

Reception and Recognition Ceremony

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

George Mason University
Center for the Arts





Reception 6 p.m. | Awards Ceremony 7 p.m. | Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Opening

Katherine Butterworth, *Senior, Marshall High School Vocalist*

Welcome

William Solomon, *Chief Human Resources Officer*

Remarks

Dr. Michelle C. Reid, *Division Superintendent*

Remarks from the School Board

Karl Frisch, *Chair and Providence District Representative, Fairfax County School Board*

Recognition of Educate Fairfax

Lynette Henry, *Executive Director, Educate Fairfax*

Employee Award Presentations

Dr. Michelle C. Reid, Fairfax County School Board, and Leadership Team Members

Outstanding Elementary New Teacher

Outstanding Secondary New Teacher

Outstanding New Principal

Outstanding School-Based Operational Employee

Outstanding Nonschool-Based Operational Employee

Outstanding School-Based Professional Employee

Outstanding Nonschool-Based Professional Employee

Interlude Performance

Saniya Desai, *Junior, Marshall High School Vocalist*

Outstanding School-Based Leader

Outstanding Nonschool-Based Leader

Outstanding Elementary Teacher

Outstanding Secondary Teacher

Outstanding Principal

Closing Remarks

William Solomon



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Outstanding New Teacher

The Outstanding New Teacher Award recognizes elementary and secondary teachers who are within their first three years of teaching and demonstrate outstanding performance and superior instructional skills. Any FCPS employee or community member may nominate new teachers for this award.

Elementary New Teacher Finalists



Mary Ann Cassell, *Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

Lorton Station Elementary School, Region 6

Mary Ann has dedicated her life to improving the lives of students with autism, which led her to teaching. She deeply believes that all students are capable of great success. As a special education teacher, Mary Ann develops a positive, supportive, and nurturing rapport that creates a safe environment where students learn, grow developmentally, and have fun in the process. Mary Ann values compassion and service and strives to enrich the school community by sharing her experience and collaborating with colleagues to help her students and all others succeed. Her favorite part of teaching is celebrating the growth of her students which allows them to participate fully in their family, school, and community.



Ariana Gallahan-Zarate, *Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

Fairhill Elementary School, Region 2

In Ariana's enhanced autism classroom, she works on building relationships with the students and families, which she shared has been the best part of her first year of teaching. After she built those relationships with each student, their personalities really began to shine. She works closely with parents and collaborates with other teachers to make sure the needs of each of her students are being met. Working with a variety of learning needs has helped her think outside of the box when it comes to presenting information to students. Her belief is that every student is capable of learning, and when they are struggling, she reflects on her approach and makes adjustments to help them achieve their academic and behavioral goals.



Ellie Jamborsky, *Kindergarten Teacher*

Terraset Elementary School, Region 1

Ellie's passion and enthusiasm make her an exemplary educator and advocate for young learners. Her love for teaching is evident in her interactions with students, whether it be in the classroom or at their sports games and recitals. Her patience and knack for fun are qualities that contribute to a well-constructed learning environment where children feel nurtured, heard, and loved. Ellie's positive attitude and calm demeanor allow her to meet each student where they are emotionally, socially, and academically. Kindergarten is the foundation of students' lifelong journey of learning. This fact is not lost on Ellie, as she is steadfast in ensuring success for her students academically and in life.



Kylee Marciello, *Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

Cameron Elementary School, Region 3

As a product of FCPS herself, Kylee was thrilled to begin her career as a teacher working for the county that shaped her into the innovative educator that she is today. In her first year of teaching in a multi-grade non-categorical classroom, she has learned that teaching isn't just about following a curriculum, it's about creating a nurturing and inspiring place for students to learn how to care for themselves and the greater community. As a result, her students have flourished in an inclusive and engaging environment that is empathetic, understanding, and patient. Actively collaborating with parents, staff, and the community is an integral part of her work and Kylee is grateful to be part of a wonderful team.



Gunjan Agrawal Sapkota, *Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

Willow Springs Elementary School, Region 5

“Students don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” – Anonymous. Gunjan possesses a unique and charismatic ability to create a nurturing and inclusive learning environment, tailored specifically to meet the diverse needs of students with autism. She believes in building relationships and demonstrates patience, empathy, and adaptability while creating a safe space where students feel valued, understood, and capable. Her innovative teaching methods promote social and emotional development. Gunjan has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her profession, starting as an instructional assistant many years ago. She employs a variety of teaching strategies tailored to meet the diverse needs of her students, ensuring that each child receives a personalized and effective learning experience.



Angela Ah Ryoung Sung, *Art Teacher*

Sangster Elementary School, Region 4

Angela believes that every child possesses innate artistic potential waiting to be unlocked. Her warm and engaging approach creates a vibrant and inclusive classroom environment where every child feels empowered to explore their unique creativity. Angela demonstrates superior instructional skills by planning creative and engaging art lessons that cater to all styles of learners, fostering a fun and enriching learning environment that effectively teaches art appreciation and self-expression. She encourages students to experiment, take risks, and embrace their creative process. Angela guides artists rather than shaping them through their artistic journey. Nothing fulfills her more than motivating the next generation of creatives by sharing her passion with young learners in the classroom.

Secondary New Teacher Finalists



Olivia Adams, *English Teacher*

Carson Middle School, Region 1

Olivia is a compassionate and dedicated seventh-grade English teacher. With two years of experience under her belt, she extends her influence beyond the classroom, doubling as the debate coach, and recently taking on the opportunity of coaching cross country and track and field. Olivia strives to create an environment where every student feels valued, supported, and respected. Infused with her background in communication studies, acting, and debate coaching, Olivia crafts engaging lessons that cater to diverse learning styles while fostering critical thinking and effective communication skills. Students echo praises of her positive energy and genuine investment in their growth. Olivia remains inspired by the boundless potential of her students and the camaraderie of her colleagues, reaffirming her love for teaching each day.



Michael J. Higginbotham, *Biology Teacher*

Irving Middle School, Region 4

Mike transitioned to teaching after a career as a United States Army officer and several years in government contracting. His journey honed his worldview and left in him a deep appreciation of people and their cultures. Mike intends to carry his experiences into the classroom to build and mentor our future leaders. He believes that as much as content matters, the true purpose of teaching is to build relationships that create an environment where students are comfortable making and learning from mistakes. Mike believes teachers are an entrusted part of the family team whose purpose is to support students on their path to becoming kind, respectable, and confident adults, invested in their community and prepared to face tomorrow’s challenges.



Symone Keolani Jenkins, English Teacher

West Potomac High School, Region 3

Symone has a passion for igniting every classroom she enters. With boundless enthusiasm, she cultivates an environment where her students thrive, not only academically but also socially and personally. Symone’s teaching philosophy is rooted in diversity and inclusion, recognizing the richness that different perspectives bring to learning. She fosters a safe space where every voice is valued, empowering her students to embrace their unique identities. Through genuine care and innovative teaching methods, Symone sparks a love for literature and writing in her students, as she nurtures their growth and confidence. Her hope is that her impact extends beyond the classroom; instilling empathy and understanding to prepare her students to navigate through our world with grace and respect.



Nicole F. Matthews, Family & Consumer Science Teacher

Katherine Johnson Middle School, Region 5

Nicole brought two truths with her to Katherine Johnson Middle School - “You can’t cook if you don’t like people” and “without communication, you have nothing.” She didn’t worry about liking people - that is innate to her. It was the communication piece she wondered about. How do you get students to really communicate? This is what is central to every lab and activity she crafts; creating opportunities to get students excited so that they are more likely to connect and communicate. Asking young adults to communicate can put them outside their comfort zone, but Nicole shows that cooking is one of many modes of communication and what kids create is a catalyst for sharing thoughts and opinions.



Katherine Elizabeth Safian, Mathematics Teacher

Longfellow Middle School, Region 2

As a second-year teacher, Katherine strives to build relationships with students and make math fun. Katherine starts her classes with number sense routines like “Which one doesn’t belong?” to get students excited for the lesson. Katherine also connects learning to student interests. For example, during the consumer applications unit, students worked collaboratively to make their own problems about tax, tip, or discount. Posters about Starbucks and Nike covered the classroom and hallway walls. Additionally, Katherine strives to meet all students’ needs through math workshop stations. Students spend the class learning in small groups, practicing independently, and problem-solving with peers. Katherine also leads the MathLab with her colleague to help support all mathematics students at Longfellow.



