



Great Falls Public Schools

Good Apple Award Recipients

Cynde Jacobsen, Science Teacher, Great Falls High School, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Chad Getten, Jason Karls, Carie Magers, Bridgette Pence and Kathy Van Tighem, all Great Falls High School Counselors because of the following: As counselors we are constantly asking teachers for “favors”. We know this can be a burden at times—we also know we create conflict within a teacher’s mind at times due to the fact that so often we are asking you to do for one, what we don’t want you to do for others. There can be no better teaching staff in the state of MT that is willing to put kids’ needs first. You are absolutely the most flexible, kid-centered, problem solving teachers around. Cynde has gone above and beyond....offering before we can even ask for help. Cynde always is willing to take an additional student. Because she made a call home to a student who hadn’t shown up for school in the first 2 weeks, that student chose to give this year a try instead of dropping out to homeschool. That student has since been here every day but one and is thriving. What an impact it can make when a student feels like they matter.

Dakota Rosales, English Teacher, Great Falls High School, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Chad Getten, Jason Karls, Carie Magers, Bridgette Pence and Kathy Van Tighem, all Great Falls High School Counselors because of the following: As counselors we are constantly asking teachers for “favors”. We know this can be a burden at times—we also know we create conflict within a teacher’s mind at times due to the fact that so often we are asking you to do for one, what we don’t want you to do for others. There can be no better teaching staff in the state of MT that is willing to put kids’ needs first. You are absolutely the most flexible, kid-centered, problem solving teachers around. Dakota has gone above and beyond....offering before we can even ask for help. Relentless. Not only do we adults know that she won’t ever give up on a student, so do they. Credit recovery is a tough place to stay positive. Dakota’s recovery room is almost always at capacity—and as soon as one finishes, we hear her broadcast throughout the counseling center, “I have an opening—who needs in?!”

Jeff Johnson, JROTC Teacher, Great Falls High School, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Chad Getten, Jason Karls, Carie Magers, Bridgette Pence and Kathy Van Tighem, Great Falls High School Counselors because of the following: As counselors we are constantly asking teachers for “favors”. We know this can be a burden at times—we also know we create conflict within a teacher’s mind at times due to the fact that so often we are asking you to do for one, what we don’t want you to do for others. There can be no better teaching staff in the state of MT that is willing to put kids’ needs first. You are absolutely the most flexible, kid-centered, problem solving teachers around. Jeff has gone above and beyond....offering before we can even ask for help. It is never easy to get a new program to catch hold. When JROTC came to us, it was unknown to our students.

But like so many other successful ventures, the personal connection with the students is what will make this program a main-stay. Jeff is a regular in our offices to figure out what is going on with a student—and if we aren't in our office you might find him chasing us down at bus duty to get the information he needs to stay on top of his students.

MJ Malsam, Labor and Delivery Nurse at Benefis, Lisa Henry, Administrative Assistant for Athletics, and Tim Paul, Retired GFPS Teacher and GFC-MSU Professor for a Great Falls Public Schools, were recommended for Good Apple Awards by Carol Paul, Student Services Coordinator, because of the following: Talk about dedication to a cause! These three lovers of books and encouragers of children attended the 15 “Summer Read 6!” events in summer 2017 to make sure that children were greeted and their books recorded in the database of our summer book give-away. Together, these fine people ooo-d and ahhh-d over each of the 3095 books selected by children and adults. Dozens of our fine teachers and administrators staffed the events but these three bibliophiles were stalwart in their dedication to supporting reading and young readers.

Ms. Lori Lind, Kindergarten Teacher, Whittier Elementary, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Dean Jardee, Librarian, Whittier Elementary, because of the following: Lori has worked at Whittier Elementary for over 3 years and demonstrates what a dedicated, caring educator is. She works enthusiastically as part of our Whittier team and jumps in to assist others as needed. She is generous with her time and always has a moment to listen to concerns of a co-worker. This year she has many students with high needs. As a library media specialist who only works with her students for 30 minutes a week, I am more than impressed with how she maintains an engaging, organized classroom. Her ability to meet individual student needs is apparent. This is why I would like to nominate her for the Good Apple Award. I count it an opportunity to work with such a professional, patient educator.