



Great Falls Public Schools

Good Apple Award Recipients

Becky Nelson, Community Connection and Work Force Development Manager, District Office Building, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Lisa Sapp, Child & Youth Education Services School Liaison, Malmstrom Air Force Base, because of the following: When I approached Becky back in February about a potential Purple Star School Tour for Malmstrom Leadership and for State Superintendent Arntzen, Becky responded “Yeah, sure! I can throw something together.” She definitely did “throw something” together! I have had the pleasure of working with Becky for the last couple months, and this lady for sure, is an absolute pro (*even though she claims she is not*). She was able to coordinate with various GFPS building administrators, the Office of Public Instruction, Malmstrom AFB, and the JROTC program to put on a fun and memorable experience for visiting guests! This was all done with little to no inconvenience for myself, and I am in awe! This was for sure a circus and she was an expert ringmaster! Becky has shown herself to be flexible and unflappable, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with her. She is absolutely amazing and I look forward to collaborating with her in the future!

JROTC Teachers, Lt. Col. Brian Holbein and Master Sargent Michael Wonch, both Great Falls High School, were recommended for a Good Apple Awards by Lisa Sapp, Child & Youth Education Services School Liaison, Malmstrom Air Force Base, because of the following: The JROTC program has generated a lot of interest from Malmstrom Leadership and families and we are so appreciative of the work and experience that Col. Holbein brings to the program. It was fantastic to see the cadets skills demonstrated so skillfully during the Flag Raising Ceremony at Loy Elementary that kicked off the Purple Star School Tour, they did an amazing job and impressed everyone in attendance! I am also especially appreciative of the Col. Holbein, MSgt. Wonch, and the cadets joining us for the Luncheon part of the Purple Up Tour, as it gave Malmstrom and MTANG Leadership a unique opportunity to talk and interact with the JROTC cadets and see firsthand, the professional young men and women involved in the program hosted through GFPS. Col. Holbein was especially helpful and went above and beyond by coordinating parking and providing clear directions for Malmstrom Leadership, that was very much appreciated on behalf of everyone. Malmstrom is looking forward to seeing this program grow and knows that it is in good hands!

Jacinda Huscher, Resource 1 Associate Coordinator TK-12, Paris Gibson Education Center, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Carol Paul, Student Services Coordinator, District Offices, because of the following: Jacinda supports all of the district’s elementary resource teachers. In her role

she serves teachers in all 15 elementary schools. Jacinda mentor new teachers in the profession and coaches experienced educators to continue growing their skills. As an experienced teacher in both general education and special education, Jacinda provides clear, steady guidance for teachers and IEP team members. She is detail-oriented, a plus when teaching staff the ins and outs of special education, a worker notorious for paperwork, meetings and data. On the classroom side, Jacinda can coach teachers, paraprofessionals, therapists, and parents to help their students have the best chance of success. Jacinda also serves as an important member of our Student Services Leadership Team. She keeps minutes, clarifies points, and brings the needs of her teachers to the group, whether it be professional development, materials, or ideas about supporting the climate of our department. She steps up to provide training to our staff to make sure teachers start the year strong; and in her monthly meetings, she catches them up on the changes in Special Education law, and how those changes impact our district. For her professionalism, encouragement of colleagues, and support of our GFPS Student Services, Jacinda is certainly a deserving recipient of our Good Apple Award.

Kerry Dattilo, Director of Human Resources, Heather Spurzem, Benefits Analyst, Susan Woyth, Sandy Bennett and Shannon McKiernan, all Administrative Assistants, and Maureen Thompson, Personnel Technician, all District Office Building, were recommended for a Good Apple Award by Tom Moore, Superintendent, District Office Building, because of the following: In appreciation of the outstanding work with our administrators, teachers and support staff during this past year of COVID-19 challenges and opportunities, I would like to recognize the awesome GFPS Human Resources Team. This time of year is very hectic with the new hiring, contracts being negotiated and written, insurance issues, daily demands for substitutes and the retirement processing, our human resource staff is so greatly appreciated! I would like to recommend these individuals for the prestigious GFPS Good Apple Award!

Kim Ray, Principal, Montana Johnson, Counselor, both Loy Elementary School, Tara Rosipal, Principal, Anita Raneri, Associate Principal, Lori Ostberg and Heather Dahley, both Counselors, all North Middle School, Kerry Parsons, Principal; Jamie McGraw, Paul Soldano and Nate Achenbach, all Associate Principals, Nick Budeski, Brenda Lowry, Jacie Schoenen, Brittany Light and Patti Pace, all Counselors, all at C. M. Russell High School, Paul Culbertson, Associate Principal, Lt. Col. Brian Holbein and Master Sargent, Michael Wonch. both JROTC Teachers, all Great Falls High School, were recommended for a Good Apple Award by Tom Moore, Superintendent, District Office Building, because of the following: I would like to recognize the following individuals for their outstanding work on the Military Family Appreciation "Purple-Up Day". They assisted in organizing events at their schools and hosting a contingency of guests throughout the day. We appreciate their leadership in our school district as they serve our military children and families.