Katie Shaw, Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Annandale High School, Region 6

Katie teaches Pathways to Accessing Community Environments (PACE), which serves students ages 18-22. She prioritizes students’ independence in life and job skills to ensure a seamless transition from high school to adulthood. Committed to equity and inclusion, she strives to enhance independence and autonomy for all students. Under her leadership, growth is fostered through interactive lessons and student-led jobs. Her achievements include launching a ‘PACE Pours’ coffee shop and ‘The Cleaning Crew,’ with the focus on developing students' communication, financial literacy, and occupational skills. In her first year of teaching, Katie is actively engaged in Atom Nation by volunteering in various school activities including serving as a Special Olympics coach. Katie continues to promote inclusion, equity, and community partnerships within her teachings.



School Recipients

Aldrin Elementary School

Lisa Lozinsky - Preschool Teacher*

Annandale High School

Katie Shaw - Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

Annandale Terrace Elementary School

Erin Arnold - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Armstrong Elementary School

Allie Finley - Second Grade Teacher

Bailey's Upper Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences

Malik Wyatt - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Beech Tree Elementary School

Daniela Arosemena - Fifth Grade Teacher

Bonnie Brae Elementary School

Brenna McGuire - First Grade Teacher*

Braddock Elementary School

Joann Chae - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Bucknell Elementary School

Teri Dua - PreK Teacher*

Bull Run Elementary School

Ben Vest - Sixth Grade Teacher

Burke School

Zoe Volz - Music Therapy Teacher

Bush Hill Elementary School

Mandy McGroddy - Special Education Teacher

Camelot Elementary School

Haley Schreiner - Sixth Grade Teacher

Cameron Elementary School

Kylee Marciello - Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

Canterbury Woods Elementary School

Emily Bruce - Physical Education Teacher

Cardinal Forest Elementary School

Kellie Steiger - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Carl Sandburg Middle School

Russell Mason Finelsen - Seventh Grade US History Teacher

Centreville Elementary School

Timothy Van Gorder - PreK Teacher

Centreville High School

Mariko Nojima-Schmunk - Social Studies Teacher*

Chantilly High School

Kaye Wright - Health & Physical Education Teacher

Chesterbrook Elementary School

Cody Boehm - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Churchill Road Elementary School

Alexandra Vanwestrienen - Kindergarten Teacher

Clearview Elementary School

Zachary Emmons - Fourth Grade Teacher

Clermont Elementary School

Ihda Sarsour - Kindergarten Teacher

Colin Powell Elementary School

Jessie Eunsook Ji - Third Grade Korean Immersion Teacher*

Columbia Elementary School

Jessica Paul - Special Education Teacher

Cooper Middle School

Kate Schneider - History & Social Studies Teacher*

Crossfield Elementary School

Valeria Contreras-Mendoza - Fifth Grade Teacher

Cub Run Elementary School

Sevval Yeter- Fifth Grade Teacher

Cunningham Park Elementary School

Dominique Frye - Preschool Teacher, Autism

Daniels Run Elementary School

Federicka Algarme - Fourth Grade Teacher

Davis Career Center

Anna Finnegan - Career & Transition Teacher

Deer Park Elementary School

Kerry Hill - Fourth Grade Teacher

Dogwood Elementary School

Cedric Price - Fourth Grade Teacher

Dranesville Elementary School

Kayla Mejias - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Eagle View Elementary School

Cassidy Rell - Emotional Disabilities Teacher

Edison High School

Nathi Jeerakul - Itinerant Music, Strings Teacher*

Fairfax High School

Alex Johnson - English Teacher

Fairfax Villa Elementary School

Geneva Duval - Third Grade Teacher

Fairhill Elementary School

Ariana Gallahan-Zarate - Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

Fairview Elementary School

Samantha Thomas - Fifth Grade Teacher

Falls Church High School

Haley Buckley - Learning Disabilities Teacher*

Flint Hill Elementary School

Catherine Faust - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Floris Elementary School

Heather Hubert - Art Teacher*

Forest Edge Elementary School

Hailey Oliver - Fourth Grade Teacher

Forestdale Elementary School

Ashley Koehle - Kindergarten Teacher

Forestville Elementary School

Julie Ryan - First Grade Teacher

**Denotes pyramid winner*

Fort Belvoir Primary School

Meredith Adair - First Grade Teacher

Fort Belvoir Upper Elementary School

Jennifer Howard - Fourth Grade Teacher

Fort Hunt Elementary School

Tracy Harding - ESOL Teacher

Franklin Middle School

Ashley Guillie - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Frost Middle School

Hannah Warnick - Mathematics Teacher*

Glasgow Middle School

Lydia Dolvin - Science Teacher

Great Falls Elementary School

Jenna Levetown – Second Grade Teacher*

Greenbriar East Elementary School

Phuong Nguyen - Fourth Grade Teacher

Halley Elementary School

Victoria Willis - Art Teacher

Haycock Elementary School

Meghan Gerrity - Sixth Grade Teacher*

Hayfield Secondary School

Theresa Downs - English Teacher

Herndon Elementary School

Adriana Rivera Pacheco - First Grade Teacher

Herndon High School

Aaron Smith - Chief Naval Science Instructor

Herndon Middle School

Emily Ready - History Teacher*

Holmes Middle School

Amanda Simpson - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Hunt Valley Elementary School

Annie Nielsen - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences

Jordan Joyce - Fifth Grade Teacher

Hutchison Elementary School

Jayla Grooms - Second Grade Teacher

Island Creek Elementary School

Julia Gillett - Kindergarten Teacher

Justice High School

Rylee Bly - Math Teacher*

Katherine Johnson Middle School

Nicole Matthews - Family & Consumer Science Teacher*

Keene Mill Elementary School

Charles Onumah - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Key Center

Mallory Strawther - Severe Disabilities Teacher *

Key Middle School

Madison E. Bubolz - Seventh Grade English Teacher

Kilmer Middle School

Luis Barahona Gonzalez - Spanish Language Teacher

Kings Glen Elementary School

Raymond Mason - Music Teacher

Lake Braddock Secondary School

Saja Abduljabbar - High School ESOL Teacher*

Langley High School

Tara Hohn - English Teacher

Langston Hughes Middle School

Junguk Yoo Spurrier - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Laurel Hill Elementary School

Morgan Price - Fourth Grade Teacher*

Laurel Ridge Elementary School

Karyssa Larson - Kindergarten Teacher

Lees Corner Elementary School

Hulya Bicak - Kindergarten Teacher

Longfellow Middle School

Katherine Safian - Mathematics Teacher*

Lorton Station Elementary School

Mary Ann Cassell - Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

Louise Archer Elementary School

Cameron Readen - Special Education Teacher

Luther Jackson Middle School

Katie Ballou - Music Teacher

Lynbrook Elementary School

Sunhyo Kim - Preschool Autism Teacher

Madison High School

Cameron Poland - English Teacher

Mantua Elementary School

Tricia Murphy - Learning Disabilities Teacher*

Marshall High School

Shirley Alexander - Learning Disabilities Teacher*

Marshall Road Elementary School

Mallorie Morris - Learning Disabilities Teacher*

McLean High School

Tatiana Le - Learning Disabilities Teacher

McNair Elementary School

Chloe Park - Second Grade Teacher

Mosaic Elementary School

Michaela Long - Third Grade Teacher

Mount Vernon High School

Rebecca Forsyth - Science Teacher*

Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School

Caitlin White - Third Grade Teacher*

Navy Elementary School

Laura DiNunzio - Third Grade Teacher

North Springfield Elementary School

Jannell Hibner - Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

**Denotes pyramid winner*

Oak Hill Elementary School

Samantha Lowe - First Grade Teacher

Oak View Elementary School

Rodneika Smith - Sixth Grade Teacher

Oakton Elementary School

Grace Cha - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Oakton High School

Margaret Larkin - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Olde Creek Elementary School

Rachel Cameron - Fifth Grade Teacher

Orange Hunt Elementary School

Katharina David - Second Grade Teacher

Parklawn Elementary School

Kate Gibson - Music Teacher

Poe Middle School

Alvaro Soto - Eighth Grade General Science Teacher

Poplar Tree Elementary School

Jordan Perlish - Third Grade Teacher

Rachel Carson Middle School

Olivia Adams - English Teacher

Ravensworth Elementary School

Elsy Arias - Second Grade Teacher

Riverside Elementary School

Misbah Bashir - Gifted Education Center Teacher

Robinson Secondary School

Ashley Weldon - English (HS)

