ms. Meaghan has a positive and fun outlook on teaching and a solid grasp on class management and organization."

Christie Hoogendoorn, *Health Teacher, South Eugene High School*

"The qualities of compassion, honesty, bravery, honor and empathy are personified in Christie Hoogendoorn as a teacher. She is a model educator who treats all of her students with dignity, no matter what their backgrounds are. Christie always puts her students and, most importantly, herself first. She fosters positivity, self-worth and self-respect, and she has a massive effect on any setting to which she contributes."

Shay Hurlocker, *Language Arts Teacher, Churchill High School*

"Shay is a positive, caring, thoughtful teacher who strives to bring out the best in her students everyday. Shay reaches out to all students, check in with them, adapts and innovates to the needs of each class and allows students to feel supported, while also learning essential academic skills."

Kami Icenhower, Kindergarten Teacher, Gilham Elementary School

"Ms. Kami is a light to all those she encounters! She is the kindest, funniest, most loving teacher. She makes each child feel seen, heard and loved! Ms. Kami meets them where they are at and helps them succeed."

Katrina Irwin, First Grade Teacher, Gilham Elementary School

"Mrs. Irwin goes above and beyond in every possible way to ensure the well-being of children she encounters both educationally and emotionally so they feel safe and valued. A teacher's influence on a child can last a lifetime. Thanks to her, my child's first year in school taught him to love learning, a gift that will surely last a lifetime."

Melissa Ivan, Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher, Monroe Middle School

"Melissa is a positive member of the community. Over the course of the 2 years I've known her, I've been impressed at how she organizes school-wide events to support the community. She puts in a lot of extra time and effort to communicate and create the logistics for donation campaigns that tie into the curriculum while benefiting the broader community."

Kathryn Johnson, Special Education Teacher, Student Services Department

"Kathryn is so knowledgeable in her profession. She is so amazing at educating EAs, helping us be the best we can to help educate our students. We are so lucky to have her help our classroom and be a part of our team."

Sarah Johnson, Fifth Grade Teacher, Gilham Elementary School

"Words cannot express how amazing this woman is. Sarah has given everything to teaching—her heart and her soul! She sees school as a safe and wonderful place to be and instills that in her students. She is constantly learning and is humble and wise, and that's what makes her an incredible teacher because it shows that we are all learning. It's teachers like her that will change our world; I know a handful of them and they have changed my life. She is the best teacher in the world and deserves to be recognized!"

Stephen Johnson, Music Teacher, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School

"Maestro Johnson brings our school together through the gift of music. He engages each student, no matter their interest and ability. By organizing Música de Nosotros, he demonstrated his commitment to students and gave families a chance to celebrate music and community. His presence is felt throughout the day, and he is one of the reasons our school maintains a sense of community, joy, and belonging."

Lara Kincaid, *Math Teacher, North Eugene High School*

"Ms. Lara Kincaid is an exceptional math teacher, who has actually somehow made my student—who has always said math was their least favorite subject—now have math as their favorite subject. I think a lot of it has to do with the teacher, since Ms. Kincaid is one of those rare gems that goes above and beyond for her students, helping before and after school to make sure students understand the material. She is also very kind as well, helping students in other areas of life as well, like providing books for them to read and noticing when they are having an off day. She is one of a kind."

Jenny Kneale, *Fourth Grade Teacher, Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School*

"Jenny Kneale is up for anything. She tries to make everything fun and she really puts in the time and effort to have quality components to go along with her classroom activities. She's transforming the classroom into a campsite to relate to the current lessons and there is so much detail involved. She doesn't treat teaching as a job, she really loves the kids and wants them to have the best year ever."

Codie Kostechka, *Social Studies Teacher, North Eugene High School*

"Codie is an amazing teacher, very supportive of her students and always goes above and beyond for her students."

Allison Kreider, *Third Grade Teacher, Howard Elementary School*

"Allison is a real-life Mrs. Frizzle from 'The Magic School Bus' series! She encourages students to be investigative through science, math and reading. She recently helped transform an entire hallway into a giant aquarium, with sea life art and life cycles depicted on nearly every wall and window. and is now turning the space into literal 'space' with stars, planets and scenes of a night sky that students can add to. Allison truly cares about student outcomes—both academically and emotionally."

Sally Krueger, *Fifth Grade Teacher, Edgewood Elementary School*

"Sally engages her students each day with creative and thoughtful experiences. Sally doesn't shy away from planning and preparing because it's difficult. Instead, she leans into that difficulty because she knows that it will all be worth it when the kids have a memorable learning experience. She's a leader, and the greatest teacher that has ever lived—ever."

Jill Lancaster, *Occupational Therapist, Gilham Elementary School*

"We are incredibly fortunate to have Jill Lancaster as our occupational therapist. Extremely organized and focused on continuously learning, Jill easily develops relationships with her co-workers, students and families. She actively participates in meetings to identify needs and initiate ideas to support those efforts. She is motivated, engaged and serves with true inspiration."

