

2023 Utah PTA AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Administrators



Outstanding Administrators

Vic Larsen

Westmore Elementary

Region 9



Facebook post Nov. 5, 2022

Life as a principal...even though it is Saturday, life doesn't stand still. I was invited to a birthday party for a student that has frequented my office several times this year. He went from a student that was constantly in trouble to one that ran up to me and gave me a big hug. I am glad I was able to attend and take a moment to celebrate him.



Outstanding Administrators

TJ Barker

Shoreline Jr. High

Region 3

Mr. Barker knows parents, many of them by name, and which child belongs to them. We had a hard thing happen at school and instead of sending an email, he spent the night calling all of the parents whose students had been involved and offer his support to them.

He encourages teachers to call home when the need arises instead of just sending an email. In this way Mr. Barker not only helps the teachers, but improves the communication between parents, students, and the teachers at Shoreline Jr. High School.



Outstanding Administrators

Trent Hendricks

Churchill

Junior High

Region 5



"I'm grateful for Churchill. I do believe that if we can't have fun doing it, then what's the point?"
Principal Hendricks



Outstanding Administrators

Adell Arvidson

Fremont Elementary

Region 3

When she found that students weren't coming to school on short days, like Fridays, she knew she had to come up with a fun, creative way to encourage them to come. So, she created clubs!

Each student gets to choose 3 clubs that would interest them and then the school organized the requests. Each staff member (custodians, teachers, reading coaches, recess guards, office members, etc) leads/teaches the clubs for 30 minutes on Friday mornings.



Outstanding Administrators

Amber Clayton

Millcreek Elementary

Region 5

A key component to Ms. Clayton's success is her ability and eagerness to harness valuable community support and resources to benefit the school. Millcreek Elementary is the heart of its community and that community willingly serves our students and helps us grow the next generation of leaders. We currently boast nearly 40 community partners including hospitals, credit unions, the city of Millcreek, local bookstores, churches, restaurants, non-profit organizations, law offices, rotary clubs, colleges, bowling alleys, salons, soft drink shops, plant nurseries, and more.



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Advocacy



Advocacy

Cissy Rasmussen

Lake Ridge Jr. High
Region 9



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Cissy Rasmussen

Nov 12, 2022

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Our Victory newsletter is out! Check your email. If you haven't subscribed, click the link below and find the subscribe button. You can also read past newsletters.

[https://mailchi.mp/strongertogether/...](https://mailchi.mp/strongertogether/) See more

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OREM + ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
STRONGER TOGETHE



Outstanding Elementary Educator



Outstanding Elementary Educator

Rex Prescott

Foothills Elementary Region 6

Mr. Prescott is the person you go to when you need anything at our school. He knows what is happening and is an amazing advocate.



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Outstanding Elementary Educator

Jack Paget

**Woods Cross Elementary
Region 3**



Mr. Paget is a great reader – he knows so many big words. I like he has a stamp for all of my homework papers. I don't like taking math tests, but he tells me to try my best and never give up. I never had a chance to play music bells until this year and that was a really fun thing to learn. - Love Chloe B.



Outstanding Elementary Educator

Tiffany Smith

Bonneville Elementary
Region 9

Tiffany is a very good teacher. She is explicit in the way she teaches her students. She is engaging, interactive and fun.

- Kristie Wheeler, *Principal*



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Outstanding Elementary Educator

Kathy Vest

Northridge Elementary Region 9

Mrs. Vest is calm and caring in the classroom. Her students feel safe and loved. I have witnessed several interactions between Mrs. Vest and her students and noticed the way she listens with compassion and gently responds to their concerns. Her students love how she integrates art, music and movement into the curriculum.



Mrs. Vest directs the chorus while her assistant momentarily leads the orchestra; Spring Chorus & Orchestra Concert, April 2022

Outstanding Elementary Educator

Jayson Hassler

Mountain Shadows Elementary
Region 6



Mr. Hassler at the fun run. His class was team ORANGE and they had a lot of spirit!



Outstanding Elementary Educator

Ni (Dai Lao Shi) Kichman

Stuart Elementary

Region 3

A vital component of language immersion is understanding the culture and feeling integrated into it. Dai Lao Shi genuinely knows her students, and demonstrates that knowledge by painstakingly selecting Chinese names for each student. Students eagerly anticipate receiving their name, and this name becomes part of their identity.



Ni Kichman



Engagement



Engagement

Millcreek Elementary

Region 5

Excellent leadership in working with the school, district and local community to foster positive relationships and programs to benefit students.



Engagement

Katie Fuller

Riverton Elementary

Region 6

Created an outdoor space for the students.



Inclusivity



Inclusivity

Millcreek Elementary

Region 5

Creating of an outdoor learning space and year-long activities to include the diverse community.



