



## Great Falls Public Schools

### Good Apple Award Recipients

**Colette Griffin, Food Service Employee, Great Falls High School**, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Jessa Younger, Supervisor of Food Service, District Offices, because of the following: Until September 14th, 2020, Colette was a food service employee at Great Falls High School whose primary roles involved cashiering and managing the deli station. While Colette always does what is asked of her without any issue, one would never know that her knowledge of the school nutrition operation at GFH spanned beyond her own duties. When 6 of the 8 employees at GFH were quarantined, Colette stepped up. She worked additional hours, checked in freight, coordinated duties to ensure all necessary tasks were completed, made deli sandwiches/wraps, served as lead cashier, cleaned, placed orders, etc. Colette deserves so much more credit than she gives herself and that was evidenced by her leadership during a very difficult time. I would like to express my most sincere gratitude for Colette and her "just in case" knowledge, her willingness to always go above and beyond and, most of all, her leadership!

**Dan Sibert, Technology Lead Technician, Mike Ward, Kim Krattiger, David Myles, Patrick Douglas, Ori Fischer, all Technology Core Technicians, Glen Kimball, Jacob Bily, Jordon Falkenhagen, and Chris DiSalvatore, all Technology Support Technicians**, were recommended for Good Apple Awards by Tom Hering, Director of Technology Information, District Office – Annex, because of the following: This spring and summer, the GFPS Technology Tech staff took on the responsibility of wiring the new Longfellow Elementary. Originally, this was not on the project plan to do, but in an effort to cut costs, the team was asked to take this on. Without hesitation the team accepted the challenge. Not only did they accept and meet the challenge, they were recognized as one of the best sub-contractors on the job. They performed their tasks efficiently and professionally, well, with the exception of a few hand prints in the drywall tapers mud. The team accomplished the following task while saving the District approximately \$100,000.00 in contracted labor costs:

- Ran and terminated 98,000 feet of copper wiring for computers, phones, cameras, etc.
- Ran and terminated 750 feet of fiber optic cable
- Installed 25 network switches in 4 dedicated wiring closets
- Installed 18 wireless access points, including one exterior access point for outside learning
- Installed 39 phones
- Installed and tested a new video surveillance system with 55 cameras
- Installed and tested door security system on 7 external doors

- Provided internet connectivity to:
- HVAC Controls
- Lighting Controls
- Intercom System
- Exterior Reader Board
- Alluvion Health Office
- Installed 59 new desktop computers and laptops
- Installed 20 new Promethean panels
- If that wasn't enough, they also took on the project of rewiring the Great Falls High main campus in July. Due to the limited time frame of summer, they were only able to do the 3rd floor. These items were completed at GFH:
  - Planned and coordinated construction of two new wiring closets on 1st and 3rd floors
  - Ran Fiber Optic cable from the main wiring closet to 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors – estimated 1000'
  - Rewired the 3rd floor and old gym/weight gym/coaches area with Cat 6 cable – approximately 60,000'. It also involved terminating into unfamiliar raceways and comm modules.

This group continues to amaze me with their can-do spirit, drive and dedication. Their attention to quality as well as quantity is unmatched. Thank you for all you do.

**Dawn O'Leary, and Rachel Bohannon, both English Teachers, Great Falls High School**, were recommended for a Good Apple award by Tamara O'Neill, Associate Principal, on behalf of the administrative team at Great Falls High School, because of the following: To many of the staff at Great Falls High, being part of the Bison Family is not a job, it's a way of life. The camaraderie, the Bison pride, and the traditions make GFHS a great place to teach and learn. This year, a global pandemic has changed just about every aspect of our day-to-day at school. The challenges are numerous and exhausting for the entire staff, but we keep striving to provide an education and that sense of belonging to all our students. Two teachers, Dawn O'Leary and Rachel Bohannon, decided that despite the added complexity of their work and the busy day-to-day of their own families, they would do everything in their power to make the Bison 2020 Homecoming Royalty Show a reality. They know that the candidates on the Homecoming Court embody everything that is great about being a Bison and wanted to make sure we could still celebrate those students and get them the recognition they deserve. Ms. O'Leary and Ms. Bohannon took on the gigantic task of coordinating the Homecoming show and coronation during the time of a global pandemic. These teachers have worked on this extra duty for many years, but they have never had to do it while worrying about contact tracing, social distancing, matching face masks to costumes and formal attire, or moving coronation from a cancelled football game to a "reverse parade". Luckily, they are both creative and persistent professionals. They rose to the challenge and overcame the obstacles, providing recognition for those students, creating a lasting memory for them and their families, and carrying on a Bison tradition. Our administrative team knows we were not able to provide them with all the support and direction because of the constraints on our time this year. However, we knew we could entrust them with the task because over and over again, they prove themselves to be cornerstones of the Bison Family. They are deserving of Good Apple awards for the countless investments they make in our students each and every day, including this year's Homecoming Royalty Show.

**Dale Whitish, Carpenter, District Wide**, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Jennifer Martyn, Principal, Mountain View Elementary School, because of the following: Dale has done an outstanding job of making improvements within Mountain View Elementary. He does the work with a positive attitude and is willing to take the

time to listen and discuss with me improvements that he believes will make the project even better. Dale went above and beyond expectations in creating a metal boundary to keep our students from falling next to our stairs. Dale utilized some of his creative talent to weld our school's initials and pawprints into the design, creating a piece of art for our students, staff, and families to admire. He provides suggestions to make our building beautiful and safe and does so with a smile. Dale spends so much time making improvements within our building that it seems like he is a part of our staff. Thank you, Dale, for your commitment, your time and effort are appreciated at Mountain View Elementary!

**Briana Ceynar, Nurse, Mountain View Elementary School**, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Jennifer Martyn, Principal, Mountain View Elementary School, because of the following: Briana is the best nurse a school could ask for, especially in light of COVID. Briana spends countless hours making sure our records and information are accurate and prepared in case of an emergency. She is organized and dedicated to provide training so that all staff are prepared and confident. Since summer school this year in August, Briana and I have worked together to support students with various urgent medical needs. Due to Briana's preparedness, all of these events have gone quickly and smoothly to provide our students and staff with the best care possible. Briana goes above and beyond expectations by supporting our office with new protocols, she identifies a need, problem-solves possible solutions, and then advocates with me for the change. Once we have a possible solution, Briana has already prepared and fixed the problem before I even get a chance to leave my office! Briana is an excellent communicator with students, staff, and families. She is able to calmly handle a stressful situation when a parent is heated and it always ends up with a positive outcome with the focus being on what is best for the student. Briana is intelligent, caring, and holds high expectations for all. I am so thankful to have Briana at Mountain View, and honestly I do not know what I do without her this year.

**Cody Tucker, Monica Lewis, Teri Mahaffey, all Para Educators and Aaron Kinnaman, Substitute Para Educators, all C. M. Russell High School**, were recommended for a Good Apple award by Janelle Munson, Resource 1 Teacher, C. M. Russell High School, because of the following: This letter is to nominate the valued members of our special education department at C. M. Russell High School: the paraprofessionals who make it possible for teachers like myself to remote teach from Roosevelt Elementary. These individuals have adapted quickly to an additional responsibility unlike any they have ever faced. They have stepped up to a challenge that benefits the students in the classroom through an unusual set of circumstances, and they have done so with grace and patience. They have had to learn the technical processes of Chromebooks, audio systems, Google Classroom, and Epsom projectors all the while supporting the special needs of the students in my classes. I am truly thankful for each of these individuals.