ErinMarie Langsdorf, *Physical Education Teacher, Charlemagne French Immersion Elementary School*

"ErinMarie doesn't just care about the majority of her students at her school, she embraces and empowers students to be their best and support one another in the class to be inclusive. She is always looking and collaborating to find new strategies and methods on how to support all students' abilities to feel and know confidence and self-worth within her class."

Michael Leahy, *Counselor, South Eugene High School*

"Michael's compassion goes above and beyond. He has worked tirelessly to help our student through a lot of mental health issues. He checks in frequently and meets with us parents periodically. He is so compassionate and he talks to his students with such respect. He's an incredible resource and has made school so much more tolerable for my student. Michael's just an amazing human!"

Rebecca LeDuc, *Kindergarten Teacher, Edgewood Elementary School*

"Ms. Becky has been a quintessential kindergarten teacher for our child this year. She has an evident passion for children, child development, and teaching. Her expertise allows her to balance having fun with maintaining control of the classroom, all while teaching these young minds how to learn in a classroom environment. She cares so much about the well being of all her kindergarten students and it shows! My daughter loves going to school, and is often found playing "teacher" and school at home because she has been so inspired. What a great first introduction to elementary school!"

Tracy Lightner, *Special Education Teacher, Camas Ridge Elementary School*

"Tracy is a child's personal cheerleader, and a parent is lucky to have her managing their child's Individualized Education Program (IEP). She's involved, organized, systematic and kind. I've seen tremendous growth in my child's learning abilities and in their attitude towards school. Working with Tracy, my child feels confident, accepted and successful. I feel fortunate she is on my child's team!"

Ricardo Llamas, *Third Grade Teacher, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Maestro Llamas inspires students and makes them feel cared about, seen and powerful. He teaches through stories from his own experiences. Kids can relate to these stories and identify that, like Maestro, they have had silly moments, moments of achievement and excitement, made mistakes, had big feelings and learned many things along the way, growing all the time. By playing music in his classroom, he brings alive many forms of language and expression, based in music, dance, spoken language, dress, humor, instruments, etc. By sharing his passion for science, music, history, culture, justice, life in the classroom, he helps his students expand their horizons and learn based on a commitment to community, creativity and fairness."

Kenny Long, *Special Education Teacher, Howard Elementary School*

"Kenny is a compassionate educator who spends the bulk of his days working with students with emotional, behavioral and academic challenges. He calmly provides students with the care and attention they crave -- alongside the structure they need -- to succeed in school and also in society. He is approachable and kind, with a contagious laugh that helps lighten the stress on the most difficult of days."

Clarice Loo, *Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher, Cal Young Middle School*

"Ms. Loo goes out of her way to have the class fully engage with her lessons. She will sometimes put so much thought into an assignment that the class finds themselves wanting to do more and having fun while working. It's not just busy work; it all has meaning. She's amazing!"

Kelsy Loyd, *Music Teacher, Spring Creek Elementary School*

"Kelsy inspires students to develop a lifelong love of music through her fun and engaging classes. She works incredibly hard to build positive student relationships as she shows the most patience, kindness, and compassion that I have ever seen each day. Kelsy cares deeply about our school community, and she works far beyond her duties as a music teacher. Kelsy is positive, encouraging and passionate, and I feel so blessed to work with her each day!"

Melissa Lutsch, *Special Education Teacher, Spring Creek Elementary School*

"Ms. Melissa takes the time in creating an atmosphere of learning and love. My kids look forward to her small group instruction, and she meets them where they are at. She helps foster positive relationships among students by looking for ways to include everyone and continues to help them reach their goals. I can see the difference it has made at home."

Barb MacWilliam, *Science & Health Teacher, Cal Young Middle School*

"Barb leads by example for staff and students alike. Students who identify themselves as challenging share that Barb is their favorite because she shows them their talents and makes them strive to achieve their true potential. Students are exceptionally proud when they meet Barb's expectations, and we are all better for learning from her teaching and leadership."

Megan Marsh, *Kindergarten Teacher, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Megan has been the kindest and most patient person who interacts with our kiddo. Starting kindergarten was really overwhelming for our little one, and Megan was the one person who made her feel comfortable enough to come and then look forward to going to school. Megan communicates well with us about our kiddo's experience and what she is learning."

Davina Mattox, *French Immersion Teacher, Roosevelt Middle School*

"Davina is an all-star among all-stars, a talented teacher and inspiring mentor who is highly deserving of an ACE award. She is passionate about teaching and motivating her students to succeed. She creates an engaging learning environment in her classroom, where all students are given the opportunity to contribute and all are rewarded for their best efforts. In addition, she dedicates substantial time to the good of the greater Roosevelt school community by routinely participating in after-school events, where she can be found building positive relationships with parents and students."

