

1. Staff Highlights – Throughout the school year, each staff member has worked diligently to enhance the educational/cultural experience that our students receive. We feel very fortunate to be working with such a dedicated group of individuals who consistently go above and beyond to support each other and the students of our district. We thought that we would use this month's highlight section to recognize and thank each staff member. [Note: Much of this is taken from the June Administrator's Report presented to the Board of Trustees.]
 - a. Mary Allen– Mary does an incredible job of operating the preschool program and designing effective and engaging lessons for our preschool students. She is very innovative and always looks to enhance what she and Rhonda are already doing with our students. Additionally, she has worked with our SLP to provide speech and language services on the days she was not teaching preschool. She is committed to excellence and is willing to be flexible when we need to alter plans.
 - b. Claudine Anderson – As head custodian, Claudine leads by example and sets a very high standard of cleanliness. She is very committed and passionate about her work here and it really shows.
 - c. Jim Anderson – Jim does an excellent job supervising both our maintenance and custodial staffs as well as doing much of the maintenance work himself. He takes tremendous pride in keeping our facilities in top shape. One only has to travel to other schools to see how exceptionally our facilities are maintained.
 - d. Laura Anderson – As a paraprofessional, Laura has been a tremendous help in our first grade classroom as well on the bus and playground. She frequently volunteers to take on additional responsibilities even when it is not expected. She is willing to help wherever she sees a need.
 - e. Warren Barnes – As a K-12 music teacher, Warren exposes our students to a variety of musical experiences. He dedicates a great deal of time towards the music concerts and talent show. Students enjoy his classes and as well as the performances.
 - f. Teresa Brown – As the Title I reading and math teacher, Teresa has done an excellent job of collaborating with classroom teachers and providing students with supplemental support services which compliment the instruction in the general classroom. She is very good at coordinating all of her lessons with numerous other teachers and she carefully monitors her students' progress. Additionally, she is a contributing member of our elementary RTI team.
 - g. Crystal Corum – Crystal works as an aide with secondary special education students and has become a real asset in that program. These are oftentimes challenging students, but Crystal is calm, friendly and firm in the right measure to really push these students to achieve. She is also a two season coach and has organized our July 2nd 3 on 3 basketball fundraiser.
 - h. Amy Davis – In addition to her teaching duties Amy also coordinates the yearbook every year, monitors students during lunch detention, serves on the attendance committee and is a faculty mentor. We also coax her into singing the National Anthem at home athletic contests!
 - i. Veronica DeGiorgio – Roni never taught the same classes two years in a row and took on some very difficult assignments without complaint. Her classes included Spanish 1 and 2, Earth Science, Reading and English.