Inclusivity

Lindsey Stephens

Bountiful Elementary

Region 3

Organization of an amazing project to help students and the community with clothes, backpacks and supplies.



Outstanding Secondary Educator



Outstanding Secondary Educator

Melinda van Komen

Riverton High School, Region 6



Students and Parents nominated Mrs Van Komenas Riverton High School's Silver Apple Winner for 2022 (The PTA sponsored Outstanding Educator)



"She gives many ways to practice our vocabulary and grammar. I love how she is always helping us find new ways to do things. She makes a difference in my life by reminding me of due dates, helping me figure out how to best do assignments." Emma S

"She is kind and encourages learning in such a fun way. She has done so

"She makes a difference in my life by having a good

"MRS. VAN KOMEN SPENDS TIME UNDERSTANDING WHAT WE THINK AND HOW WE THINK. SHE PROVIDES A CHALLENGING ENGLISH CLASS NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF BREAKING ME DOWN BUT BUILDING MY SKILLS UP. THE CLASS CONSTANTLY MAKES ME EVALUATE MYSELF AND IT IS WONDERFUL! HER CLASS AND WAY OF TEACHING INSPIRES ME TO DO BETTER AND BE A BETTER MORE DRIVEN STUDENT. SHE GIVES ME EVERY RESOURCE I NEED TO SUCCEED." AMBER C

"She gets us all involved and keeps us entertained and engaged." Matthew M

"I COMPLETED A BOOK FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LIKE 3-4 YEARS IN HER CLASS AND IT IS MY FAVORITE PART OF THE DAY." EVIE W

"She gives us ulterior activities other than just lectures and assignments. Examples include, daily journal entries and reading time which heightens and sharpens my senses for class. She inspires me to give her class my all, and to put less focus on my phone and friends in class." Etano J



Mrs Van Komen teaching a Language Arts 10H class



Outstanding Secondary Educator

Emilee Midget

Shoreline Jr High

Region 3

Emilee Midget is the most amazing and knowledgeable special education teacher that I have ever worked with in my 18 years as a teacher. Her kindness propels student growth to levels that would not otherwise be achievable.

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Outstanding Secondary Educator

Jolynn Forman

Timpanogos High School Region 9

Ms Forman is an amazingly gifted person who chooses to pass on those skills to all students within her sphere. She helps students, parents and faculty feel more connected with the school and greater community. Her true creation is the love she shares as she serves.



Outstanding Secondary Educator

Angela Moulton

Oak Canyon Jr High
Region 9

"Mrs Moulton is a very good Math teacher. She cares about the students and explains how to do the math problems in a way that we can all understand. She is also very fast at grading and keeping grades up to date so students always know where they stand in her class. She is very helpful if I have a question and makes me feel like she wants me to succeed."

