

2012-2013

Employees of the Year

Jefferson School District



Jefferson School

Tina Engel



Tina Engel loves her job interacting with the students and staff members that enter the library. She is always warm, friendly and inviting. Tina wants to get to know each student so that she can help them mature as a person as well as find books to enrich their lives. She sees her job as a way of reaching students and helping them find their way in life.

The library can be a calm and peaceful place, but can also be filled with stress when it comes time for textbook distribution and collection. Even during these difficult times, she is calm and is always looking to make her customers (students and teachers) happy. Tina plays an important role in making sure that all teachers have the teaching resources they need for their classrooms. She is always looking to purchase new books and videos that support the curriculum in each classroom. Tina also ensures that all students have the necessary textbooks and materials as soon as they start.

She is a voracious reader who is always reading new books and seeking out the most current teen fiction to add to the library. Tina Engel is a tremendously positive person that knows her role in fostering strong readers is critical to the success of Jefferson School.

Jefferson School Sherry Gleason

Sherry Gleason epitomizes everything that makes Jefferson School great. Every day she looks to inspire students to greatness. She is always searching for creative ways to engage her students in the curriculum and develop or enhance programs to get students connected to after school programs.

Sherry believes that it isn't enough to do an outstanding job teaching her fifth grade students. She coordinates the GATE program on campus to help fifth through eighth graders extend their education beyond the classroom. Sherry implemented an after school GATE program called Invent, an eight week course where students in 5th-8th grade are placed on cross grade level teams.

Sherry also has coached numerous volleyball and basketball teams. Sherry frequently gives up her lunch to provide the students additional coaching. She has also co-led the Math Olympiad team, helping students see that learning can be fun. She believes that students need a safe supportive environment to mature in the critical middle school years.



Monticello School

Chris Curtiss



Chris Curtiss has been an employee in the Jefferson School District at Monticello for 18 years. She works in the capacity of instructional aide and campus aide, but has been deemed "the utility player of the school", an appropriate title for her. Mrs. Curtiss is a dedicated and loyal employee who understands our students come first. She rarely misses a day of work and is happy and cheerful each and every day she is there. Mrs. Curtiss stated, "The kids, you know all my kids, they are my whole life." Her definition of the kids is her own children, her grandchildren, and our Monticello students.

The person who nominated Mrs. Curtiss said, "Mrs. Curtiss will do anything that is asked of her for our students. She wants to help and enjoys being around the students and this shows every day she is at work. She puts the welfare of the students first and understands their needs. Students feel safe and comfortable when Mrs. Curtiss is around them."

Monticello School

Terri Davidson

Terri Davidson has been a part of Jefferson School District since 1987 when her son began his Kindergarten year at Jefferson School. For many years Mrs. Davidson was a highly respected substitute teacher for the district .

In 1997, Mrs. Davidson began teaching Kindergarten full time and was appropriately dubbed the “Queen of Kindergarten” by one of her former partner teachers. Mrs. Davidson’s nomination had many kind words. Mrs. Davidson is a dedicated teacher of Kindergarten students. It takes a special person to work with “K” students, and Terri does this well. She gets students on the right track, building a strong foundation for future learning. She is a mentor to her Kindergarten team. She is the most school-spirited teacher I’ve ever known. I have often wondered when she finds time to sleep! Mrs. Davidson is an excellent motivator of students and is a master at building student self-esteem with a “you can do this attitude”.

Mrs. Davidson has also been a BTSA mentor for six teachers, served on various curriculum adoption teams and been a member of the pacing guide team. She has been the home and hospital teacher in the district for 11 years.



Tom Hawkins School

Tina Seymore



Tina Seymore has been an intervention specialist at Tom Hawkins School for five years. During those five years she has been working with struggling students from all grade levels. Tina has helped them become fluent readers and confident learners.

Tina is always refining her craft to ensure she is using instructional practices that benefit all of her students. We have seen this proven in the data showing her students' amazing academic growth. She is helping our students close any achievement gaps they may have. The confidence her students are able to carry forward will help them be conscientious students and confident young people.

Tina's commitment doesn't stop there as she spends countless hours increasing her knowledge of quality instruction by seeking out professional development and instructional coaching. She develops caring relationships with students and is always working tirelessly to help them be successful. She is one of the biggest reasons Hawkins' Response to Intervention program is so successful.

Tom Hawkins School

Dawn Myers

Dawn Myers has been with the district since 2005. Here are a few things her colleagues have said about Dawn. Dawn exemplifies what a teachers is supposed to be: hard-working, caring, innovative and passionate. Dawn loves her students and is passionate about teaching, which is obvious when you walk into her room.

She has a wide knowledge base due to her work with the Great Valley Writing Project and Instructional Norms Team. She models great instruction, day in and day out, which leads to her students achieving. Dawn is always challenging herself to reach each and every student to help them develop the skills to be confident and life-long learners. As a result of her hard work and reflection in her practices, 98% of Hawkins' 4th grade students scored proficient or advanced on the STAR writing exam.

She is a constant positive presence and professional. She continually strives to be her best on a daily basis. Dawn is a true role model for all teachers and one of those teachers you would like to clone. Dawn is a positive influence to the entire Hawkins staff.



Anthony Traina School Zubaida Pajarillo



Zubaida Pajarillo has been employed with Jefferson School District for seven years. She started with the district as a parent and began volunteering her time in the classroom. She was first hired as a campus aide for the school and now Zubaida is a Clerk I for Anthony Traina School.

Baida always welcomes and greets parents with a smile. Baida starts each day with a smile and no matter what type of day she has, she always ends the day with a smile. Her enthusiasm for her job and love for what she does is evident daily. Baida is the “go to” person in the office for staff and students.

Baida is always willing to look for ways to better the school. She is responsible for creating the weekly newsletter and Facebook page for the school. Baida is also in charge of putting together the yearbook for the school as well as leading the eighth grade graduation ceremony events. She works well with the administration as well as district office to learn new tasks and complete them in a timely manner.

Anthony Traina School Cathy Jenkins

Catherine Jenkins has been an active member of the Jefferson School District staff for 24 years. She has been involved in many committees that have shaped our district. She has been an instrumental part in establishing the physical education program we benefit from today.

Her colleagues said, "she is a positive example of what we should all strive to be as professional educators." She is always looking for ways to engage and excite students.

Cathy works with students to teach them life skills such as sportsmanship, fairness and self-control. As the athletic director, students and staff don't just view her as a teacher but also a mentor and friend.

Traina staff will miss you but wish you the best for your new journey, retirement. Thank you for a wonderful 24 years!



District Jay KleebSamut



County Employee of the Year



Jay has a very strong work-ethic that is evident to all that come into contact with him. His duties as district landscaper - groundskeeper take him to each of our facilities at least one time a week. While he grooms our grounds he keeps his eyes open for small issues and "repairs or reports", preventing the small problems from becoming big ones. It's difficult to put a dollar figure to the savings Jay's diligence has produced, but without his dedication to fixing and spotting issues, our maintenance and utility costs would be considerably higher.

Jay's dedication to his job and our district are evident. He opens and closes our facilities for many community groups and for some of these community groups, he's the district representative. Jay maintains a positive attitude and friendly demeanor while working with the community groups.

Jay is the perfect example of a classified staff member that works hard to perform his job well. He is well known for his sense of humor, great attitude and attention to his duties.

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