



Great Falls Public Schools

Good Apple Award Recipients

Shawna Short, Special Education Para Professional, Great Falls High School, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Margaret Wilson, Substitute Teacher, District Wide, because of the following: Shawna Short is a dedicated para-educator at GFHS. The special education teacher was out all week. On Monday the substitute had no experience working with children with disabilities, the other two paras had to leave in the morning and Shawna, with help from student aides, students CNAs and others, held the classroom together and took care of all the students. The rest of the week went better, but she had to teach me (the substitute the rest of the week) and the paras from EMS how to work effectively with the students and provide for their needs. We also had to wait with a student till nearly 4:00 for a late bus, there was a medical emergency which she handled extremely well, and several sick kids just to round out the week. Mrs. Marzetta's class has a wonderful educator in Shawna, who knows how to keep the class running under unusual circumstances.

Kim Yarlott, Hands, Lewis & Clark Elementary School, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Ruth Uecker, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary, because of the following: Over the past two years Kim and her staff have been incredibly flexible and responsive as we have maneuvered the unknown world of Covid-19. As our District has faced multiple remote learning situations, Kim has stepped up to offer emergency childcare for our healthcare workers. Kim and her team have had to immediately pivot from a before/after school childcare program to a limited emergency childcare center. Each time this has happened she did it with limited resources and on a very tight timeline. Kim never shies away from a challenging situation and approaches each situation with a can-do attitude. Along with spinning up an emergency center she has also been faced with a severe staffing shortage. Each day she is faced with figuring out how to staff our school-based centers in order to support the needs of our community. At no time during Covid-19 has she closed HANDS due to staffing issues. This in itself has been an amazing feat. HANDS is an integral part of our community and schools. As the director of this program, Kim has managed to keep the integrity of the program through challenging times. Kim is an incredible team player. It is a sincere pleasure to work with Kim and her team. She has been an incredible asset to our district during this challenging time.