Suzie McLaughlin, *French, Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher, Madison Middle School*

"Suzie is an advocate for students who encourages their strengths and addresses their needs. She is an engaging teacher who goes above and beyond her duties to make the instruction interesting and meaningful for students. She not only teaches the language but also the culture. Suzie supports students from all backgrounds by truly believing in their cultural additive power in the classroom and beyond."

Brad McLean, *Special Education Teacher, Sheldon High School*

"Brad McLean is a legend and someday they will sing songs about him. He's excellent in every aspect of his job because he simply cares deeply about his students and their successes. Yes, Brad is patient, empathetic and observant, but, most of all, he is an amazing peace maker. He is also a good listener who has remarkable communications skills and has become a huge asset in the Sheldon community. You are a star, Brad!"

Esther Moen, *Counselor, Camas Ridge Elementary School*

"Becoming Camas Ridge's school counselor during the first full in-person year after the pandemic, when both teacher and students were greatly struggling, Esther quickly became integral in ensuring the socio-emotional needs of the students were met. She has made herself available to parents to discuss those needs. Through her guidance, she has made all the members of the Camas Ridge community feel supported and able to succeed."

Teresa Montes Cervantes, *Social Worker, ECCO*

"Teresa is literally a life saver! As the alternative education social worker she has helped students and families in times of crisis. She is compassionate, patient, generous and dedicated to the community. She is incredibly hard working, and has helped our students and families connect to so many resources. In a constantly changing environment, she is able to track what resources exist and how to access them. All the while she maintains a calm and comforting demeanor. And in her spare time she does the dishes!"

Kelsey Moore, *Fourth Grade Teacher, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"Mrs. Moore starts every morning making each student feel like she has been anxiously awaiting their arrival. She has high expectations for her class, but she proves they can live up to them. Mrs. Moore knows each student's strengths and where they need extra support and encouragement. She teaches them that mistakes are expected, but it's not what defines you... it's how you respond that matters. She is the most amazing teacher and deserves to be recognized for her dedication to educating our students."

Jennifer Mora, *Social Studies & Language Arts Teacher, Kelly Middle School*

"Ms. Mora has dedicated her entire life to teaching and remains the most humble educator I have ever come across, never admitting to times of stress or hardship. Even Kelly Middle School has a stamp of beauty that Ms. Mora has left, such as the multiple murals and courtyard. Her legacy will live on in the community, and I, like many others, are successful because of Ms. Mora."

Trieva Morgan, *Special Education Teacher, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"Simply put, Ms. Morgan is a godsend. I truly believe everyone has their calling, and she has found hers. After every interaction, I'm left feeling like she wants just as much for my child as I do. She is willing and ready to do whatever needs to be done to meet her students' individual needs, both educationally and emotionally. I know that my daughter can count on Ms. Morgan's support on any given school day."

Daniel Morphis, *Science Teacher, Arts & Technology Academy*

"Mr. Morphis goes the extra mile to get to know the families to better know their children. He sees the gifts in kids and works to bring those gifts out and enhance them. He reminds our kids that they have everything they need within themselves and encourages them to be their best."

Courtney Morris, *Fourth Grade Teacher, Edgewood Elementary School*

"Courtney deserves an award for going above and beyond to develop a love of and curiosity for learning. He makes learning fun! My student has developed a love of science with all the fun projects Courtney includes. He sets up experiments for her students to learn about electricity, floods, rock abrasions and more. As a parent, I love seeing my student enjoy school."

Toni Mucker, *Third Grade Teacher, Edgewood Elementary School*

"Mrs. Mucker did an exceptional job prepping her class for my student transferring in during the middle of the year. My student was welcomed by all the kids, and they had read a book about a child that transferred in and were all so welcoming and kind. I very much appreciated the warm compassion shown by Mrs. Mucker, and I'm sure my student's ability to settle in quickly was all due to the ground work she put down. She instills in the class life skills on how to treat one another with kindness and empathy."

Sarah Murchison, *French & Spanish Teacher, Sheldon High School*

"Sarah always put the needs and strengths of students first. She is an engaging teacher who goes above and beyond her duties to make the instruction interesting and meaningful for students. She not only teaches the language but the culture. She supports students from underprivileged backgrounds by truly believing in their cultural additive power in the classroom and beyond."

Alexia Murphy, *First Grade Teacher, Charlemagne French Immersion Elementary School*

"Alexia took on the role of a part-time first grade teacher this year at Charlemagne and has shown dedication and perseverance throughout her first year of teaching. She is also a strong advocate for the special education students at Charlemagne and has encouraged more inclusion into the school community. Students, staff and parents love her! I have no doubt that this is the beginning of a very successful teaching career for her."