David Quinn - Learning Disabilities Teacher (MS)*

Rocky Run Middle School

Despina Hatzakos - Chorus Teacher*

Rolling Valley Elementary School

Emily Jenkins - Sixth Grade Teacher*

Sangster Elementary School

Angela Ah Ryoung Sung - Art Teacher*

Saratoga Elementary School

Kathryn Jackson - Emotional Disabilities Teacher*

Shrewood Elementary School

Brittney Jang - Third Grade Teacher

Silverbrook Elementary School

Madelynn Cerami - Second Grade Teacher

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School

Katiria Holder - ESOL Teacher*

South County Middle School

Juliette Valade - Art Teacher*

South Lakes High School

Mackenzie Schmidt - English Teacher*

Spring Hill Elementary School

Stephanie Habasinski - Second Grade Teacher

Stone Middle School

Michael Frasnelli - Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

Stratford Landing Elementary School

Michelle Jones - Third Grade Gifted Education Center Teacher

Terra Centre Elementary School

Madeline Downey - Sixth Grade Teacher

Terraset Elementary School

Ellie Jamborsky - Kindergarten Teacher*

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology

Samantha Hale - Biology Teacher

Thoreau Middle School

Zach Firestine - History & Social Studies Teacher*

Timber Lane Elementary School

Libby Wray - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Twain Middle School

Reid McLean - Seventh Grade U.S. History Teacher

Union Mill Elementary School

Ashley White - Fourth Grade Teacher

Virginia Run Elementary School

Megan West - Second Grade Teacher

Wakefield Forest Elementary School

Hana Choi - Special Education Teacher

Walt Whitman Middle School

Nache Brown - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Waples Mill Elementary School

Molly Boucher - First Grade Teacher*

Washington Irving Middle School

Michael Higginbotham - Biology Teacher*

West Potomac High School

Symone Jenkins - English Teacher*

West Springfield High School

Bruce Stuck - History & Social Studies Teacher

Westfield High School

Katie Sanfield - History & Social Studies Teacher

Westgate Elementary School

Samuel Pubal - Sixth Grade Teacher*

Westlawn Elementary School

Jasmine Cuevas - Fourth Grade Teacher

Willow Springs Elementary School

Gunjan Agrawal Sapkota - Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

Woodson High School

Jayme Cole - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

**Denotes pyramid winner*

Outstanding New Principal

The Outstanding New Principal Award recognizes distinguished educators and extraordinary leaders who are within their first three years as principal. The recipient is an innovative and exceptional manager whose vision inspires and guides staff, students, and the community to help lead the school to excellence. Any FCPS employee or community member may nominate a principal for the Outstanding New Principal Award.

New Principal Finalists



Ingrid C. Badia, Principal

Annandale Terrace Elementary School, Region 6

Ingrid is a hands-on principal who is often described as caring, organized, and empowering to staff, students, and families. Every day, she makes sure that every student, teacher, or family member who walks in through the front doors of ATES feels welcomed. This year, Ingrid implemented the school theme "Amazing Things Happen at Annandale Terrace." She carries this slogan throughout all practices to remind teachers and staff of the amazing things that happen at the school because of everything they do for the students and families. Ingrid has brought back Parent Coffees during which she shares with family members strategies to support learning at home, then visits classrooms to see how these strategies are impacting the classroom positively.



Veronica Del Bagno, Principal

Rolling Valley Elementary School, Region 4

In Veronica's inaugural year as the principal of Rolling Valley, she embraced the words of educational author Mike Mattos that a journey "does not begin with taking a first step, but by facing the right direction." Veronica embarked on her path by establishing the guiding principles of caring, collaborating, and communicating. She fostered inclusive and supportive systems and structures to reach every student by integrating diverse perspectives into data-driven conversations. This commitment to every student was evident in supporting intellectual disability and enhanced autism programs, and honoring military-connected students by earning the Purple Star Award. Veronica cultivated an environment where teamwork was integral to the processes and initiatives directed toward enhancing the educational experience for students, staff, and families alike.



Raven N. Jones, Principal

Luther Jackson Middle School, Region 2

Raven relentlessly works to build a positive and collaborative school culture where everyone can see themselves reflected and know that they are valued members of the school. She balances a results-driven approach with a deep commitment to the well-being and care of the school community and works to remove barriers to equitable access and outcomes at Jackson. Raven has a clear vision for teaching and learning and dedicates herself to the staff and students' professional, academic, and personal growth. She does not shy away from tough conversations but approaches difficult situations with compassion and an unwavering focus on student outcomes. Raven's dedication to ensuring the long-term, holistic success of students and staff has transformed culture at Jackson.





Gina O'Neal, Principal

Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School, Region 3

Gina keeps love at the center of her leadership. From kicking off the school year with the theme of “Anchored in Love” to greeting students and families every morning, to walking kids home from school, Gina brings new meaning to the term ‘heart work’. This year Gina planned and executed several events to unite the community, such as Family Field Trips, a Harvest Festival, and Panther PRIDE Day. As a fierce instructional leader, Gina has transformed instructional practices by leveraging content coaches, professional development opportunities, and county resources to provide a rich academic experience for every student. Gina’s passion, enthusiasm, and love are felt, seen, and heard every day at Mt. Vernon Woods, where all staff, students, and families feel safe, welcomed, valued, and affirmed.



Linda Cassese Shannon, Principal

Mantua Elementary School, Region 5

“Leadership is not about the role; it’s about the goal.” Linda’s goal is to make Mantua a place where students and staff feel joy while thriving academically and professionally, while families feel like true partners in the work. She focuses on student and adult learning, creating a physically and emotionally safe environment, and building trusting relationships with the entire school community. She brought Responsive Classroom and The Positivity Project to Mantua, ensuring there is an intentional focus on the language and traits that help foster connections. Linda starts each week off by walking the track with students, families, and staff. Her caring leadership shows in her continued commitment as a leader of a school where students and staff grow and learn together.



Monika Guerrero Vereb, Principal

Herndon Middle School, Region 1

Monika embodies exceptional dedication to student growth, teacher support, parent engagement, and community involvement. At Herndon Middle, she spearheaded a comprehensive instructional plan to foster strong relationships and enhance students' durable life skills within the FCPS learning model. Her collaborative approach has cultivated a vibrant and unified school culture, prioritizing student well-being and celebrating their growth during their formative middle school years. Through transformational leadership and strategic partnerships, Monika helped the school earn distinctions like the International Society for Technology (ISTE) Lighthouse School designation and a substantial STEM robotics grant from Google. Her unwavering commitment has propelled Herndon Middle to educational distinction, creating a safe, innovative, and close-knit community where every student thrives.

School Recipients

Annandale Terrace Elementary School

Ingrid Badia

Canterbury Woods Elementary School

Leslie Malkowski

Carl Sandburg Middle School

Eric Underhill

Clearview Elementary School

Stephanie Almquist

Herndon Middle School

Monika Vereb

Holmes Middle School

Serena Giron

Hunt Valley Elementary School

Keieownna Johnson-Hightower

Island Creek Elementary School

Jen Fallert

Lake Braddock Secondary School

Lindsey Kearns

Laurel Ridge Elementary School

Megan Counts

Little Run Elementary School

Christie Yarn

Luther Jackson Middle School

Raven Jones

Lynbrook Elementary School

Kathleen Sain

Mantua Elementary School

Linda Shannon

McNair Elementary School

Elizabeth Watson

Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School

Gina O'Neal

Navy Elementary School

Amos Simms-Smith

Oak Hill Elementary School

Kelly Durso

Providence Elementary School

Andrew Pratt

Rolling Valley Elementary School

Veronica Del Bagno

Saratoga Elementary School

Abigail Ragan

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School

Mirna Vega

South County Middle School

Justin Simmons

Stone Middle School

Sonya Williams

Union Mill Elementary School

Scott Hawk

Westfield High School

Antonio DiBari

Outstanding Operational Employee

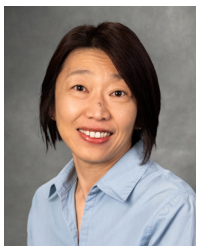
The Outstanding Operational Employee Award recognizes operational employees who have made unique and exceptional contributions to FCPS. Recipients, both school-based and nonschool-based, demonstrate commitment and foster cooperative relationships with colleagues and in the community. Any FCPS employee or community member may nominate an operational employee that is a Schedule A, Schedule H, Classroom Instructional Support Scale, or hourly employee that has held their position for at least one full year, for the Outstanding Operational Employee Award.

