



Great Falls Public Schools

Good Apple Award Recipients

Kareem Jamar, Core Teacher Aide, North Middle School, was recommended for Good Apple Award by Jeremy Smith, Computer Applications Teacher, North Middle School, because of the following: Kareem's athletic accomplishments, when it comes to basketball, are far and wide. He was the 2013 Big Sky Conference basketball MVP for the regular season as well as the post-season. He also went on to play professionally in Europe. However, in my opinion, his biggest achievements have been from what I have recently observed with our students here at North Middle School and district-wide. Kareem runs Prolific, a basketball academy here in Great Falls, dedicated to improving young talent in our community. The players that he guides have most definitely improved their game. But what is most impressive to me is watching our students interact with Kareem when they are off the court. Kareem's soft-spoken demeanor has made an impact with our students. Kareem even took the time to come to our recent National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony at North Middle School so he could watch some of his players exceed in what is most important; life and academics. I am grateful to have Kareem as a part of our team here at North.

Kathy Dunn, Substitute Teacher, District Wide, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Mark Yeager, Career Pathways Advisor, District Offices, because of the following: I would like to nominate Kathy Dunn for a Good Apple Award for her work on CTE data collection. Since 2008, Kathy has been making calls to our CTE graduates for our CTE Accountability Survey, a requirement of the Federal Perkins Grant. Over all these years, she has met or exceeded the number of contacts required by the Grant. I would like to thank Kathy for the diligence she showed in performing this task.

Kathy Van Tighem, and Bridgette Pence, Counselors, Great Falls High School, were recommended for a Good Apple Award by Mark Yeager, Career Pathways Advisor, District Offices, because of the following: I would like to nominate Kathy Van Tighem and Bridgette Pence for Good Apple Awards for their work on Workforce exploration. Together they developed and implemented "Climb the Ladder" a Workforce initiative for all Great Falls High students. This initiative gives students an insight into the top industries in and around Great Falls. The program allows the students the ability to see what it takes to succeed from bottom to top, as told by industry partners. Workforce Development is a process that supports regional economic growth, and this program gets students a step up in starting their careers.

Nick Budeski, Counselor, Aaron Jensen, Social Studies Teacher, and Nate Achenbach, Associate Principal, C. M. Russell High School, were recommended for a Good Apple Award by Janette Kempf, Advisement Secretary, C. M. Russell High School, because of the following: CMR hosted an event in the parking lot with the military and there was a simulation machine. We have a student in a wheelchair who wanted to

experience the simulation, but there were stairs leading up to the machine. He was in a couple classes that the whole class got to attend but him. When he came to my class and asked if there was any way he could go, Nick, Nate, and Aaron jumped into action and called parents, talked to the military running the machine, and carried him in his wheelchair up the stairs so that he could experience what his classmates got to experience. The student was so excited and said the simulation was “Really cool.”

Mike Dawson, Volunteer, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Karen Thornton, Physical Therapist, District Wide, because of the following: Mike has been involved with donations to Longfellow School multiple times over the years. During one donation, he mentioned to Shannon Guilfoyle, Principal, that he would be happy to help if there are projects that needed completion. We needed some foot benches for the younger students to be able to sit well at the teaching tables. The teaching tables and chairs are generally taller. It is difficult for a young child to sit with their feet dangling, and it takes their focus away from academics when trying to stay in the chair. Shannon gave me Mike’s number. I called him and described our need and he immediately said “yes”. He came to the school to see exactly what was needed. I asked him to give me an estimate of materials and labor cost, and he answered that he would donate everything. A few weeks later, the first bench was delivered and placed in the Longfellow Resource II room. The students starting using it immediately and it has made a difference in their ability to sit and attend to instruction. We have watched the students continue to use the foot bench with great outcomes. I recently called Mike and asked if he would make another one. He didn’t hesitate before offering to make more than one if needed. It has been a joy working with Mike. The students have benefited from his generosity.