Teresa Myers, *Math Teacher, North Eugene High School*

"Teresa is an incredible teacher and advocate for all students at North, especially those who identify as LGBTQIA+. She is a trusted person who many in the building, both students and other staff members, go to for support and guidance. Her dedication and push for equity makes our school a better place!"

Gene Newbold, *Art Teacher, Monroe Middle School*

"Mr. Newbold is such a light to his students, encouraging creativity and wanting them to find their passion. He treats each student with respect and dignity and creates a safe space for them to be themselves. Teens are incredibly aware of how teachers feel about them in middle school, especially when they are being difficult. He genuinely seems to like his students and has faith in who they are and who he knows they can become."

Katie Niemeyer, *Physical Education & Health Teacher, North Eugene High School*

"Katie is a prime example of what it means to build rapport with your students. As a coach and a teacher, you will notice how genuine all of her students are with her. They feel welcomed, heard and respected by her, no matter if she's on the field or in the classroom. She has the gift of getting the best out of every student and meeting them where they're at so they can succeed."

Chelsea Norris, *First, Second & Third Grade Teacher, Family School*

"Chelsea deserves this award due to her tireless energy and thoughtful teaching style. She is the embodiment of what we want to see in a teacher. She is inventive, kind, and dedicated. She is concerned about her students' education, but more than that, she is concerned about them as people with feelings, concerns and excitement for learning. She makes them want to continue learning. She is a well-rounded person who is very adept at reading the person and making them feel valued and important."

Jackie Ochoa Cuevas, *First Grade Teacher, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Maestra Ochoa shows herself at every opportunity to be a teacher with talent, skill and professionalism. But even more, the joy in and love of what she does is evident in any interaction with or observation of her, making her valuable to her community, her school, her class, and our son. Our son's interest in and enthusiasm for learning and school is due to her approach and demeanor. We are so grateful that she is a key part of his education."

Rachel Parac, *Counselor, Charlemagne French Immersion Elementary School*

"Rachel is a huge asset to the Charlemagne community. She works hard to create a safe space for all students, and she goes out of her way to support the staff at Charlemagne as well. Whether it's a pep talk, advice, a safe space, or just a friendly hello, she is always there. She is one of the best advocates for the students at Charlemagne and works amazingly with staff members to problem solve anything."

Ellie Pascoe-Long, *Kindergarten Teacher, Edison Elementary School*

"Ellie's dedication, love and commitment to her students is unwavering. She empowers students to be their most authentic selves. She truly makes a difference in her students' lives and embodies all that a kindergarten teacher should be: joyful, kind, determined and fearless."

Niels Pasternak, *Special Education/Autism Teacher on Special Assignment, Student Services Department*

"Mr. Pasternak is a true champion in education for those whose needs and abilities are different from the typical student population. Mr. Pasternak takes the time, even when no hours are left in the school day, to make sure he understands what drives the students he works with and what barriers those students might face to realizing their own interests and finding success in the educational setting. He also reaches out to the community to support students and to make our community inclusive for the students he works with. Niels spends his free time advocating for this population of students through the legislative process and local community outreach."

Megan Perdue, *Choir & Leadership Teacher, Sheldon High School*

"Megan Perdue has inspired so many lives and futures. She finds opportunities for her students and encourages them to pursue whatever it is they want from life. Megan makes her classroom a safe space to go to during times of self-doubt, anxiety and sadness. She's so hard-working, motivated and compassionate, and I consider myself extremely lucky to learn from her every day."

Amy Petty, *Fifth Grade Teacher, McCornack Elementary School*

"Amy's teaching approach is to find and use her students' unique strengths to help them develop a positive self-concept. She guides her students to work hard and celebrate their individual successes and those of their peers. Amy creates a community of learners. Every day Amy displays kindness, humor, patience and expertise in instructional practices. Amy demonstrates the qualities of an exceptional teacher."

Scott Pierce, *Counselor, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"Scott shows positive regard for every student. He has an open door to both students and parents when it comes to the mental health of the kids at Willagillespie. He engages with students in a way that makes them feel safe and heard, making the wellbeing of students a priority and Willagillespie a positive learning environment. I can appreciate the care and compassion he has for every student. I have seen the same compassion for a bully as the child being bullied. We are so grateful for Scott."

Mary Poppen, *Music Teacher, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"Not only is Mary a passionate and gifted music teacher, but she truly has a heart for the kids. She goes above and beyond to make sure their needs are met, whether that's spending an extra few minutes to check in with them or making sure they aren't hungry. Thanks for all you do Mary! You are appreciated!"

Erin Prescott, *Second Grade Teacher, Edgewood Elementary School*

"Ms. Prescott and her calm and caring demeanor should be cherished in this district. She has been a bright light in our child's 2nd grade year of school. Her passion for education and creating a wonderful classroom environment shows through her lessons and well thought out activities. Plus, she is a master of throwing themed class parties!"