School-Based Operational Employee Finalists

**Laura Cespedes Mora, *Administrative Assistant III***

Fairfax County Adult High School, Non-Region

Since her first day at the Adult High School, Laura has made immediate connections with all staff and students. Her natural leadership and personality made Laura the main point of contact for everybody at the school. She is committed to building a caring and supportive culture and believes that treating and recognizing people individually will promote great results. She always finds a way to make a difference in everything, putting her heart in all she does and as she always says, "adding her own spice." Students and staff members recognize Laura as a problem-solver, always happy to help others, constantly supporting ideas, and being flexible. Laura shared that working with and for families is her biggest passion.

**Miki Okada Fryer, *Public Health Training Assistant***

Kings Park Elementary School, Region 4

Miki lives by the maxim "It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop." While Miki was working at a children's hospital as a physical therapist supporting children who had both physical and intellectual disabilities, she realized how meaningful and fulfilling working with children could be. Supporting children in the enhanced autism class at Kings Park Elementary School and helping them develop is the meaningful and rewarding experience she hoped she'd have. The students demonstrate to Miki their determination and love each day, which inspires her and motivates her to do her best for them. This is constantly reinforcing her resolve to live by that maxim.

**Ji-Eun Kastner, *Family Liaison***

Oakton Elementary School, Region 1

Ji-Eun is Oakton Elementary School's very own superhero. She transfers her power to each student as they enter school each day making them brave and willing to take on their educational challenges. One of her powers includes the ability to build strong connections between the student's home and the school, helping new families adjust as they enter the Oakton Elementary School family. She leaps over cultural differences to build a supportive and welcoming environment and ensures that every family feels valued and empowered to actively participate in their child's educational journey. Ji-Eun works hard every day to ensure a successful future for the school, the community, and the students.



Lan Ong, *Building Supervisor*

Chesterbrook Elementary School, Region 2

Lan is the point of contact for any situation at Chesterbrook, and she is so instinctual in her job that many things get done before they become an issue. When staff call on her to resolve a problem, she is already in the process of completing the job or putting in a work order. She builds positive relationships with students by getting to know them during lunch and teaching younger students where to put trash, recycling, and compost. Lan goes the extra mile often, such as applying her prior professional experience as a tailor to mend the school’s mascot costume and hem reusable towels. Her unwavering dedication to students and staff makes Chesterbrook a safe and welcoming place to learn.



Thelma R. Pemberton-Abbott, *Instructional Assistant*

Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School, Region 3

Thelma was told on her first day in FCPS 25 years ago that her job was to "fill in the blanks." Each morning she stands at the door, gives each student a multiplication fact, and checks in with them as to how they are doing. At dismissal, she stands at the door, high fives each student and tells them "be awesome" and now the students are telling her "be awesome" right back! She is known for being a pillar of support at Mount Vernon Woods, constantly asking other staff members how she can help lighten their load. She continues to fill in the blanks daily, and with a smile!



Magaly Perez-Rives, *Family Learning Center Coordinator*

Lynbrook Elementary School, Region 6

As the founder of the Lynbrook Family Learning Center, Maggie fosters programs that encourage positive parent engagement and is the glue that binds all groups together. She plays a pivotal role in forming genuine and meaningful connections with families, students, staff, and community organizations. Serving as a human Rolodex about the school, families and teachers approach Maggie for anything from exploring resources to weekend snack bags. As the school’s interpreter, she is the bridge between parents and teachers. More than just translating language, her loving and down-to-earth manner puts any parent at ease. Through her service, advocacy and compassion, Maggie engages and empowers parents to be involved partners in their children's education.



Amy Yoham, *Office Assistant*

Brookfield Elementary School, Region 5

At Brookfield, the staff takes great pride in working to bring out the best in their students. Amy strongly believes that one of the most effective ways to foster strong student connections is by making families feel like they are a part of the school community. Amy makes an extra effort to establish a positive tone when working with families. Her goal is to always hear and understand what they are saying, and to make sure that their needs are met and issues are resolved. Amy says one of the best parts of her day is walking the younger students to class. Their stories are precious and honest and Amy considers those conversations to be valuable to them both.



