

RAHN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY



Gary Hill

3rd Grade
29 years of service
Principal – Brad Robb

I got into teaching later than most, and in it found a challenge unlike anything else I'd experienced. A job that seemed, in those first few years, impossible. Now, many years later, I still feel the weight of the expectations of the job. What has made all the difference is that the payoff has been incredible! Seeing pure joy in kids' eyes. Watching them grow brave, or humble. Witnessing the energy of a whole bunch of kids experiencing something amazing at the same time. It's very easy to find passion when their passion literally meets you, face to face.

Three words describing teacher: Compassionate, Encouraging, Humble

RED PINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Patti Hillier

Technology Clerk
24 years of service
Principal – Drew Goeldner

I've felt lucky and blessed to be able to work one-on-one or in small groups with both the students and the teachers who support our students. Getting to know and understand how different people think and process is so interesting. I believe technology is an important part of students' and teachers' lives. The technology field is very linear and logical and as I'm more left-brain dominant, this appeals to my personality. I also love the challenge of figuring out technical issues and discovering the solution. I believe I'm good at communicating what the issue is and the solution to both students and staff. I try very hard to explain things in 'layman's' terms and try to make sure they understand. I hope this helps people become more self-sufficient when faced with technical problems in the future. I just love it when I see a light bulb go off in someone's mind when they understand or come to me and tell me they have figured out an issue on their own! It has been a privilege to enjoy my job all these years.

Three words describing teacher: Dedicated, Skilled, Innovative

THOMAS LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Nick Tews

K-5 Elementary Visual Arts
7 years of service
Principal – Rachel Hughes

What makes me passionate about my work is the constant changes and opportunities I have every day with my students. I can encourage students, help them have a better day, or make them excited about an art project we are working on. In addition, they do the same for me. They lift me up, they encourage me to do my best, and they excite me about what may happen.

Three words describing teacher: Creative, Student Centered, Engaging

TRINITY LONE OAK LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Stephanie Vallin

7th-8th Grade Religion, ELA, 4th-8th Grade Music
16 years of service
Principal – Kathryn Jones

My passion for teaching is a calling and a gift. God called me to teach and He has enabled me with the gift to do it! I still remember all the boys in 6th grade crying when Mrs. Hughbreitz finished reading us *Where the Red Fern Grows*. I thought "Wow! The power of words! I want to be a teacher!" Making connections with students is what drives my passion.

Three words describing teacher: Learner, Can-Do Spirit, Fun!

WOODLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Jill Johnson

Reading Recovery plus Grades 1, 2 and 5
28 years of service in ISD #196 (31 years total)
Principal – Lisa Carlson

My passion is helping students to become confident readers and writers who enjoy many kinds of literature.

Three words describing teacher: Positive, Hard Working, Committed



WORD CLOUD

A Word Cloud is a visualization of words based on their frequency of use and prominence. This Word Cloud contains the words used by your principals to describe all of you. The larger the word above, the more often it was used.

ROTARY COMMITTEE

John Curlee
Bill Lindberg

Mouli Vaidyanathan
Judy Vicars

Carol Wirsbinski

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Eagan Rotary &
Eagan Kick-Start Rotary

TEACHER RECOGNITION

May 18, 2022



WE ASKED EACH TEACHER

What makes you passionate about teaching?

WE ASKED EACH PRINCIPAL

What three words best describe your teacher?

BLACK HAWK MIDDLE SCHOOL



Amanda Schendel

Currently, 8th Grade Science

7 years of service at BHMS

Principal – Anne Kusch

My own middle school experience was marked by absolutely incredible teachers. I love my job because it is real life – it matters and is important and has real and very tangible outcomes. I love my job because of the people – the students are real, raw, messy, hilarious, kind, and deep, and all the things that make middle school students so great. And I love my job because it's fun – we laugh, celebrate successes, have dance parties, and giggle at silly science memes. Teachers change lives in small, seemingly insignificant ways. My passion has always been driven by the desire to change the lives of the people I work with to make an impact on the world by helping to shape bright, empathetic, hard-working people who will help make the world a better place long into the future.

Three words describing teacher: Dedicated, Dynamic, Exceptional

DAKOTA HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL



Susan Micevych

Band: 6th, 7th, 8th Grades

38 years of service

Principal – Dr. Trevor Johnson

I love the energy of middle level students and the challenge of supporting their musical growth in ensembles that allow every student to shine on their way to a common goal.