Bryan Prideaux, *Fifth Grade Teacher, Howard Elementary School*

"Bryan's training as a Gen Ed teacher with a SpEd background is a great asset to his classroom. He does a great job with differentiating his instruction so that he can help all of his students find moments that they can shine. He always makes time to connect 1:1 with his students and will search for ways to engage his students that typically disengage from academics. Bryan goes above and beyond to connect with his students to create a welcoming classroom environment and build relationships with everyone."

Shasta Quigley, *Behavior Specialist, Equity, Inclusion & Instruction*

"Shasta will always put students first. She has provided support and guidance to countless schools and staff in need of an advocate for kids. She is thoughtful when meeting with students and her supports are a direct reflection of student interest. Shasta has dedicated her career to doing what is right and best for student success in and out of the school setting."

Mary Recker, *First Grade Teacher, Gilham Elementary School*

"I'm so grateful for educators like Mary Recker, who give my child the same love and support I would. She is generous, patient, structured and calm and creates an environment of learning that is positive and encourages growth."

Kim Reinhardt, *Student Success Coordinator, Howard Elementary School*

"Kim is the heart of Howard. She is who we all come to when we have a student that we just can't figure out how to best support. She takes the time to get to know every student and what their interests are, and uses this knowledge to create long lasting bonds. They know when they see her that they are safe and won't be judged at their most vulnerable moments."

Joe Renaud, *Special Education Teacher, Sheldon High School*

"Joe's authenticity and caring for his students is immediately visible and felt at many levels. The students of Sheldon high school are lucky to have such a resource. Joe has been an amazing support in the lives of my teenagers in just a few short months. His caring and immediate connection makes the transition for my students so much easier. Joe is incredibly dedicated and thoughtful. He is a truly special teacher."

Danielle Renken, *Second Grade Teacher, Chávez Elementary School*

"Danielle Renken builds strong bonds with her students. Not only does she educate her students to meet their individual needs, but she goes above and beyond to support them and guide them. She communicates with students, parents and staff on a level that exceeds expectations. She makes everyone feel like their needs matter."

Stephanie Riley, *Third Grade Teacher, Gilham Elementary School*

"Stephanie Riley spends countless hours (of her own time) researching ideas to challenge and excite each of her students. She differentiates subjects with ease while maintaining a positive whole class community. She truly wants every day to be enjoyable, memorable, and educational for her students. Each one of her students knows they are cared for and listened to. She is a gift to the Gilham community!"

Samantha Ritchie, *Second Grade Teacher, Adams Elementary School*

"Samantha's kindness and compassion has been exactly what my son needed to feel safe and supported in school this year. She has been a strong advocate for her students, meeting them where they are and empowering them to be authentically themselves. I could not have asked for a better teacher and advocate for our family this year. She was exactly what we needed."

Lisa Robbins, *Second Grade Teacher, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"We can all think back to our school years and remember that one teacher that inspired us the most, the teacher that made us want to give and be our best. I have no doubt that Ms. Robbins will be just that for my daughter. The encouragement and support she has given her this year has exceeded any and all expectations. It's obvious that this isn't just a career for Ms. Robbins but also a passion."

Suzy Rock, *Fifth Grade Teacher, Howard Elementary School*

"Suzy Rock has truly empowered our daughter with complex disabilities to reach her full potential as a fifth grader. Mrs. Rock has made an enormous effort to make our child feel included, valued and respected in her classroom. She has provided creative recommendations along the way but what impresses us the most is Mrs. Rock's dedication to fostering a culture of empathy and understanding in her classroom."

Lizette Rodgers, *Spanish Teacher, South Eugene High School*

"Lizette is by far my favorite teacher of all time, and I can't imagine anyone else who is more deserving of any award. I believe she is one of the most relatable and nicest teachers out there. She goes so above and beyond for every deserving person who comes into her classroom."

Mark Rodgers, *Science Teacher, South Eugene High School*

"Mark is a great teacher who makes assignments fun and teaches in a fairly entertaining way that keeps students interested and engaged. I was struggling to keep up in class and, knowing I liked to read, he gave me a book on the subject we were learning about. It greatly helped me keep up on the work I had to do."

Krystle Rodriguez, *School Nurse, Student Services Department*

"Krystle is a compassionate nurse that serves her students and their families with kindness, empathy and dedication. She works incredibly hard to make sure the needs of her students are met. Some of the children she serves don't have medical care or attention from anyone other than from school, and she goes above and beyond to make sure these kids are supported and thriving."

Beth Saxon, *Title I Teacher, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"Beth is an inspirational teacher who has dedicated herself to encourage students—and educators—to strive to be their best. She is honest, humble and caring to everyone around her. She motivates through creative learning that supports students' success. She is loved by many. She is valuable and irreplaceable in our school. We are so fortunate to have her."

