

2022-2023 CERTIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Darla Kanas - 2nd Grade Teacher - Mellette Mrs. Kanas is extremely dedicated and approachable. Her students know she works hard and wants to support them as they learn. She opens her students' eyes to how smart they truly are. She keeps an open-door policy at all times and strives to build a rapport with each student. Darla's students leave her classroom with the knowledge to form their own opinions and observing the world around them. Mrs.

Kanas stands out from the rest with her passion of making sure every child knows they are loved and have the potential to change the world!

Susie Hooth - Watertown Intermediate School Mrs. Hooth has exceptional classroom management. She is a connector - her approach to teaching is based on relationship building and finding solutions to improve education for all - students and staff. She is an excellent team-player, and will drop whatever she is doing to help her colleagues out. Her genuine care, concern, and out-going personality makes her a valuable educator in our school system...and a joy to be around!

Tom Mattingly - Social Studies Teacher - Watertown High School Mr. Mattingly's passion for all things Arrow shines during homecoming as he encourages students to get involved in the Legend and other events. He served a critical role on our advisory committee linking the curriculum lessons to an advisory schedule. His ability to communicate clearly with students and adults, and his determination to know and understand our students makes him a valuable asset as a leader in our building!

Connie Korf - Special Education Teacher - McKinley Mrs. Korf is a leader and encourager. She goes above and beyond to meet the needs of all our students. She is constantly utilizing books, podcasts, and sharing information to better herself and others in her field. Connie is always willing to help come up with a solution to better the outcome of our students. She is very flexible and willing to do what it takes to get the job done. Mrs. Korf shows empathy, is organized and attentive. She is conscientious of the needs of both staff and students. She bends over backwards for many!

Shana Stone - Nurse - Watertown Middle School Those who work closely with Shana see her help students who need her on a day-to-day basis with just as much care and concern as the emergencies that she has needed to attend. Her passion for student health, her ability to walk into and handle any situation, and her calm and controlled demeanor make her a great nurse. She not only provides top notch care for our students, but her leadership and advocacy have helped create a healthier and safer school environment. Her level of care for our students is second to none!

Jim Wright - Physical Education - Jefferson Mr. Wright produces challenging activities for our varied range of students from kindergarten to fourth grade. His relationship with kids is noticeable when students transition from class to class. He sets a positive expectation of behavior and effort prior to entering his classroom throughout his activities, he is active in providing encouragement and feedback to students in order to help them succeed. Jim's character speaks for itself as a humble, caring, fair, well-respected colleague.

Brenda Ingalls - Music - Lincoln Mrs. Ingalls manages traveling to and teaching at multiple schools with a difficult schedule. She always uses unique teaching strategies and modifies to the student, or class needs and abilities. She's committed to making Lincoln better with inspirational programs, staff videos, and yearbook picture organization, layout and production. Brenda goes out of her way to show kindness and compassion to staff during difficult times.

Andi Ward - 2nd Grade Teacher - Roosevelt Mrs. Ward has a superb ability to inspire and help students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn. She is open to new ideas and continues to learn how to fit each of her students' needs individually as well as incorporating it into her whole class. Parents trust her, students love her, colleagues look up to her. Mrs. Ward carries herself with both professionalism and yet a light-hearted outlook on life. Andi is a good representation of what a teacher should look like and exemplifies what an employee of the year should be!

Bobbi Jo Soupier - 18-21 Year Old Transition Coordinator/Teacher - Garfield Mrs. Soupier has developed a wonderful "transition to adulthood" program for students with disabilities. She has provided these kids with many opportunities and unique ways to help them learn life skills. Bobbi Jo develops positive relationships with families, students, and community service providers. Mrs. Soupier has a great program-filled appropriate activities specific to teaching her students how to be successful in the "real" world. She does it with a smile and very clearly loves her job and the kids she works with!