School Recipients

Annandale High School

Rosario Carrasco - Family Liaison

Annandale Terrace Elementary School

Siew Ng - Instructional Assistant

Armstrong Elementary School

Sara Nance - Instructional Assistant

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences

Maria Demarest - Office Assistant*

Bailey's Upper Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences

Hanan Sarsaur - Instructional Assistant

Belvedere Elementary School

Mandy Belcher - Student Information Assistant

Bonnie Brae Elementary School

Kay Shallal - Instructional Assistant

Braddock Elementary School

Sherryanne Sooknanan - Administrative Assistant *

Brookfield Elementary School

Amy Yoham - Office Assistant*

Bryant Alternative Learning Center

Leslie Marquez - Administrative Assistant

Burke School

Ryan Krogel - Instructional Assistant

Bush Hill Elementary School

Mary Valad - Social Worker *

Camelot Elementary School

Beth Shalhoub - Instructional Assistant

Cameron Elementary School

Crystal Coleman - Applied Behavior Analysis Instructional Assistant

Canterbury Woods Elementary School

Maggie Sawaya - Instructional Assistant

Cardinal Forest Elementary School

Karen Stephens - Student Information Assistant

Carl Sandburg Middle School

Sarika Mehta - Office Assistant

Centreville Elementary School

Ebtesam Al Rikabi - Instructional Assistant

Chantilly High School

Linda Jencks - Instructional Assistant

Cherry Run Elementary School

Jennifer LeBlanc - Instructional Assistant

Chesterbrook Elementary School

Lan Ong - Building Supervisor*

Churchill Road Elementary School

Suba Khan - Instructional Assistant

Clearview Elementary School

Gaby Romoleroux - Family Liaison

Clermont Elementary School

Jessica Lopez - Custodian II

Coates Elementary School

Salma Elsaied Karrar - Instructional Assistant*

Colin Powell Elementary School

Anne Bonner - Instructional Assistant*

Columbia Elementary School

Lesli Bailey - Kindergarten Instructional Assistant

Cooper Middle School

Jan Ahearn - Finance Technician

Cub Run Elementary School

Christina Davis-Luczak - Instructional Assistant

Cunningham Park Elementary School

Hellen Cortez - Family Liaison*

Daniels Run Elementary School

Tammy Sparks - Instructional Assistant*

Davis Career Center

Walaa Amar - Public Health Training Assistant

Deer Park Elementary School

Evelyn Griselda Amaya - Instructional Assistant

Dranesville Elementary School

Angela Agana - Student Information Assistant

Eagle View Elementary School

Christina Perry - Administrative Assistant

Edison High School

Dianne Lewis - Administrative Assistant

Fairfax County Adult High School

Laura Cespedes Mora - Administrative Assistant III*

Fairfax High School

Ngoc Thanh Pham - Custodian I

Fairfax Villa Elementary School

Rodrigo Jackson - Instructional Assistant*

Fairhill Elementary School

Anne Kane - Office Assistant

Fairview Elementary School

Sarah Fuller - Student Information Assistant

Falls Church High School

Jaime Medina Yrhuay - Custodian II*

Flint Hill Elementary School

Maria Rodriguez - Family Liaison

Floris Elementary School

Hilda Manuella - Office Assistant

Forest Edge Elementary School

Yvanna Yearout - Student Information Assistant/Registrar

Forestdale Elementary School

Melissa Richardson - Instructional Assistant

Forestville Elementary School

Meaghan Stoner - Instructional Assistant

*Denotes pyramid winner

Fort Belvoir Primary School

Soli Rose - Administrative Assistant

Fort Belvoir Upper Elementary School

Brittany Sweede - Office Assistant

Fort Hunt Elementary School

Will Lundregan - Instructional Assistant

Franconia Elementary School

Holly Painten - Office Assistant

Franklin Middle School

Chennel Polhemus - Instructional Assistant

Frost Middle School

Mason Price - Instructional Assistant

Glasgow Middle School

Olga Fuentes - Building Supervisor

Great Falls Elementary School

Evelio Valladares Maradiaga - Building Supervisor*

Greenbriar East Elementary School

Tina Jones - Building Supervisor

Greenbriar West Elementary School

Sally Bippert - Office Assistant

Gunston Elementary School

Cassandra Baltimore - Administrative Assistant/Finance Manager*

Halley Elementary School

Nicole Kendall - Administrative Assistant

Haycock Elementary School

Elizabeth Shoemaker - Instructional Assistant

Hayfield Elementary School

Tammy Martin - Office Assistant

Hayfield Secondary School

David Abella - After-School Program Specialist

Herndon High School

Terri Gibson - Administrative Assistant

Herndon Middle School

Elizabeth Novelo - Office Assistant*

Hollin Meadows Elementary School

Rubia Rodriguez - Family Liaison

Holmes Middle School

Phuoc Nguyen - Custodian

Hunt Valley Elementary School

Ann Rodriguez - Student Information Assistant

Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences

Lamiaa Salama - Administrative Assistant

Interagency Alternative Schools

Lisa Dockins - Administrative Assistant

Island Creek Elementary School

Megan Dion - SPED Instructional Assistant

Justice High School

Robert Jimenez - Administrative Assistant I

Katherine Johnson Middle School

Emily Gardiner - Administrative Assistant II

Kent Gardens Elementary School

Sina Naeemi - Instructional Assistant





Key Center

Anastasia Kosmakos - Public Health Training Assistant

Key Middle School

Digna E. Flores Giron - Assistant Building Supervisor

Kilmer Center

Oumhani "Hanaa" Lamihi - Public Health Training Assistant

Kilmer Middle School

Giau Ngo - Building Supervisor

Kings Park Elementary School

Miki Okada Fryer - Public Health Training Assistant*

Lake Anne Elementary School

Jenifer Schultz - Instructional Assistant

Lake Braddock Secondary School

Alejandra Pena-Ulloa - Family Liaison

Langley High School

Chris Brown - Safety & Security Assistant

Langston Hughes Middle School

Ngoc Duan Huynh - Custodian

Laurel Hill Elementary School

Tricia Mascioli Santistevan - Office Assistant

Laurel Ridge Elementary School

Susan Sheftic - Instructional Assistant*

Lewis High School

Monique Murray - Finance Technician

Liberty Middle School

Morrise Queirolo - Civics Teacher*

Little Run Elementary School

Jorge Sanchez - Public Health Training Assistant

Longfellow Middle School

Jose Morales - Custodian II

Lorton Station Elementary School

Safia Hussein - Instructional Assistant

Louise Archer Elementary School

Kathy Cutri - Student Information Assistant

Luther Jackson Middle School

Deb Robertson - Administrative Assistant II

Lynbrook Elementary School

Magaly Perez-Rives - Family Learning Center Coordinator*

Mantua Elementary School

Susan Palomino - Office Assistant

Marshall High School

Prince Fosu - Assistant Building Supervisor*

Marshall Road Elementary School

Richard Childs - Building Supervisor

McLean High School

Margaret Ann Johnson - Instructional Assistant

McNair Elementary School

Maral Dayian - Instructional Assistant

Mosaic Elementary School

Jennifer Cohen - Instructional Assistant

**Denotes pyramid winner*

Mount Vernon High School

Almaz Desta - Custodian I

Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School

Thelma Pemberton-Abbott - Instructional Assistant*

Navy Elementary School

Rama Kannan - Office Assistant

North Springfield Elementary School

Helvecia Veloso - Instructional Assistant

Oak Hill Elementary School

Wendy DeVight (Parry) - Dining Room Assistant

Oak View Elementary School

Mary Lalande - Office Assistant

Oakton Elementary School

Ji-Eun Kastner - Family Liaison*

Oakton High School

Patricia Strozier-Brown - Safety & Security Assistant

Olde Creek Elementary School

Rozina Naseem - Instructional Assistant

Poe Middle School

Melinda Lauder milk - Finance Technician

Providence Elementary School

Pam Wagner - Instructional Assistant

Ravensworth Elementary School

Ricardo Bermudez - Office Assistant

Riverside Elementary School

Patricia Ramirez Aguirre - Custodian

Robinson Secondary School

Chris Ann Evans - Administrative Assistant (HS)

Melanie Knowlton - Student Services Assistant (MS)

Rocky Run Middle School

Carol Cutler - Office Assistant

Rolling Valley Elementary School

Laura Vargas - Office Assistant*

Rose Hill Elementary School

Kate Pennington - Family Liason

Sangster Elementary School

Hung Park - Custodian

Saratoga Elementary School

Brenda Ferguson - Instructional Assistant

Shrevewood Elementary School

Misael Abrego Rodriguez - Building Supervisor I

Silverbrook Elementary School

Laura Haas Connelly - Instructional Assistant

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School

Abena Kyerewa - Building Supervisor

South County High School

Connie Gibson - Principal's Administrative Assistant*

South County Middle School

Belinda Martinez - Building Supervisor

South Lakes High School

Estela Argueta - Office Assistant*

Spring Hill Elementary School

Huan Tran - Custodian

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology

Tanya Dirl-Holloway - Office Assistant

Thoreau Middle School

Anthony Paz - Instructional Assistant

Twain Middle School

Brandon Henry - Safety & Security Assistant

Union Mill Elementary School

Kimberly Glover - Instructional Assistant

Vienna Elementary School

Angela Bedoya - Public Health Attendant

Virginia Run Elementary School

Shannon Carlson - Kindergarten Assistant

Wakefield Forest Elementary School

Wendy Oliva - Custodian

Walt Whitman Middle School

Raquel Monterrosa Romero - Family Liaison

Waples Mill Elementary School

Roger Fernandez - Building Supervisor

Washington Irving Middle School

Konor Scott - Instructional Assistant

West Potomac High School

Tico Barclay - Building Supervisor*

West Springfield Elementary School

Nazifa Sediqi - Public Health Training Assistant

West Springfield High School

Maria Canas - Building Supervisor

Westfield High School

Araceli Manoatl - Family Liaison

Westgate Elementary School

Kathy Vargas Bonilla - Office Assistant

Westlawn Elementary School

Haydee Sanchez - Administrative Assistant

Weyanoke Elementary School

Yoana Alvarenga - Instructional Assistant

White Oaks Elementary School

Sam Ortiz - Preschool Autism Class Instructional Assistant

Willow Springs Elementary School

Cesar Carrasco - Building Supervisor

Woodburn Elementary School

Robyn Fernandez - Family Liaison

Woodley Hills Elementary School

Gina Bickerstaff - Instructional Assistant

Woodson High School

Michael Ferraris - Safety & Security Assistant

Nonschool-Based Operational Employee Finalists



Beatriz Bucarey, Family Liaison

Dunn Loring Center, Chief Experience and Engagement Office

Beatriz is a welcoming and caring advocate for families who builds bridges between the community, families, and schools so that new students have a strong start in the school district. She provides information about school and community services offered in Fairfax County; her level of support ranges from providing families with information on immunization clinics to support with filling out necessary school forms. Her authentic and genuine approach to connecting with multilingual families provides an equitable start as families walk away with more information on navigating the school system. Beatriz is truly leading the work of equitable starts in the school system by setting families up for success as they enter FCPS.



Hyunju (Christina) Kim, Bus Driver Supervisor

Stonecroft Center, Chief Operating Office

Christina is a creative activator of the Office of Transportation Services. As a bus driver supervisor, she always looks for the best way to lead her team and assist coworkers. Her ability to think outside of the box and her creative solutions inspire her team and workplace to daily success. Without hesitation, she tries new ways for her and others to be more productive. Christina is gifted with creating video presentations with her active imagination. She can transform simple ideas into immediately visible results. Her videos teach important job skills, celebrate the accomplishments of others, inspire team spirit, and show appreciation for her coworkers. Christina's creativity and power of execution make transportation a better experience for students and staff.



Bessi Y. Moreno, Management Technician

Willow Oaks Administrative Center, Special Services

Bessi is a valuable member of the FCPS team, serving as a highly-skilled management technician with a diverse set of responsibilities. She consistently demonstrates unwavering commitment to providing aid and support to FCPS staff, teachers and families. Bessi places a strong emphasis on delivering exceptional customer service and approaches her duties with a proactive and forward-thinking mindset. She goes above and beyond to ensure the needs of the organization are not only met, but exceeded. In addition to her official job tasks, Bessi offers support wherever necessary, ensuring seamless operations and nurturing a spirit of collaboration in the workplace. Her exceptional skills, hard work, and positive attitude make her an asset to the organization and a true pleasure to work with.