Sarah Schiltz, *Fifth Grade Teacher, Howard Elementary School*

"Sarah is a dedicated, kind and thoughtful 5th grade teacher. She takes inclusion to heart, sees each of her student's unique needs, and tailors her lessons to include ALL her students—not just those at 'grade level'. She collaborates with her special education team, and is a positive team player who does not complain. She is easy going and the love she has for her students shines through daily."

Scott Schirmer, *Math Teacher, Churchill High School*

"Mr. Schirmer is a teacher who takes the time to make meaningful connections with students. During these times, laughter and a bit of silliness is a much-needed medicine as well as a path to connection and belonging. My student tells me that Mr. Schirmer is encouraging and funny. His encouragement has created confidence and an ability for my student to excel in math. He is the first teacher to actively believe in my student."

Sarah Scholten, *Special Education Teacher, Edgewood Elementary School*

"Sarah is always optimistic and deeply cares for each of the CLC (comprehensive learning center) students. She also looks out for the CLC staff to ensure we are safe and unharmed in situations when students' emotions are high. She listens to us and considers ideas we have for books, art activities or best ways to handle the more high-maintenance students' behavioral problems."

Zak Scotton, *Special Education Teacher, Churchill High School*

"Zak is a caring teacher who stands up for special ed kids. He is more like family because he reaches out to all parents to keep them informed on how their child is doing, to let them know what is coming up or to find out how else that child can be supported in school. He is the perfect example of a great person and the best example of a Special Ed Teacher."

Alexis Screen, *Fifth Grade Teacher, River Road/Camino del Río Elementary School*

"Maestra Screen is all in when it comes to teaching. She is engaging, encouraging, captivating and possesses boundless energy. She treats students with respect, and they seem to reciprocate. She is involved with her students and their activities while promoting reading and choosing books with incredible messages. My daughter has had a lot of great teachers, but Maestra Screen is in a class by herself."

Mike Seager, *Special Education Teacher, Roosevelt Middle School*

"Mike's classroom is a vibrant place full of juggling tools, musical instruments, and other games for students to play and engage. He skillfully uses these tools to teach students social skills and build a classroom community of acceptance and understanding. Students flock to Mike because he is funny, mutually respectful, affirming, and provides non-judgemental support and feedback in ways students don't often experience in schools."

Matt Sharkey, *Social Studies Teacher, Churchill High School*

"Matt Sharkey is a shining example of experience, passion and a genuine fascination with the world around him. Walking into Matt's class, you can immediately identify that his classroom is a place for learning, but it is a place where young persons learn to become thoughtful and respected citizens. Students know that Matt has high expectations for them and will hold them accountable, but they also know that he has a massive heart. Mr. Sharkey meets his students at the door, makes immediate connections with them and makes each one aware that they are seen, they are important and they are cared for. Matt shares that wonder with his students every day."

Tana Shepard, *Climate, Energy & Conservation Teacher on Special Assignment, 4J/EWEB Education Partnership Program*

"Tana is always looking for creative ways to support our 4J community of learners in developing and fostering a connection to each other and to our planet. From salmon education to district-wide food waste management support, Tana's vision is clear: We all can do our part to make less of an impact and create a more just, healthy and livable future on our planet. Tana puts in endless hours of behind-the-scenes work to make that happen, and we're the better for it."

Shelly Silver, *Kindergarten Teacher, Howard Elementary School*

"Shelly Silver's approach to teaching is one of kindness, openness and compassion. She understands that each child has their strengths and weaknesses, and she strives to create a classroom environment that is inclusive and supportive. She ensures that each student knows they have unique gifts to share with the larger community. She uses creative and innovative teaching methods to engage her students and makes learning fun and exciting. I love walking down the kindergarten hallway to admire the creative art projects Shelly uses to strengthen students' connection to academic concepts."

Roxanne Simpson, *Third Grade Teacher, Gilham Elementary School*

Mrs. Simpson is such a delight to have as our son's teacher. He went from hating school to begging to go after being in class with her for a single day. I am so grateful for her positive impact on my son's life!"

Jennifer Slater, *Special Education Teacher, River Road/Camino del Río Elementary School*

"Jennifer is a rock star in supporting so many students in the classroom, while balancing meetings and communication with school and parents. She is a huge advocate for her students. She has the patience of a saint."

Magdalena Sloniger, *First Grade Teacher, Buena Vista Spanish Immersion Elementary School*

"Maestra Sloniger does a great job promoting inclusivity and provides an upbeat and fun environment for children to learn. My child feels safe being herself in Maestra Sloniger's classroom."