Three words describing teacher: Passionate, Engaging, Dedicated

DEERWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Mark Rud

Center Based Special Education – Grades 1-5

22 years of service

Principal – Jeremy Sorenson

Typically, the students I teach come to me from other buildings because they have been exhibiting severe behaviors. I love developing a relationship with these students and flipping their mindset so they are able to be successful in the classroom. There is no better feeling in the world than when a student that has hated school starts to trust you, and because of that trust, they take a chance and are successful in the mainstream setting with their peers.

Three words describing teacher: Reliable, Kind, School Family

EAGAN HIGH SCHOOL



Polly Tabbert

Work Experience Program, Grades 9-12

28 years of service

Principal – Dr. Polly Reikowski

I work with students who receive special education services. We foster hopes of successes and milestones to achieve. My work is building, training, and encouraging students. Because of a twist of a chromosome or other complications, students encounter many challenges. I work with community leaders, managers, supervisors to employ EHS students with special needs. What makes me passionate about my work is resting in the goodness of the students I get to work with, and with their hopes, dreams, and potential to be reliable productive employees where they too are recognized for their ordinary yet extraordinary work.

Three words describing teacher: Devoted, Prepared, Highly Regarded

FAITHFUL SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Colleen Duffy

Middle School Math

Currently in year 20 in our school

Principal – Catherine Butel

I love seeing the kids who come in afraid of math and leave Faithful Shepherd loving math and willing to be challenged. Also seeing that light bulb go off when they understand a math skill, and see them so excited about being successful.

Three words describing teacher: Dedicated, Energetic, Reaching

GLACIER HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCE



Lisa Lyons

1st Grade

15.5 years of service

Principal – Adriana Henderson

I am passionate about teaching because every day is different. I have the opportunity to connect with and have a positive influence on young students and their families. For me, this is a powerful reward for being a teacher.

Three words describing teacher: Caring, Kind, Innovative

NORTHVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Meghan Untiedt

3rd Grade

5 years of service

Principal – Kerri Town

Being able to observe bits and pieces of my teaching in the learning and growth of my students throughout the school year is what makes me genuinely care about this work. I am passionate about my teaching knowing there are so many opportunities to meaningfully connect with students and have impact.

Three words describing teacher: Reflective, Thoughtful, Dedicated

OAK RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP



Micah Klotz

K-5 Music

19 years of service

Principal – Dr. Cathy Kindem

There is incredible beauty in the raw nature of people, in growth, joy and even in pain. As an elementary teacher, I see children demonstrate this human spirit through a less filtered lens. As a music specialist, I use music as my pathway to embrace the experiences of our collective humanity – our sound. The relationship of human essence and the soul's connection to music is beautiful. Music acts as a universal language where no words are necessary. It provides my classroom the ability to express our individual uniqueness through emotion, movement, instrumental expression, and creative production. My joy is creating a collective freedom to feel, play, explore, and unite – a place to find our own beat within the context of the band (community), embrace drum solos (unanticipated outcomes), and practice life. Within this collective freedom, you find thick strands of equity, validation and exploration of student voice and choice, and relationship skills learning. Ultimately, my passion for teaching is embracing the joy of humanity together, with each and every one of my learners both as a solo and an ensemble.

Three words describing teacher: Creative, Optimistic, Empathetic

PILOT KNOB STEM MAGNET SCHOOL



David Foster

3rd Grade

7 years of service

Principal – Thomas Benson

Helping students find personal connections and enjoyment in learning is my reason for teaching. Students love and will always come to school with backgrounds and skills. Finding ways to leverage a student's knowledge and skills so they can experience success is the most crucial part of what I do as an elementary school teacher.

Three words describing teacher: Dedicated, Professional, Passionate

PINEWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Danielle Gendreau

2nd Grade

6 years of service

Principal – Cris Town

What makes me passionate about my work goes beyond the light bulb moments when that tough math concept finally clicks or when the sounds of a multisyllabic word come together. Beyond seeing the pride in a student's smile when they share the published book they've been working on for weeks. Beyond reading level growth from August to June. What drives my passion is seeing a student gently pat the back of a friend who's upset. A suggestion for hands over our hearts to wish well a sick classmate or student with tears in their eyes. An invitation to play at recess or sit by me at lunch. It's seeing them become kind and empathetic humans. I am passionate because I see how my actions impact kids' lives, even in the smallest ways. They may not remember everything I taught them in math or science, but they do remember my classroom was a safe place, full of encouragement, kindness, and joy.

Three words describing teacher: Passionate, Positive, Life-giving