



Strive...
Achieve...
Succeed...
Go Beyond!

Your Lewiston Schools

Message from the Superintendent

This is a historic time in Lewiston School District's 140-year history. Our District is offering exceptional educational opportunities for our students through the official opening of the new comprehensive grades 9-12 Lewiston High School and A. Neil DeAtley Career Technical Center on August 14. Our junior high schools have successfully transitioned to middle schools for grades 6-8 students, and our elementary schools are now focused on the needs of students in kindergarten through grade 5. Not even a global pandemic can dampen the enthusi-



Dr. Bob Donaldson

asm as I walk through schools and talk to staff and students glad to be back in school after disruptions caused by COVID-19 started last spring.

Prevention and Mitigation – Staying “Green”

The District has taken steps as outlined in the Board-approved Fall 2020 Opening Plan to implement the modified Green Operational Phase that will allow our schools to remain open.

Personnel at all levels are working hard to model safe COVID-19 prevention practices by wearing masks, physical distancing when possible, hand washing or using sanitizer, following cleaning/disinfecting procedures, and encouraging students to do the same. The Board of Directors receive COVID-19 status

updates at their regularly scheduled meetings currently being conducted from the auditorium on the Normal Hill Campus.

District administration is working closely with Public Health – Idaho North Central District in our shared goal to continue to educate our students while protecting their health and safety, and that of our employees, and to bring as much transparency as possible when reporting confirmed COVID-19 cases. Parents and patrons are encouraged to visit the District's website at www.lewistonschools.net, or connect through social media, for the latest updates.

Schools Receive Additional Relief Funding

Governor Brad Little's Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee ap-

proved additional funding for K-12 schools to mitigate COVID-19 expenses. Although the parameters for using the funds are still being confirmed, the Lewiston School District will be able to draw on its allocation to purchase additional masks, other personal protective equipment, sanitizer, and install plexiglass surrounds for some classrooms and office areas.

Additionally, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act will allow the District to draw on federal relief funding for schools to extend the summer food program by providing a qualified breakfast and lunch, free of charge, to all students enrolled in the Lewiston School District. The food program will be available through December 31, 2020, or until funds are depleted.

2020-2021 Teachers of the Year

The following individuals have been named **Teachers of the Year for 2020-2021** and have been recognized and honored by their school communities and the Board of Directors.

OVERALL TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Employed by the District in 2006, **Heidi Wolf**, an admired and loved sixth grade teacher, formerly at Camelot Elementary and now at Jenifer Middle School, is the *Lewiston School District Overall Teacher of the Year*.

Heidi is recognized as a truly gifted educator who infuses technology, spontaneous fun, dedication, organization, and a passion for learning into her students and school. Heidi's exceptional leadership and organizational skill contribute greatly to the professional-level committees on which she serves. Her innovative uses of available resources are creative and cutting edge; she continually learns and then shares that learning with others. Heidi's colleagues go to her for assistance with their instruction, curriculum and technology,

and she always takes time to coach them and help them with their skills. Comments received from parents and students in Mrs. Wolf's class reflect her caring attitude, as well as, listening and problem-solving skills.

Heidi Wolf will represent the Lewiston School District as a candidate for the Idaho Teacher of the Year. The Idaho Teacher of the Year is usually announced in early November by the State Department of Education.

ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Employed by the District in 1990, **Gretchen Wilson**, fourth grade teacher at Camelot Elementary School, is the *2020-2021 Elementary Teacher of the Year*. Gretchen's many attributes, noted through the nomination process, include the ability

to support her students on all levels, understanding their learning needs in order to differentiate curriculum to improve proficiencies. As a new teacher, one colleague recalls how Gretchen, then a Gifted/Talented instructor, took time to help her develop lessons and create engaging activities for her students, saying, "She not only came into my classroom and helped students,

but saved me!" Gretchen's expression of compassion and kindness has made her a favorite teacher and treasured friend to many, one known for putting the needs of others before her own.

SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Employed by the District in 2003, **Justin Miller**, English/Language Arts teacher at Jenifer Middle School, is the *2020-2021 Secondary Teacher of the Year*. Nominations for Justin reveal a colleague, teacher, coach and friend who easily connects with others because he genuinely cares about them. Justin is passionate about teaching; incorporating unique methodology, humor, and a broad knowledge about the world to help his students better understand the subject matter. Students in Mr. Miller's class are inspired to do their best, not only in his class but in other classes as well, and know they have a safe place to go when they need help and support. A former student notes that Mr. Miller advocates for all students equally and seeks to improve their quality of life at school and even at home, "He has never made any students feel unloved or invalid, and has made a very clear impact on everybody he meets."



Educational Support Personnel of the Year

Due to COVID-19 disruptions to the normal spring schedule, the Educational Support Personnel (ESP) of the Year for 2019-2020 were announced in September, followed by celebrations in the District honoring the individuals listed below.

OVERALL ESP OF THE YEAR



Rhanda Bowen, School Administrative Secretary, Whitman Elementary School, received the *Overall ESP of the Year* award. Employed by the District in 2002, Rhanda's co-workers credit her for having improved the overall climate

of the Whitman School community since joining the team nine years ago. Her warm, caring personality creates a great first impression for all who enter the school – students, staff, parents and community members. Rhanda wears many hats during the day in addition to running the front office, often helping the student who fell down at recess and needs a band aid or ice pack, or taking time away from her desk to chat with a student who is not being successful in the classroom. Rhanda maintains a calming presence in the office giving students a place to calm down when needed and knows how to get them back on track quickly. She loves students and eagerly enters into their fun dancing it up with students at the Valentine's Day Dance, lacing up some ice skates, or enjoying some popcorn and a movie. Students know, trust and love Mrs.

Bowen because she always has time for them. A visiting Idaho State Department of Education official recently complimented Rhanda for her friendly and welcoming presence in the school's front office, remarking "You are very lucky to have her working at your school." Whitman staff and constituents would heartily agree. Very lucky indeed.

NON-DIRECT SUPPORT ROLE ESP OF THE YEAR



Sarah Shepherd, District Special Services Administrative Secretary, received the *Non-Direct Support Role* award. Sarah was first employed with the District in 2013, starting as Special Education Instructional Assistant at McSor-

ley Elementary School, accepting employment as the District Medicaid Program Coordinator in the Central Services administrative office in 2015, followed by employment in her current position supporting Special Services Department personnel in February 2018. Sarah's poised, professional and pleasant attitude and demeanor make her a perfect fit for the role in which she serves. Sarah is passionate about making a difference in the lives of the District's special needs students, and students with disabilities, and is a valued partner in the work of her department.

DIRECT CLASSROOM SUPPORT ESP OF THE YEAR

Kaylin Roby, College and Career Advisor, Lewiston High School, received the *Direct Classroom Support ESP of the Year* award. Kaylin was employed by the District in 2016 taking on a new position in the Lewiston High School



Counseling Center – College and Career Advisor. In that short time frame, Kaylin's contributions to the school community have enriched the lives of students, parents and staff in countless ways. Students benefit from her positive energy and exceptional resourcefulness and fill the counseling center when she is there seeking her assistance. The evening workshops that Kaylin has organized, such as FAFSA nights, where she and staff from area colleges come in and help parents and students fill out complicated forms that can be a barrier for students attempting to access government funds for college, have become a new tradition at LHS. Additionally, she brings in college representatives, along with members of community businesses, to meet with students, which gives students a variety of perspectives allowing them to consider many options for their future. Kaylin plans monthly potluck lunches that give co-workers at LHS a chance to meet together. Kaylin has become an indispensable member of the Lewiston High School community and is greatly admired and respected.