Shaun Smith, *Japanese Immersion Teacher, Kelly Middle School*

"For many years, Shaun-sensei was the sole reason why the Japanese Immersion program at Kelly Middle School flourished! Shaun-sensei has an incredible ability to connect with students, in particular middle school students, which can be extraordinarily challenging. Shaun-sensei meets students where they are at; he is encouraging, supportive and engaging. He is an exceptional teacher and we are beyond grateful for him!"

Antje Snawder, *Kindergarten Teacher, Adams Elementary School*

"How do you keep children motivated on Zoom? Excited to learn on Zoom? Excited about being in school on Zoom? You are Ms. Antje. I should have filled this out a couple of years ago, but it doesn't matter. I hear Antje is even more incredible in person. And the impact she had on my child has lasted. Because of her, my child loves school!"

Hannah Stamp, *Special Education Teacher, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"Hannah is the most constant and steady professional with children and staff. She is always upbeat and positive, even when de-regulated students are melting down around everyone. Anyone could stop by Willagillespie on any given day and they would smile after observing Hannah with a student who was struggling. She is a shining example of patience and grace, and the constant force and support for all students and staff."

Barb Stroh, *Special Education Teacher, Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School*

"Barb has been an amazing teacher to my daughter and really helped her in building both her knowledge foundation and her confidence. She treats her with concern, respect, and caring. She has always displayed a belief in my child and encouraged her to do her best and strive to learn, and to feel happy and proud of her accomplishments. She has kept me informed about concerns, and given me guidance in her care. She takes her own time to help my child, beyond the normal call of duty."

Kelly Stroh, *Fifth Grade Teacher, Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School*

"Kelly gives her very best to every student. She reaches all learners, whether they are students who exceed expectations, who meet them or who are still learning. Regardless, Kelly always tries her hardest to meet each one where they are at so they can be successful."

Kim Sullivan, *Special Education Teacher, Howard Elementary School*

"Kim is an exuberant and dedicated special education teacher. For over 15 years, she has positively impacted the lives of her students and colleagues. From unique and custom lessons to meet students needs, to dressing up silly to bring a smile to students faces, she is always going out of her way to make staff and students feel loved, seen and accepted for exactly who they are."

Kevin Summerfield, *Social Studies Teacher, Sheldon High School*

"Kevin Summerfield is adored by many students. He spends time getting to know his students personally and isn't afraid to encourage them to work harder when he knows they can easily do better. Mr. Summerfield is also an active member of the school community by being a part of clubs like BSU, which seems to be the most popular club at our school."

Jay Swanson, *Fourth Grade Teacher, Chávez Elementary School*

"Jay is calm and reassuring, and incredibly talented in creating lessons that teach children so much more than what is expected. He creates an environment where the students want to do well for themselves and for him. He also gives every student (no matter how they act out) respect and acceptance. He shows that respect to all students and co-workers alike. Jay is worthy of this award because he believes in and delivers excellence to every aspect of his job. I'd love to come back as one of his students!!!"

Aaron Thomas, *Language Arts & Performing Arts Teacher, North Eugene High School*

"Aaron Thomas is a kind-hearted teacher and director who leaves a mark wherever he goes, and whoever he interacts with. He's always there to lend a helping hand and offer support to students who need it. Aaron shows compassion and emotion for everyone and helps everyone strive to be the best version of themselves."

Gwen Thorne, *Kindergarten Teacher, Camas Ridge Elementary School*

"Ms. Gwen is a compassionate innovator, a thoughtful guide, and a delightful classroom leader for the children she supports in new learning each day. She teaches kindergartners about what it means to be collaborative, to support one another to make their best choices for the greater good, to advocate for what they know to be right in ways that care for the school family, and to try and try again when the first try didn't result as intended. As a parent, I feel extremely privileged that Ms. Gwen is a part of my child's life."

Carrie Tilson, *Counselor, Monroe Middle School*

"Carrie is a rock for so many kids. She offers them support and searches out the best route to take for the wellness of their minds, bodies and spirits. Her office is a safe haven. She works so incredibly hard and her countless hours show in the trust students, staff and parents place in her."

Kristina Trujillo, *Science Teacher, North Eugene High School*

"Kristina has been such a valuable member of the North Eugene community as a mentor, teacher, co-worker and overall great friend. Whether it's providing after-school support for our students or organizing a support system for our staff, Kristina is always willing to help. Her constant joy and energy is a pleasure to be around, and she definitely makes North a great place to be at."

Nick Van Bloem, *Fifth Grade Teacher, Spring Creek Elementary School*

"Mr. Van Bloem is a tremendously positive member of the Spring Creek community. He fosters a classroom community that creates a happy safe space for all of his students. He encourages every student to be kind and to help each other succeed collaboratively. Thank you, Mr. Van Bloem!"