Anith Muthalaly, Staff Assistant

Forte Center, Chief Academic Office

Beginning as an hourly warehouse employee, Anith has evolved into a pivotal figure in the Office of Assessment and Reporting. Anith's commitment to excellence is evident in his development of systems to streamline data auditing and monitoring processes, ensuring accuracy and equity in student assessment data. His proactive approach to learning and skill development, exemplified by his mastery of the SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) syntax language, highlights his relentless pursuit of growth. Anith's leadership shines through his ability to seamlessly collaborate with diverse teams, fostering effective communication and driving efficiency in every endeavor. His resilience and attention to detail have earned him praise as a meticulous and indispensable asset.





Maria Rodriguez, Functional Applications Technician

Sprague Technology Center, Information Technology

Maria embodies innovation and active engagement, fostering an equitable environment where diversity is celebrated and supported. Her participation in key initiatives showcases her commitment to continual learning, professional growth, and successfully supporting the unique needs of both colleagues and customers. Maria’s “grace under pressure,” combined with her thoughtfulness and insightfulness, make her an invaluable asset. While Maria’s behind-the-scenes efforts may not be known by many in FCPS, her knowledge and support allow staff members to have timely and accurate access to the tools they need to support our students and families. Beyond her technical expertise, Maria’s genuine care and respect for her colleagues and the community shine through in all her interactions.



Meg Rogers, Library Information Assistant

Instructional Programs Support Center, Instructional Services

Meg is a cornerstone of the FCPS library system, known for her dedication to creating an inclusive and efficient work environment. Her commitment to equity shines through her work as an equity lead. Meg’s hands-on approach to weeding and maintaining library collections is instrumental, allowing librarians to focus on teaching and collection development. Her work ensures that students have access to physically appealing books that contain relevant and accurate information. Whether she’s at an equity meeting or updating library records, her commitment to service is evident. Always approachable, Meg’s interactions with people reflect her passion for helping others. Meg is a dynamic force for positive change, making her an invaluable asset to FCPS.

Semifinalists

Chief Academic Office

Anith Muthalaly - Staff Assistant

Chief Experience and Engagement Office

Beatriz Bucarey - Family Liaison

Chief Financial Office

Linda Thompson - Payroll Technician I/II/III

Chief Information Technology Office

Maria Rodriguez - Functional Applications Technician I/II/III

Chief Operating Office

Sharon Smith - Mobile Applications Technician I/II/III

Human Resources

Alyah Al-Shammari - Client Services Representative I/II/III

Instructional Services

Meg Rogers - Library Information Assistant

Office of Communications

Patty Granados - Administrative Assistant III

Special Services

Bessi Moreno - Management Technician I/II/III

Transportation

Christina Kim - Bus Driver Supervisor



Outstanding Professional Employee

The Outstanding Professional Employee Award recognizes operational and non-instructional school-based employees who serve in a curriculum support or student support capacity who have made unique and exceptional contributions to FCPS. Recipients, one school-based and one nonschool-based, demonstrate commitment and foster cooperative relationships with colleagues and in the community. Any FCPS employee or community member may nominate an operational employee that is a Schedule B or non-instructional school-based employee that has held their position for at least one full year for the Outstanding Professional Employee Award.

School-Based Professional Employee Finalists



Daryl C. Byrom, Special Education Department Chair

Lewis High School, Region 6

Having been in FCPS for the past 20 years, Daryl has worked in many different facets of special education. He is currently the Adapted Curriculum Special Education Department Chair at Lewis High School. Most see Daryl running through the hallways, laptop in hand, making many stops along the way ensuring team members and students have everything they need. Otherwise, you can find him in special education meetings conversing with parents or collaborating with colleagues. If you ask Daryl his favorite part of the job, he'd say "First and foremost, the students are awesome and the special education team is amazing. After that, there's never a dull moment in my position. Most days, I look back and wonder where the day went!"



Cassandra Deedy, Academy Counselor

Edison High School Academy, Region 3

Cassandra goes far beyond her role as the Edison Academy counselor with things like opening her office daily at lunchtime for those with sensory needs and supporting students at academy events and athletic games after school and on weekends. She provides students emotional support and celebrates their successful life choices such as attending a student's naturalization ceremony and another's graduation from Navy basic training. She mentors Student Ambassadors while helping them prepare for their future careers and adds a personal touch, like when she collects money for a family in need during the holiday season. Cassandra is the Edison Academy counselor, but in the lives of her students, she is so much more. She is a guiding light on their educational journey.



Ellen Rogers, Primary Years Programme Coordinator

Belvedere Elementary School, Region 2

Advocacy has been at the heart of Ellen's work since she started as an educator. In her role as the IB (International Baccalaureate) Primary Years Programme (PYP) coordinator at Belvedere, Ellen builds relationships and understanding with students, staff, and families while also supporting teachers in developing collaborative teams that create dynamic units of inquiry for students in preschool through fifth grade. Ellen coordinates learning experiences with staff to enhance students' experience at school. As the PYP coordinator, she helps educators grow professionally as concept-based facilitators and supports the implementation of Project Zero in their classrooms. Her belief in the potential of all students has not only shaped her educational journey, but the educational journey of so many teachers, students, and families.



Kimberly J. Sloan, Literacy Resource Teacher

Interagency Alternative Schools, Non-Region

Kim's welcoming persona is a key component in her successful career, now in its thirty-first year. As a resource teacher and Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) interventionist for 21 interagency alternative schools, Kim inspires teachers and students alike with her contagious enthusiasm for literacy learning. She believes in amplifying students' voices and has spearheaded long-standing programs such as a Virtual Writing Lab, literary magazine, and creative arts contest. She is just as passionate about teachers' voices and is a collaborative thought-partner and sought-after professional development provider, adjunct professor, and author. One colleague shared, "Kim has devoted her professional career to the support of teachers and students, recognizing the critical role that literacy plays in their success, both within and beyond the classroom."



Rachel W. Sweeney, Dean of Students

Rocky Run Middle School, Region 5

Rachel wears countless hats as dean of students. Whether structuring a system of data-driven intervention to maximize student success, collaborating with teams to streamline communication, or ensuring access to high-quality instruction through attention to each student by name and by need, she does it with kindness, authenticity, and an asset-based lens. Centering her work on building trusting relationships, Rachel leads by example. As equity lead, she builds staff capacity and invites student voices into the equity conversation, and as a champion of family engagement, she crafts new programs to partner with parents and strengthen home-school communication. A student described Rachel's impact on the Rocky Run community as only a middle schooler could, sharing: "She helps everyone with everything."



Allison Warren, School Counselor

Centreville High School, Region 4

Allison is known for her dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to students, families, and faculty. She is proactive, dedicated, caring, and quickly establishes positive relationships. One of Allison's standout qualities is her deep empathy and approachability. She connects with individuals on a personal level and ensures that her guidance and support are always grounded in genuine care and understanding. Allison is a change agent in breaking down barriers for students and families in an effort to improve equity and access for all, using data to support students, and helping others think outside the box to come up with creative solutions. As the graduation coordinator, she creates meaningful ceremonies that celebrate students while honoring families and staff.



Alice L. Whitener, School Counselor

Madison High School, Region 1

Alice thrives on building relationships, a passion that fuels her success as a school counselor. She fosters connections with families, teachers, and the community to create a network that supports students' academic and personal growth. Alice values collaboration and creativity, enjoying the opportunity to work on a team that seeks solutions that are student focused. She leads with empathy, humor, and enthusiasm. Alice loves being part of the Madison High School community, acting as a lead advocate for the College Partnership Program, a senior class sponsor, and member of the MAD WINGS team. Her commitment to fostering a positive and collaborative school environment makes her an invaluable asset to the school.

