



Great Falls Public Schools

Good Apple Award Recipients

Brian Held, Associate Principal, Great Falls High School, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Theresa Busch, Parent, because of the following: Last year Brian faced the dilemma of whether to allow my son to his one and only Senior Prom. You see, Colton struggled with the standard classroom setting since the sudden death of his dad. Therefore, he decided to pursue his HISET at MSU Great Falls. He was not in regular attendance with his program which Mr. Held had to take into careful consideration. Brian looked beyond something as simple as attendance and was compassionate and empathetic towards my son. The pictures of Colton and Emily bring a smile to my face when I see them. Brian you are the most amazing, kindhearted and considerate person I know. Because not only did he graduate with his HISET he took every one of the tests without preparation and passed. Thank you so much for approving his attendance and making a lifetime memory for my son.

Brent Cutler, Assistant Supervisor of Building & Grounds, Little Russell, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Ruth Uecker, Assistant Superintendent K-6, District Offices and Rhonda Zobrak, Principal, Giant Springs Elementary School, because of the following: Brent should be recognized for all of the extra time and effort he put forth to support our move to Giant Springs. Brent was responsive and helpful throughout the process. We had many last minute deadlines and changes to the project and Brent was flexible in supporting us himself and in recruiting staff to assist as well. Brent went above and beyond to move boxes and clean our building himself to make sure that we were prepared for our ribbon cutting ceremony. We truly couldn't have made it without him!

Mark Miller, Technology Support Technician, District Offices, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Dawn Thompson, Office Assistant, C. M. Russell High School, because of the following: Here at CMR one of our Reader Boards outside went down, months ago. The entire tech department has worked endlessly trying to get it back up and working. After months of working with it, trying different things and solutions, Mark Miller uninstalled the programming and reinstalled it. This was a multi-day process. It works!!! 😊 Thank you to all of the tech team for all of your work and effort.

Pat Douglas, Technology Core Technician, District Offices, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Jill Christensen, Kindergarten Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, because of the following: The reason for Pat's recognition is for all his hard work, dedication and promptness when supporting me when moving classrooms and transferring to a new school. I had several questions regarding arranging my classroom to best support my teaching styles and most importantly meeting the needs of all my students. We communicated weekly and he always answered my emails and face to face questions. I know that GFPS techs have ticket after ticket demands

to fix, support and manage our mess but Pat was always there to assist. When moved to my new school, my main concern was where my desktop and camera were located in my classroom. It was set in the middle of the room and far away from where I would be teaching my kiddos at the carpet. My direct instruction takes place in front of the room so the arrangement was stressing me out. Speaking to Pat about my situation, over and over, he took the time to check out the classroom and told me the process it would take to fix. I then discussed this with my new principal and we put in a work ticket immediately. In the beginning of July, I began setting up the classroom. The techs were super busy fixing things around the district for summer. As my room began to look like a classroom, after unpacking 90 boxes, the computer still sat in the middle of the room. I was stressing! One day when entering the classroom in the morning, there were a few techs in my new building. I asked if they could check out my situation fast just to see how long the process would take. They came in and told me the process, then placed another work ticket with suggestions given. The very next morning, I got an email from Pat and my classroom computer was all hooked up, cords were placed all together and it was ready for my students, arranged beautifully in the front of the room. My room was finally complete with the help of Pat understanding how big of a priority this meant to me. Pat is one outstanding employee and we are so lucky that he is part of Great Falls Public Schools. Thank you again for being so awesome and such a great resource. I appreciate you so very much!!

Sarah Bouchard, Jordon Falkenhagen, Orié Fischer, Mark Miller, Technology Support Technicians; David Myles, Technology Core Technician, and Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology were recommended for Good Apple awards by Patrick Douglas, Core Tech, District Offices because of the following: Beginning in early 2018, the district began deploying a new phone system that would impact every district building and every district employee. While the entire tech department was instrumental in getting this project completed in a timely and efficient manner, these techs went above and beyond to make sure the project went as smoothly as possible for not only the installation team but the end users who would rely on the phones to work properly. Sarah, Jordon, Orié and Tom ensured each week that the training sessions that occurred in each building were as effective as possible. Often overcoming glitches in the training webinars, these four made the best of each situation in an effort to help all GFPS employees learn how to operate the new phones. Tom was key in leading each training session, which was made more valuable as they occurred at the same time phones were being cut over in the building. The project also required the tech team to rewire the entire administration building to accommodate the new phones. This project brought many challenges to the tech team, including rebuilding the wiring infrastructure that connected the end users to the network. Mark helped keep this project moving forward behind the scenes by offering innovative ideas from alternative ways to drill through the concrete ceiling to implementing the drilling itself, oftentimes in a hot and miserable working environment, and he did it with a smile on his face and with a positive attitude. His efforts took a project that had ground to a virtual standstill to one that continued to move forward on schedule. As each site was prepped for the new phones, the network also had to be configured. David ensured, with each site, that the network ports were active and ready to go prior to each cutover and, without fail, each of those cutovers were picture perfect as a result of his prep work. Thanks to the entire tech department for their help in getting this new phone system installed with very few hiccups.