Julia Von Holt, *Social Studies Teacher, Eugene International High School*

"Mrs. Julia is the perfect candidate because she is always there for any student. She meets all of the criteria as being well rounded, accepting, encouraging, bubbly, etc. Mrs. Julia is known by her students as the one to go to for any form of support. Her learning environment is as perfectly executed as it is engaging, welcoming and calming. She always wants the best for her students and allows many opportunities to do so."

Christina Wagner, *First Grade Teacher, Awbrey Park Elementary School*

"Ms. Wagner is an amazing teacher. She loves her students and spreads kindness every single day. She attends their sports games and birthday parties. She goes to every one with a smile on her face and makes them feel loved and cared for. I have seen her students light up when she shows up for them. Ms. Wagner is a new teacher, but her love shines. She puts the students first in their education and day-to-day activities and goes above and beyond outside of the classroom. I have never seen a more deserving teacher and an example of what all teachers should do for their students."

Stephanie Waples, *Fourth Grade Teacher, Willagillespie Elementary School*

"Mrs. Waples has been phenomenal in helping my student gain self esteem and confidence this year. She encourages and uplifts her students; she checks in and acknowledges her students. She makes sure that everyone feels seen and heard. Not only is she amazing with her students, she has been excellent at communicating with me and making sure we are bridging the gap from home to school and vice-versa, so my student sees we are a team in her education. Grateful is an understatement."

Jasmine Ward, *First Grade Teacher, Howard Elementary School*

"Jasmine is so passionate about teaching and seeing her students succeed, She always has a warm, welcoming, supportive and positive attitude. She makes you want to do better and try harder. She makes learning fun and enriches the lives of all her students and their families. Students always come up to her and say hello and let her know how they are doing. She makes a positive impact on all."

Shelley Watson, *Speech-Language Pathologist, Howard Elementary School*

"Ms. Shelley, as students call her as they hug and high-five her upon morning arrival, is a compassionate and comprehensive communicator. She has helped students, as well as student practitioners, including parents and staff, increase their own communication skills for more than 18 years."

Robin Wellwood, *School Nurse, Student Services Department*

"Robin's 25 years of service to 4J's students and families deserves recognition. Parents, children, and school staff value her quiet and thoughtful manner as she makes daily decisions that help children and adolescents feel comfortable and safe at school. She faithfully supports her teammates in her gentle, humble manner. Robin calmly and competently approaches difficult issues, and supports and empowers her colleagues, especially nurses, in honing their own decision-making skills in the school setting."

Timothy Wilcox, *Band & Theater Teacher, Madison Middle School*

"Mr. Wilcox provides a welcoming and safe environment for students of all identities and abilities to come and explore music and theater. He works hard to make sure performances and practices for productions are accessible for all, including students who are deaf and hard of hearing. He also collaborates well with other teachers, interpreters and other schools. It is a joy to see how his students benefit from all of his hard work."

Clair Wiles, *Social Studies Teacher, North Eugene High School*

"I have never in all my years encountered a more dedicated champion for her students than Clair Wiles. Clair cares and supports not only the students' academic progress but also their overall well-being. Clair understands there's more to teaching than just the subject: There's the person inside needing guidance for their future."

Anne Wilson, *Third Grade Teacher, Edison Elementary School*

"Miss Anne has always been a great teacher who is both positive and nice and works well with her students. Without her, there would be lots of stuff I wouldn't know. Miss Anne is deserving of an award for the help and support she provides every school day."

Bree Wyatt, *Essential Skills Coordinator, Adams Elementary School*

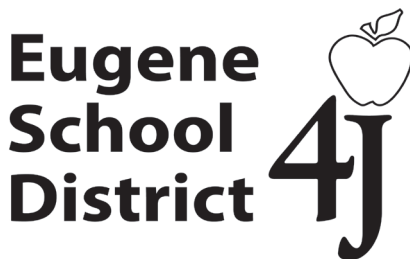
"Bree is the epitome of a selfless educator. She is involved in all aspects of our school and knows all the students. She works tirelessly to make sure students are successful, seen, heard and participating. She helps students bring the fun of learning to life; she runs the news crew and affinity groups. She is integral in making sure all our students are succeeding. We couldn't do it without her!"

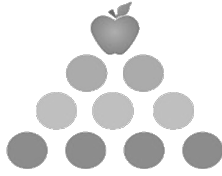
Anthony Yakovich, *Counselor, North Eugene High School*

"It is not easy with the student load that our school counselors have to treat each student like they matter while being stretched thin. Anthony manages to do so with grace. His patience and understanding is invaluable and should be recognized."

**To the amazing educators
nominated for the ACE
Awards and to all the 4J staff
and volunteers who make
a difference in the lives of
students every day:**

Thank you!





EUGENE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**A special thank you to the
Eugene Education Foundation
for providing grants to the
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Since 1993, the Eugene Education Foundation has connected the community with programs and projects in every school in Eugene School District 4J in order to increase opportunities for enrichment for all students.

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