School Recipients

Aldrin Elementary School

Rebecca Hollow - School Social Worker

Annandale High School

Terri Pendleton - Technology Support Specialist

Annandale Terrace Elementary School

Maria Pezzuti - Elementary Math Resource Teacher

Armstrong Elementary School

Kari Carey - Instructional Coach

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences

Sara Crummett - School Counselor

Bailey's Upper Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences

Mary Iannicola - Reading Specialist

Belvedere Elementary School

Ellen Rogers - Primary Years Programme Coordinator*

Bonnie Brae Elementary School

Nadya Osterling - Special Education Department Chair*

Braddock Elementary School

Judith Swoboda - Reading Resource Teacher

Bryant High School

Ann Clark-Berry - Safety & Security Assistant

Bull Run Elementary School

Rachael Younkens - School Counselor

Burke School

Mary Valad - Social Worker

Bush Hill Elementary School

Alison Bieber - School-Based Technology Specialist

Camelot Elementary School

Laura Wisotzkey - School Psychologist

Cameron Elementary School

Caroline Weber - School-Based Technology Specialist

Canterbury Woods Elementary School

Jo Woodzell - Educational Interpreter

Carl Sandburg Middle School

Brianna Lucas - School-Based Technology Specialist

Centreville Elementary School

Rebecca Wysocki - Resource Teacher

Centreville High School

Allison Warren - School Counselor*

Don Corbin - Safety and Security Specialist

Chantilly High School

Katelyn Bishop - Certified Athletic Trainer

Cherry Run Elementary School

Katy Harvey - School-Based Technology Specialist

Clare Foley - Special Education Department Chair

Chesterbrook Elementary School

Jen Kulkin - Speech Language Pathologist

Churchill Road Elementary School

Megan Popelka - Special Education Department Chair

Clermont Elementary School

Leila Remaili - School-Based Technology Specialist

Colin Powell Elementary School

Jason Decroo - Technology Support Specialist

Cooper Middle School

Heather Dorman - School-Based Technology Specialist

Crestwood Elementary School

Jennifer Lynch - Social Worker

Crossfield Elementary School

Melissa Norris - School Psychologist

Cub Run Elementary School

Sarah Phillips - Instructional Coach

Cunningham Park Elementary School

Lisa Lujan - School Counselor

Daniels Run Elementary School

Caleb Lee - Technology Support Specialist

Davis Career Center

Polly (Huh) Mills - Special Education Department Chair

Dranesville Elementary School

Lauren Laspe - Special Education Department Chair*

Eagle View Elementary School

Laura Dailey - School Social Worker

Edison High School

Cassandra Deedy - Academy Counselor*

Fairfax County Adult High School

Jessica Klein - School-Based Technology Specialist

Fairfax High School

Annie Santee - Employment & Transition Representative

Fairfax Villa Elementary School

Tricia Tyrell - Speech Language Pathologist

Fairhill Elementary School

Sara Scott - Math Specialist

Falls Church High School

Megan Walker - School-Based Technology Specialist*

Flint Hill Elementary School

Kimberly McCool - Special Education Department Chair

Floris Elementary School

Sarah de Kramer - School Counselor

Forest Edge Elementary School

Erika Thompson - Advanced Academic Resource Teacher

Forestdale Elementary School

Amy Willis - Instructional Coach

Fort Belvoir Primary School

Kyle Maziarski - School Psychologist

Fort Belvoir Upper Elementary School

Kathleen Wakeley - Reading Specialist

Fort Hunt Elementary School

Krystal Styles - Instructional Coach

Franklin Middle School

Kim Gallagher - School Counselor

Franklin Sherman Elementary School

Jennifer Borders - Reading Specialist

Frost Middle School

Meghan Short - Instructional Coach*

Garfield Elementary School

Jennifer Shanahan - Special Education Department Chair

Great Falls Elementary School

Jennifer Roberts - School-Based Technology Specialist*

Greenbriar West Elementary School

Megan McAndrew - School Counselor

Groveton Elementary School

Diana Intagliata - Special Education Department Chair

Gunston Elementary School

Allison Burns - Special Education Department Chair

Halley Elementary School

Margaret Ascierio - School Counselor

Haycock Elementary School

Nick Choobineh - Technology Support Specialist

Hayfield Secondary School

Allen Johnson - MTSS Coordinator

Herndon Elementary School

Karsyn Boyer - School Counselor

Herndon High School

Kelly Ginieczki - School Counselor

Herndon Middle School

Melissa Sobchak - School Testing Coordinator

Holmes Middle School

Mel Mollick - School-Based Technology Specialist

Interagency Alternative Schools

Kimberly Sloan - Literary Resource Teacher*

Island Creek Elementary School

Nikki Bohnert - School Counselor

*Denotes pyramid winner

Justice High School

Michele Colandene - Instructional Coach

Katherine Johnson Middle School

Friday Oeur - School Counselor*

Kent Gardens Elementary School

Elizabeth Fernandez - School Counselor

Key Center

Beth Curtis - School Based Technology Specialist

Key Middle School

Suzanne Corcoran - School Counselor

Kilmer Middle School

Corey Thornblad - Instructional Coach

Kings Park Elementary School

Corri Shusterman - School Counselor

Lake Anne Elementary School

Rebecca Hirschman - Instructional Coach

Lake Braddock Secondary School

Kristyn Wharton - Certified Athletic Trainer

Langley High School

Natalie Malone - School Counselor

Langston Hughes Middle School

Jackie Kerze - School-Based Technology Specialist

Laurel Hill Elementary School

Rachael Ackerman - Speech Language Pathologist

Lewis High School

Daryl Byrom - Special Education Department Chair*

Liberty Middle School

Amber Wickstrom - Special Education Department Chair

London Towne Elementary School

Emily Habermeyer - School Counselor*

Longfellow Middle School

Sarah Gortenburg - School Social Worker

Lorton Station Elementary School

Shelly Reddick - Instructional Coach*

Luther Jackson Middle School

Suzanne Zulauf - Instructional Coach

Lynbrook Elementary School

Emily Long - Instructional Coach

Madison High School

Alice Whitener - School Counselor*

Mantua Elementary School

Chris Webster - Technology Support Specialist

Marshall High School

Katie Purkert - School Social Worker

Marshall Road Elementary School

Amita Singh - Comprehensive Resource Teacher

McLean High School

Patty McNeill - School Counselor*

McNair Elementary School

Donna Ford - School Counselor

Mosaic Elementary School

Robert Sarinana - Technology Support Specialist





Mount Eagle Elementary School

Sara Weiss-Cowie - School Counselor

Mount Vernon High School

Mary McAlevy – School Counselor, HS

Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School

Emily Basinger - Reading Specialist

Newington Forest Elementary School

Robert Curran - Technology Specialist

Oak Hill Elementary School

Andy Mitchell - School Counselor

Oakton High School

Justin Janis - Systems of Support Advisor

Olde Creek Elementary School

Kristin Judy - School-Based Technology Specialist

Emma Hamilton - Special Education

Department Chair

Orange Hunt Elementary School

Alexandra Horton - Literacy Specialist

Parklawn Elementary School

Kelsey Duggan Weingarten - Reading Specialist

Pine Spring Elementary School

Leah DeLew - School Psychologist

Poe Middle School

Elizabeth Halmon - School Psychologist*

Quander Road School

Raquel Joyner - Special Education Department Chair *

Rachel Carson Middle School

Megan Carr - School-Based Technology Specialist*

Ravensworth Elementary School

Jessica Scharpf - Literacy Specialist

Riverside Elementary School

Cassidy Dawson - Title I Resource Teacher*

Robinson Secondary School

Diana Glakas - School Counselor (HS)