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MRS. MOULTON

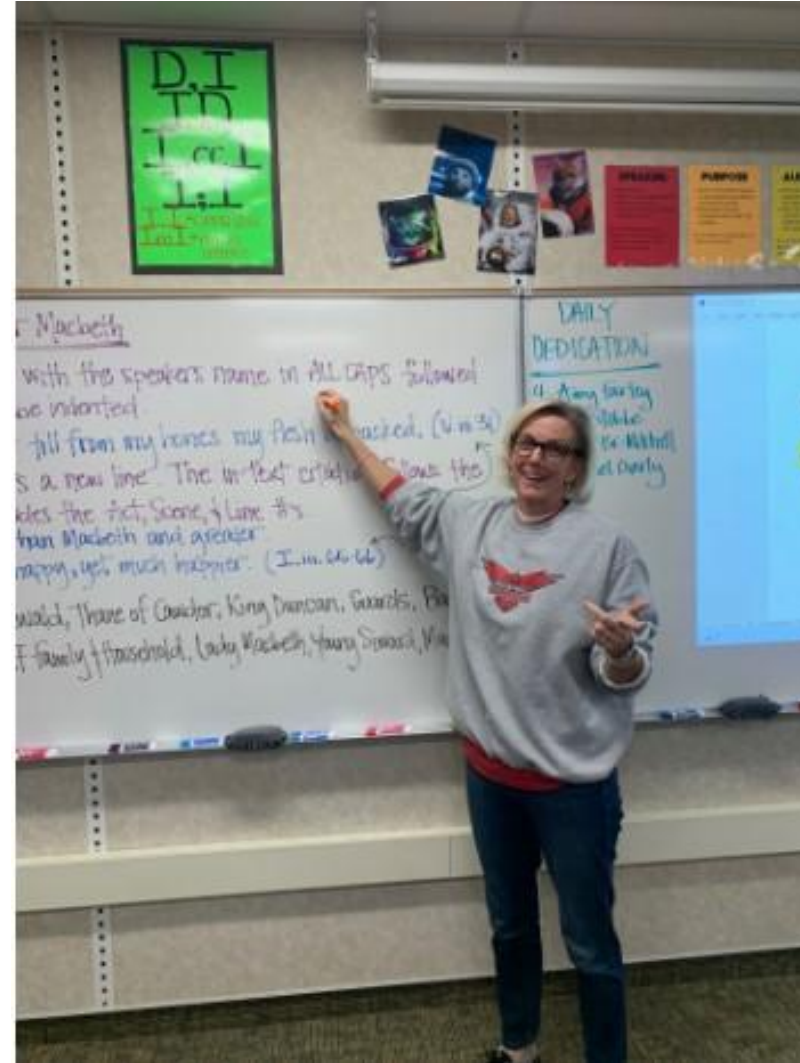


Outstanding Secondary Educator

Camille Johnson

Bountiful High School Region 3

Every student is the most important student to Camille. She has the ability to connect with every student she teaches. She can see potential in every student and help them realize that potential. She provides many opportunities for students to excel.



Outstanding Secondary Educator

Kelly DeHaan

Mountain Ridge High School, Region 6



Parent comments about Mr. DeHaan:

- Kelly is doing an excellent job at encouraging the boys in his choir class to not only be good singers but to be good, well-rounded people. He encourages responsibility, humor, and integrity in them as well as teaching them how to be not just good singers, but incredible performers. He has enhanced my son's high school experience in such a positive way.

- Kelly is a champion for kids. He sees the very best in his students and holds them in that space until they see it too. He encourages, inspires, and won't let kids sell out on themselves. He is an absolute genius with creativity, talent and being able to keep an enormous amount of data organized and executed. His stamina is unmatched. Year after year, hundreds of students, all individuals...he truly is "one of the Great Ones".



Spirit of PTA



Spirit of PTA

Christina Hullinger

Orem Jr High

Region 9

Christina was chosen by the Timpanogos Council for the Spirit of PTA Award due to various roles serving in PTA



Spirit of PTA

Hillary Moser

Westland Elementary Region 6

Organizes great activities for the school and community.

- Veterans Day Parade
- Weaving plastic mats for the homeless
- Donates bicycles to those in need
- Family Game nights.

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Westland Elementary PTA Service Project Donates 46 Bikes To Bicycle Collective!

By Thomas Cooke | Jun 16, 2022



Spirit of PTA

Laurie Brown

Sandstone Elementary, Region 20



Laurie Brown has served tirelessly in several PTA positions over the years. When she was PTA President in 2019-20, our PTA received the PTA Gold Star Award.



Throughout her service, Laurie has inspired parents to join the PTA and be involved in their children's education. She has helped with multiple fundraisers, school activities, and PTA-sponsored events.



Outstanding Support Staff



Outstanding Support Staff

Freddi Johnson

Timpanogos High School
Region 9



Freddi and her husband paid their own expenses to help chaperone choir tour



Outstanding Support Staff

Nancy Wood

Sandstone Elementary Region 20

Ms. Wood has her hands full! She has made herself available to get to the root of a child's success in elementary school. She helps the teachers by giving extra support to those that need it. When asked why she decided to pursue counseling, Ms. Wood said, "I wanted to do small groups. I wanted to help students manage their emotions, find success, aim for a career, live a healthy lifestyle, get along with others, and be a healthy addition to their community."



Outstanding Support Staff

Leeland Leafy

Churchill Jr High

Region 5

If as John Wesley purported, “cleanliness is next to godliness,” then Leafy has created the closest thing to heaven a junior high could attain. Pristinely shined floors. Bathrooms free of graffiti and debris. The smell of clean – which is no small feat considering the majority of its inhabitants are in the thick of puberty, and Churchill as a building is no spring chicken.

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Outstanding Volunteer



Outstanding Volunteer

Julie Wilford

Lehi High School, Region 9



Julie Wilford

Region 9 PTA Reflections Specialist

HIGHLIGHTED

If you go to this link you can see the full videocast Julie was featured in for Region 9's Reflections night. Alpine School District has a "Connect with Alpine" weekly Videocast and who better to show face than our one and only talented Julie Wilford.

It references this year statewide competition. We had 14,000+ entries! Our Region - Region 9 - submitted over 3,000 entries, which is like 20% of the total entries in the state! And of those, we had 60 awards move onto State Reflections.

<https://youtu.be/o3VstSeLReY>



Outstanding Volunteer

Rebekah Connors

Millcreek Elementary

Region 5



Rebekah's Vision come to life as an outdoor classroom.



Follow Utah PTA



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Groups you can join:

- Utah PTA Advocacy
- Utah PTA Super Secondary
- Utah PTA Excellent Elementary
- Utah PTA Treasurers
- Utah PTA Reflections
- Utah School Community Councils
- Real Men of Utah PTA



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