- j. Kevin Donoher – Kevin joined the staff in November and did an outstanding job in our math department. I did everything I could think of to convince him to stay, but he and his wife are moving back to Colorado to be closer to family.
- k. Pamela Dougherty – Pamela had three of the most difficult student teaching assignments that we could have given her this past year. She did an excellent job in each of them and we are looking forward to having her on staff full time next year. She has a quiet and calm demeanor yet is firm and sets clear boundaries for her students. She has a very natural way in communicating with students and staff.
- l. Marilyn Eklund – This past year was our first year with a full day kindergarten program. Marilyn had to adapt all our programs from a five day a week, half day program to a three full day schedule. She was very flexible and made it a smooth transition.
- m. Rachel Elliott – Rachel comes in early as part of the food service staff to help get breakfast ready for our students. She then stays through the morning to clean up and help prep for lunch. She has been a great addition.
- n. Ed Fell – Ed had a very personally challenging year with the injury to his son and his own shattered heel. Nevertheless, Ed came back and made sure that all of his Driver's Education students got in all of their drives so that they could qualify for their licenses.
- o. Dowain Geesey – Two years ago, Dowain moved from bus driver to transportation supervisor and has done an outstanding job. While he still drives the Centerville route, the district has been able to tap into his management skills which are a real asset.
- p. Loveta Geesey – Loveta teaches fifth grade homeroom and sixth grade math. She is an excellent classroom teacher and engages her students with a variety of large projects throughout the year. She also did a great job of incorporating the Mathematical Thinking for Instruction (MTI) strategies that we have been learning through the MTI classes. She had a struggling group of sixth grade math students who finished the year much stronger in their math skills. Additionally, she was a tremendous help in several large events and projects this past year including Veteran's Day, Read Across America Week, and the Celebrate Idaho City Day. These are large scale events that take a great deal of planning and require the coordination of other adults.
- q. Becky Gilbert – As a paraprofessional, Becky worked diligently with our third grade Tier 3 students who all made significant progress this year. Becky also shares creative ideas in regards to programming, events and fundraisers.
- r. Cynthia Gilbert – Cynthia teaches first and second grade and is also a member of our RTI team. Cynthia's has a positive attitude and demonstrates an eagerness to jump in and help whether it is picking items up from Boise or coordinating an event. She willingly takes on new challenges and goes above and beyond to exceed expectations. She is a delight to have on staff and truly models compassion and understanding every day. Even in the midst of difficult situations, Cynthia can find something positive. She lifts the mood of those around her and is a great example for the students and staff.
- s. Mindi Grant – As the elementary Special Education teacher, Mindi had a very difficult schedule this past year and had to be very flexible when we made numerous changes to her program. She also did an excellent job in gathering data for her students' alternative assessment for the ISAT and as a result they scored proficient and advanced.

- t. Dawn Green – Dawn accepted a paraprofessional position in our special education department midyear. She had varied responsibilities that frequently changed. I appreciate her flexibility and willingness to learn new roles.
- u. Connie Hamilton – Aside from running the secondary library, Connie also teaches reading to middle school and elementary students, is the faculty sponsor for our chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, helps coordinate Veteran’s Day, is a class advisor and chaperones high school dances.
- v. Judy Hibberd – Judy is our elementary counselor who is greatly respected by students and staff. She is insightful and does an excellent job counseling our students through difficult situations. She also works collaboratively with other teachers to design activities for our weekly character education assemblies and Girl’s Circle program. This past year we wanted to focus on giving our sixth grade students more of a leadership role in the assemblies and she was able to successfully accomplish this goal. We are very pleased that she is willing to come back for two days per month next year.
- w. Mike Holloway – Mike willingly accepts the combination classes each year. Managing two curriculums is not easy and we appreciate his eagerness to do so. He is also the district’s technology coordinator. He is very responsive whenever there is a problem and quickly gets it resolved. Additionally, he gladly picks up little duties that need to be covered.
- x. Berta Huffman – I don’t know where to start with Berta – she is as valuable to this district as anyone. From scheduling students to working with Cindy Hunter on transferring our data into ISEE to conducting psychological test for secondary and elementary students to helping facilitate our new peer mediation program to coordinating our Higher Education Day to helping our seniors transition out and earn scholarship money, she does it all. In between she finds time to counsel individual students/families in crisis. She consistently does an incredible job.
- y. Cindy Hunter – As our Business Manager, Cindy has learned so much these past couple of years and she continues to take on more responsibility every year. She is working with Berta on ISEE, mastering CSA (our accounting software), is the primary contact person with many people at the State Department of Education and still administers the Prime Time grant. She has learned so much that her former mentor now calls her for advice!
- z. Linda Hyde – For the last several years Linda has had a very difficult assignment working with one of our severely handicapped students that required catheterization several times a day. She has done a tremendous job and always has a positive attitude.
- aa. Faith Lindquist – Faith taught third grade this past year. Additionally, she frequently accepts extra duties such as cheerleading coach (high school and middle school) and also helps coordinate several events such as the volunteer luncheon. Faith also volunteers to complete several other tasks throughout the year in the areas of curriculum and MTI implementation.
- bb. Sarita Loya – Sarita Loya was a paraprofessional in our special education department this past year. Sarita shows great enthusiasm both as an employee and as the PTSA president.
- cc. Mary Ellen McMurtrie – A rock for many years, Mary Ellen continues to step up and take on additional responsibilities beyond anchoring our secondary English program. She also sponsors the PEAPOD Club, the National Honor Society, coordinates our Accolades

ceremony, serves on the attendance committee and was instrumental in developing our senior project program which she continues to oversee.