Bryon Boyd and Val Scheevel, Head Tennis Coaches, both C. M. Russell High School, were recommended for a Good Apple Award by Darren Brown, Grounds Foreman at Building & Grounds, because of the following: Last Friday May 13th. I was called out to the CMR tennis courts to see what I could do about the windscreens that were torn loose. The wind shredded one of the windscreens. With the help from Byron and Val, we were able to get the torn screen down in the middle of the extremely high force winds. These two coaches went above and beyond their duties.

Janette Kempf, Advisement Secretary, and Lynette Copp, Core Teacher Aide, both C. M. Russell High School, were recommended for a Good Apple Award by Jennifer Gunter, School Registered Nurse, C. M. Russell High School, because of the following: I would like to recognize Janette Kemp and Lynette Copp for their dedication and commitment to excellence in education for always going above and beyond for kids at C.M.R. The list of duties they perform is immense from maintaining 1353 cumulative folders, enrolling new students, preserving the food pantry, assisting students with scholarship opportunities to running passes and much more! In addition to performing their vast duties at an exemplary level; during COVID, they selflessly volunteered for the task of maintaining seating charts for over 600 classes a day! They not only created and maintained three binders of seating charts for every class and class period throughout the entire building, but every time a student transferred in or out, or teacher moved students a new chart was created. They did this for approximately 18 months throughout the pandemic. Without their efforts, there is simply no way contact tracing could have been done as accurately and thoroughly. CMR is lucky to have these two incredible individuals!

Kandace Gliko-Stimac, Resource 1 Teacher, Sacajawea Elementary School, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Dale and Jennifer Gunter, Parents, because of the following: Mrs. Stimac radiates positivity every single day! This energy is then transferred to her students in the way of self-confidence and can-do attitudes! Mrs.

Stimac has gone above and beyond this year not only helping our son to improve his reading and math knowledge, but more importantly, she was instrumental in building his self-esteem in areas outside of the classroom! Though Mrs. Stimac is new to Sacajawea this year, her patient, caring and kind demeanor was influential in building trusting relationships with her students within just a few short weeks. This has undoubtedly had an impact in their learning, test scores, and emphasizes their self-worth. For our son, she is a bright spot in his day! She is a truly amazing educator and GFPS is lucky to have such an extraordinary teacher!

Andrea Carroll, Attendance Secretary, Cindy Kenczka, and Rachel Packer, both Attendance Aides, C. M. Russell High School, were recommended for a Good Apple Award by Jennifer Gunter, School Registered Nurse, C. M. Russell High School, because of the following: Andrea, Cindy and Rachel go above and beyond with daily communication to parents and students. The three of them ensure that each student is accounted for seven periods a day. Their patient, caring and kind demeanor makes each student in the building feel like an important member of the family! Not only do they care about all 1353 students in the building, they recognize the importance of "attendance matters" and encourage each student to realize their full potential and abilities to become their best selves. During the height of COVID-19 they put forth a tireless effort in ensuring accurate attendance for over 182 cases of COVID that CMR logged in 2020-2021 and 312 cases in 2021-2022. The attendance ladies at CMR are a phenomenal, cohesive team that enhances significant value to the success of each and every student attending!

Theresa Busch, Counselor, Sacajawea Elementary School, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Dale and Jennifer Gunter, Parents, because of the following: We would like to recognize Theresa's continued dedication and commitment to excellence in education at Sacajawea Elementary! For the past, 14 years Theresa has provided outstanding counseling services to the students of Sacajawea Elementary. During this time, she has infused a culture of caring, helping, encouraging, and anti-bullying. Where each student and staff member alike are a cherished member of a family! Her warm and genuine presence is felt by everyone who has the privileging of working with her or meeting her for the first time. Theresa is the kind of counselor to whom students know they can go to with any problem or concern or even just to share a funny story. What we appreciate most about Theresa is her passion for kids and her genuine hope for their future. Counselors like Mrs. Busch are a treasure in our district and our community!