



Great Falls Public Schools Good Apple Award Recipients

Lee Haynes, 1st Engineer, Jeff Pottratz, 2nd Engineer, and Bruce Bieber and Mike West, Custodians, East Middle School were recommended for Good Apple Awards by Trisha Hasselstrom, Library/Media Assistant, East Middle School, because of the following: The engineers do a wonderful job taking care of East Middle School, going above and beyond, making the building ready for staff and students each and every day. Even with all the extra work they have taken on, due to being shorthanded and the weather, they still find time to take care of the little things that add to their load and make everyone's day better at East Middle School.

Jonathan Logan, Science Teacher, Paris Gibson Education Center, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Randy Remsen, Special Education Teacher, Great Falls High School because of the following: This school year I was asked to teach resource Earth Science and Biology here at GFH. I have never taught Science and I have no degree in it. This is my 37th year teaching. I really had no clue how I was going to accomplish this task. Jonathan stepped up knowing I had some issues. He invited me to his room over the summer to go over all his materials he had gathered over the years of teaching science. He was willing to do this on his own time to help me. As the year has gone by, he continues to be there if I have a question or need help. I would have had an extremely difficult time this year without his assistance. Not only am I grateful for his generosity, but my students are better off as well.

Susan Woyth, Administrative Assistant, Human Resources, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Cathy Kuntz, Computer Application Teacher, East Middle School, because of the following: I first worked with Susan in 2000 when she was the District Personnel Technician AKA the Sub Clerk. She had a tough job getting up early in the morning and filling all the daily classroom vacancies when telephones were the communication, not computers. Daily, she made numerous phone calls while trying her best to fill teacher requests, which made her job twice as difficult. In 2014, Susan transferred as an Administrative Assistant in the Human Resource office. Throughout these years, Susan has diligently filed forms, answered questions, typed agendas/minutes, checked licensures, directed phone calls; you get the idea, a jack-of-all-trades. Most of all, I've witnessed Susan making new employees comfortable, nervous employees relaxed, confused employees understood, and all employees welcomed through humor and experience. As a loyal GFPS employee, Susan deserves this award.

Jon Seekins, Special Education Teacher, C. M. Russell High School, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Janelle Munson, Special Education Teacher, C.M. Russell High School, because of the following: I've known Jon for longer than either of us care to admit, but as a fellow teacher I admire his example of commitment to the education of young people. In my time teaching with him, Jon has always shown dedication to working with families. He communicates effectively and consistently with the parents of students who are both in his classes as well as on his caseload. He's even been known to visit parents outside of school if they cannot make it into the school for a conference. Along with that, I've witnessed the duty he feels to the students here at school. He makes himself available after school to support student achievement. He monitors and supports students' academic progress and attempts to instill value in them regarding their education. Furthermore, he also supports and respects his colleagues. His humor offers a reprieve from the seriousness and frustrations we experience. He seeks out other teachers whether it is to check up on his students in their classes, or just to check in and see how the teachers are doing. I truly appreciate that I can count on him to support me personally as well as professionally.

Kim Lemaster, Satellite Kitchen Lead K-6, and Amanda Hust, Food Service Employee, Loy Elementary School, were recommended by Nadine Singels and Vicki Whittaker, both Special Ed Paraprofessionals, Loy Elementary School, because of the following: Kim and Amanda go above and beyond their job description to make sure our students with special food needs, special equipment and odd schedules, are taken care of. They deal with staff changes in their kitchen and the building without it disrupting the services they provide. We have buses and parents that arrive late, schedules that change and many other things that add to their job on a daily basis. Kim and Amanda are always friendly and have a smile and greeting for our students and staff. These women are an awesome example of employees that need to be recognized for their efforts that benefit all of us. We truly appreciate all they do for our students and staff.

Rhonda Hunter, Kandi Patton, Kasi Thompson, Jessica Cape, Terri Halverson, English Teachers and Trish Korman, Special Education Teacher, North Middle School, were recommended by Darcy Bronec, English Teacher, North Middle School, because of the following: Most of these ladies I have worked with in the English department here at North for the last eight years. We rotate morning/afternoon duty with the other three core departments. The week of February 4th through the 8th was a particularly bitter and frigid week. We have a joke here that when the English ladies have duty, it is almost always bad weather! That may mean incessant rain, intense wind, never ending snow or it is very cold. As I mentioned, this month's temperatures that week dipped for the majority of the week, well below zero, only one day it was a heat wave and was just above zero, one morning it was -22 and that was without the wind chill (-42 with the wind chill). These ladies braved the cold and were out in the elements every day keeping students safe as they were dropped off/picked up here at school. It would have been more comfortable to just stay in the doorway and welcomed students to school each day, but they selflessly and with a positive attitude faced the adversity of Mother Nature each day, twice a day, to do what was best for students! I am proud to work with them and know I can count on them to do what is right and best for our students regardless of the weather!

Katie Allen, Lead Payroll Technician, Business Office, was recommended by Bob McGregor, Supervisor of Data Center, District Offices, because of the following: The week of February 11, 2019, Katie got an email that looked like it was from an employee requesting a change in direct deposit accounts for check deposit. Katie did EXACTLY the right thing and indicated the proper paperwork. The person tried to get her to allow this to be done via electronic means. Katie did the right thing and this ended up being a possible bank fraud issue. It was not our employee who was requesting the change. Katie is always meticulous in her approach to all she does and is a tremendous asset to Great Falls Public Schools. She has always been vigilant and detailed in her approach and this case just points that out. She is the perfect person to be responsible for her position.

Jenn Newman, Literacy Teacher, East Middle School, was recommended by Steve Yates, Associate Principal, East Middle School, because of the following: Jenn Newman has always been an active part of the East Literacy Team. Recently, she was willing to step up and help make the Girls in STEM even a success. I was unable to be at the event and needed a person willing to oversee it. Jenn was a huge help. She ensured 200+ students ate and were bused to CMR. She also ensured that the students were active participants and successfully completed the assignments. It is stressful to plan an event, but not be there to see it through. It requires trust and a quality individual. Jenn is that individual. The event went off without a hitch and I am very grateful! People like Jenn are essential to the success of a school. I am proud to recommend her for a Good Apple Award. She went above and beyond what was expected of her. I am very glad to have her on our team. I am sincerely grateful for her efforts.

Bridgit Hopkins, Special Education Teacher, East Middle School, was recommended by Steve Yates, Associate Principal, East Middle School, because of the following: Bridgit is the Department Head of a very high quality team of professionals. Being the leader of a very strong and opinionated group can be a challenge. Meetings can be a struggle, but Bridgit does a great job. She is a quiet reflector who understands that all people need to be heard and respected. That being said she is a powerful advocate for struggling learners and the best practices that they need. No one works harder. Recently I have asked her department to look at what they do and ensure it is what is right for students. They created pathways that will help us schedule and ensure every student is properly scheduled and their needs are met. She spends time in the summer verifying schedules are correct and literacy classes are appropriately filled. Scheduling for literacy has been very smooth and I owe it to Mrs. Hopkins. I am pleased to be able to recommend her for a Good Apple Award. It is well deserved!