- dd. Natalie Mendenhall – Natalie has developed a very dynamic, hands-on Science curriculum that has students excited about science again. Additionally, she coaches two sports, worked directly with the elementary teachers to help them expand their science curriculum and is a class advisor.
- ee. Krystal Murphy – As the art teacher, Krystal is responsible for the art instruction of all students in grades first through twelfth. In the students' end of the year reflection papers, many of them commented on how they really enjoyed having art this year and hoped that they would be able to have more next year.
- ff. Shelly Nalley – Shelley came to the district with a wealth kitchen skills having worked for years in a local restaurant. She has been a great addition to our food service staff, and because of her experience, a real asset to Cyndi.
- gg. Angel Nelson – Another staff member that has seen her role change from year to year, Angel is a very valuable employee in our Business Department. She manages our student accounts, works closely with Cindy Hunter on a daily basis and is our go to person for special tasks which she eagerly accepts. Angel is highly capable and continues grow as an individual and employee.
- hh. Tammie Ogden – Tammie does an outstanding job as our fourth grade teacher and as our Elementary RTI Coordinator. She has high expectations for her students as well as for herself. She goes above and beyond to support others and is always seeking new ideas for her own classroom and the school. She is thorough and is a leader within the school and district.
- ii. Peggy Ortega – Peggy has dedicated 26 years to Basin School District and touched many lives. We will greatly miss her infectious laugh and smile.
- jj. Terry Peterson – We were very glad to get Teri back this year. She drives our Clear Creek route and does a great job under difficult conditions.
- kk. Bill Phillips – Bill does an excellent job working with our middle school students both in the classroom and during Lunch Club (a three day a week tutoring program). He is also the secondary RTI Coordinator and coaches two sports.
- ll. Sean Porter – Sean's teaching assignments place him in the classroom with seniors most of the day which is a challenge he relishes (most of the time!). Of course, he is also our Activities Director, Dean of Students in grades 7-9, ASB advisor and serves on the attendance committee. Oh, and he also coaches football.
- mm. Monica Pruet – Monica was very helpful as a paraprofessional in our kindergarten classroom this year. She worked very closely with one student specifically who made a significant amount of progress.
- nn. Julie Randolph – Julie has had to move grade levels for the past three years and has taught third, fourth and fifth grades. This past year she was placed in the third grade and did a nice job of teaching another new curriculum. She excels in holding students accountable for completing their work and helping them learn to accept more responsibility for their learning. She also helped coordinate the Read Across America Week which was much more curriculum driven and engaging for our students.

- oo. Rhonda Rice – Rhonda works closely with Mary Allen in our preschool program and does an incredible job of designing effective and engaging lessons for our preschool students. She is very innovative and always looks to enhance what she and Mary are already doing with our students. Additionally, she has worked with our SLP to provide speech and language services on the days she was not teaching preschool. She is committed to excellence and is willing to be flexible when we need to alter plans.
- pp. Jason Roeber – As a classroom teacher, Jason really excels at working with some of our most challenging students. He is wise beyond his years and freely shares his insight with his colleagues. He is also a class advisor, two sport coach and started our PADDLE program in his Outdoor Recreation class.
- qq. Barbi Root – Having been with the district for a few years, Barbi knows her way around the kitchen and substitutes for Cyndi when she is away.
- rr. Christy Rousset – Christy is an innovative first grade teacher. This past year, she had a group of students with a wide range of instructional levels. She did an excellent job of differentiating her instruction to meet their varied needs. Her students make a tremendous amount of growth both academically and socially. She also enthusiastically coordinates the Talent Show each year.
- ss. Cheryl Ryan – This was Cheryl’s first year teaching in the elementary with varied responsibilities through the Title I department. Her first grade reading group and her fourth grade math group made excellent progress this past year.
- tt. Vicki Sanders – Vicki is a paraprofessional in our special education department. She also does an excellent job of taking on additional tasks that need to be accomplished throughout the school. She frequently volunteers to help organize events.
- uu. Peggy Settle – Another valuable member of our custodial staff, Peggy works primarily in the elementary keeping a very old building looking much younger than it is. At work she is very focused on her tasks and is in constant motion. It’s exhausting just to watch her!
- vv. Julie Sharp – Julie is a paraprofessional in our special education department. She is very patient and does an excellent job of setting firm boundaries all the while showing compassion and understanding.
- ww. Laura Shields – Laura has been holding down the district office for so long that she makes much of what she does look easy even though it is anything but. She is very efficient and does much of her work independently. Laura also serves as an excellent sounding board for me which is tremendously helpful and runs the attendance committee meetings.
- xx. Tom Standerwick – Tom teaches sixth grade which this past year was a large class. However, it did not prevent him from implementing several large scale projects throughout the content areas. He really pushed this group of students both academically and socially and kept them actively engaged. He puts a great deal of rigor into these projects. His students respond well and frequently exceeded expectations. He also volunteered his time to start a Rocket Club for students after school. About 25 students eagerly participated.
- yy. Sandy Stinson – Sandy (Sam) drives our Robie Creek route and has for many years. The roads and conditions often make it one of the more challenging places to take a bus. She also pulled double duty this year working in our kitchen in between her routes.

- zz. Sabine Tetzloff – In addition to her librarian position, Sabine had several other new duties this past year. She accepted them gladly and was a great support in the art program, on the playground and in the kindergarten classroom.
- aaa. Roger Trew – Roger is the newest member of our custodial staff and works primarily in the high school. He has been a positive addition and is settling in very nicely with the rest of the crew.
- bbb. Loveta Veristain – As elementary secretary, Loveta is very good at keeping all of us in the building organized. She is thorough in her paperwork and successfully manages all of the detail work that goes into the Tuesday Folder and the report cards.
- ccc. Mark Veristain – A long-time bus driver for the district, Mark drives one of our highway 21 routes and does an excellent job of keeping both his bus and the students under control. He is also the head statistician for the football team.
- ddd. Misty Wadley – Misty does an excellent job in a variety of roles at the elementary. Students look forward to her physical education classes. As our Positive Behavior Intervention Supports coordinator, she also assists with handling discipline issues and with setting up behavior plans for our students who need behavioral interventions and monitoring. She relates very well to these students has been successful in helping many of them make significant progress. She also coordinates the annual ski/snowboard trip, the Presidential Fitness Program and the Last Day of School Celebration.
- eee. Clint Watson – A couple years ago, Clint moved from food services to maintenance which is a much better use of his talents. Over the years, Clint has acquired a wide range of skills including carpentry, masonry and heavy equipment operation from which the district directly benefits.
- fff. Cyndi Watson – As our Food Services Supervisor, Cyndi does an outstanding job juggling several responsibilities: managing her staff, ordering commodities, budgeting, cooking and cleaning – just to name a few. The great thing is that she does it all with a smile on her face and makes sure that her staff does as well.
- ggg. Sarah Weller – The one constant in our secondary math program over the last few years, Sarah has also increased her role in our RTI program and chaperones high school dances.
- hhh. Beth Woodruff – In addition to supervising our district’s special education program, Beth also moved back into the classroom for much of her day this year which was great for the students. She is an incredible asset to the district both on campus and when she represents us at trainings/conferences. She is deeply committed to the students of this district and is an excellent resource for her peers. Under her leadership our special education students have shown tremendous gains and I’m sure will continue to do so.
- iii. Matthew Yardley – A former student, Matthew works part time on the custodial crew and also volunteers as a coach for several sports. He also works for the elementary school as a playground supervisor and does an outstanding job.