Rocky Run Middle School

Rachel Sweeney - Dean of Students*

Rolling Valley Elementary School

Suzy Penn - Literacy Coach*

Sangster Elementary School

Linda Biberaj - Advanced Academic Resource Teacher

Saratoga Elementary School

Amy Ashley - School Counselor

Shreewood Elementary School

Kaylin Daniels - School Based Technology Specialist

Silverbrook Elementary School

Max Haller - Elementary Special Education Department Chair*

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School

Tatyana Cottle - School Counselor

Marissa Smolinsky - Lead Special Education Teacher

South County High School

Megan Cooper - School Counselor

South County Middle School

Dana Gorman - Gifted Education Teacher



South Lakes High School

Megan Bieleski - Assessment Coach

Stone Middle School

Armando Garcia - School Counselor

Sunrise Valley Elementary School

Matt Stewart - School-Based Technology Specialist *

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology

Charles Lord - Special Education Department Chair

Thoreau Middle School

Erin Lynch - Testing Coordinator

Marissa Heberer - Special Education Department Chair

Timber Lane Elementary School

Jenny Collins - School-Based Technology Specialist

Twain Middle School

Marie Dañosos - School Counselor

Union Mill Elementary School

Jamie Clinch - School-Based Technology Specialist

Vienna Elementary School

Michelle Small - Resource Teacher

Virginia Run Elementary School

Jenna DeKeuster - School Counselor

Wakefield Forest Elementary School

Alex Dilldine - School-Based Technology Specialist

Walt Whitman Middle School

Don Jacobs - Technology Support Specialist

Waples Mill Elementary School

Brian Crosson - Technology Support Specialist

Washington Irving Middle School

Suzy Kiefaber - School Counselor

West Potomac High School

Renea Mielec - Math Instructional Coach

West Springfield High School

Julie Hubbard - Special Education Department Chair

Westfield High School

Jennifer Fargo - School Counselor

Westgate Elementary School

Meghan Sutton - Advanced Academic Resource Teacher *

Westlawn Elementary School

Anna Yim - Reading Specialist

Wolftrap Elementary School

Lisa Johnson - School Counselor

Woodburn Elementary School

Ismael Valdez - School Psychologist

Woodson High School

Ashley Demaree - School Counselor

Nonschool-Based Professional Employee Finalists



Angela Aldave, Manager, Intercultural Engagement

Gatehouse Administration Center, Chief Experience & Engagement Office

Angela is a dedicated advocate for FCPS families and the broader school community, driven by a deep commitment to fostering positive change. With a fierce passion for her role as manager of intercultural engagement, she prioritizes the importance of students and families in all initiatives. In her role, Angela leads efforts to foster an inclusive school environment that embraces diversity wholeheartedly. Through transparency and openness, she ensures that everyone feels valued and connected. Her collaborative approach cultivates trust and strong relationships, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued throughout the educational journey. Under Angela's leadership, FCPS is more than a school system; it is a welcoming environment where diversity thrives.



Sonia P. Arellano, Senior Manager I, ESOL Program Assessment

Alan Leis Center, Instructional Services

Sonia is a passionate educator who champions the cultural and linguistic diversity of FCPS as its greatest asset. She has been devoted to supporting multilingual learners, their families, and all those who help them succeed in school for over eighteen years. Sonia actively challenges conventional thinking and fosters collaboration and innovative practices. Among her impactful contributions are Spanish literacy assessments that allow students to showcase their knowledge, providing valuable insights for targeted instruction. She also co-created a biliteracy intervention for students with limited and interrupted education (SLIFE), which develops both Spanish and English literacy skills. Sonia's relentless pursuit of inclusive and supportive learning environments leaves a lasting positive impact on everyone with whom she works.



Karen Bolt, Photographic Specialist

Gatehouse Administration Center, Chief Experience & Engagement Office

Karen captures the "BEST of FCPS"! Her images capture students learning, laughing, and engaging with their work, and teachers and staff making connections with their students, inspiring and rejoicing in student success. She is on hand to capture celebrations of retirees, honored employees, institutes, seminars, and programs showing our diverse, adaptive, and supported workforce. While on photo shoots, she projects harmony, teamwork, and enthusiasm, so all feel comfortable and at ease as they are photographed. She participates fully in seeking out not only what needs to be photographed, but the message that needs to be communicated through the camera lens – always well-prepared with an excellent vision of where she would like to go with each and every shot captured.



Kristen Haynor, Educational Specialist, Neurodiversity

Willow Oaks Administrative Center, Chief Equity Office

The impact Kristen has made in FCPS is divisionwide, from individuals who feel seen by her, schools whose culture of belonging is strengthened by her guidance, and the system that is shifting to understand and affirm the perspectives and power of neurodivergent individuals. Her energy, passion, joy, and unique expertise is contagious as she tirelessly listens and devotes her time to support the mindset shifts across the division while elevating lived experiences and current research. Kristen champions intersectionality and recognizes the brilliance of every human. It was shared that she is not just a specialist but a mentor, role model, and catalyst for positive change throughout the county; there will be ripple effects for years to come.





George Saad, Project Liaison, Transportation Operations

Lorton Center, Chief Operating Office

George, a dedicated project liaison in FCPS's transportation department, is recognized for his innovative contributions and steadfast commitment. He enhances training programs for drivers, attendants, and supervisors, while streamlining communication through platforms like Schoology, Zoom, and Google Suites. Spearheading updates to the bus route selection process, George ensures fairness and efficiency. He also maintains the database, troubleshoots issues, and supervises database teams. George schedules tasks, produces reports for FCPS and the state, and utilizes transportation software effectively. Additionally, he coordinates special transportation projects, reviews records, and represents the Office of Transportation on committees. George's professionalism, collaborative spirit, and dedication to diversity and equity distinguish him as an invaluable asset to FCPS.



Nicole Warwick, Senior Manager I, Vision & Hearing Services

Willow Oaks Administrative Center, Special Services

From Fairfax County Public Schools student, to a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing, to program manager of hearing and vision services, Nicole's journey is one of inspiration and dedication. Throughout her career, she has been committed to improving the educational experiences of students with sensory impairments. Nicole's commitment to serving students, staff, and families and her relentless pursuit of excellence have propelled her to a position where she now spearheads crucial services for students with sensory impairments. Her passion for supporting students, staff, and families shines through her work, where she has honed her expertise in creating inclusive learning environments.

Semifinalists

Chief Academic Office

Brian Bosch - Senior Manager I, Assessment Operations & Reporting

Chief Equity Office

Kristen Haynor - Educational Specialist, Neurodiversity

Chief Experience and Engagement Office

Angela Aldave - Manager, Intercultural Engagement

Chief Facilities Services and Capital Programs Office

Holli McKinley - Manager, Design & Construction Projects

Chief Financial Office

Ju-Ling "Lillian" Cheng - Manager, Financial Reporting

Chief Information Technology Office

Jason Franks - Desktop Management Programmer

Human Resources

Haroon Rasheed - Project Manager, Human Resources

Instructional Services

Sonia Arellano - Manager, ESOL Program Assessment

Office of Communications

Karen Bolt - Photographic Specialist

Special Services

Nicole Warwick - Senior Manager I, Vision & Hearing Services

Transportation

George Saad - Project Liaison, Transportation Operations



Outstanding Leader

Two Outstanding Leader Awards are given, one for a school-based leader and one for a nonschool-based leader. Recipients demonstrate outstanding leadership and strengthen and improve the learning environment through their work. Any FCPS employee or community member may nominate an employee who is a Schedule C employee or a School-Based Administrator (that is not a building principal) and has held the position for at least one full year for the Outstanding Leader Award.

School-Based Leader Finalists



Rachel Forte, Assistant Principal

Centreville Elementary School, Region 4

Rachel believes when empowerment, collective efficacy, belonging, and joy coalesce, all students thrive. Rachel's passion for instruction, equity, and a positive school climate are prominently evident. She led the implementation of a robust Multi-tiered System of Support program, established mindfulness labs, and maintained an unyielding partnership with George Mason University to empower future educators. Moreover, Rachel believes leadership is about consistency. It is not about one initiative or event – it is about showing up each day for every stakeholder and committing to capitalizing on every interaction. This belief system is exemplified through the words of a colleague: "Even on the hard days, I know I'll laugh, work hard, and strive to do better. It's inevitable with Rachel by your side."



Christy Close Hanlon, Director of Student Services

Justice High School, Region 2

"True leadership isn't about dictating a path; it's about empowering and supporting others to find their own way." Christy isn't one to settle for the status quo. Student advocacy isn't just a part of her job description; it's the fuel that ignites her passion and determination. An out-of-the-box thinker, Christy isn't afraid to challenge conventional methods and develop innovative solutions to ensure every student has the resources they need to thrive. Christy recognizes the importance of fostering connections. She intentionally builds rapport with staff, students, and families, creating a strong foundation for a positive school environment. One Justice student stated, "Ms. Hanlon spares no effort in providing valuable support, offering guidance, and endless encouragement so that students achieve success."



Danielle Hornbecker, Director of Student Services

Frost Middle School, Region 5

Danielle exemplifies the belief that if it benefits students, she will find a way to make it happen. She empowers educators to seek solutions and remove barriers for the benefit of the students. She proactively creates structures and supports that provide access and opportunity for all students resulting in an increase in enrollment in advanced coursework. Her commitment to involving stakeholders, analyzing data, and providing professional development builds collective efficacy among all staff members. By creating meaningful relationships, she ensures her teams value diverse perspectives and create safe spaces for meaningful dialogue and collaboration. Danielle is an instructional leader who consistently demonstrates integrity, professionalism, and collaboration in her work with students, staff, and the greater school community to champion student success.



Andrew Orenstein, Assistant Principal, Special Education

Twain Middle School, Region 3

What makes Andrew's leadership style so unique is that he is truly a collaborative partner with the staff and students in his school. From implementing new math programs to attending field trips, the staff, students, and families trust Andrew and share their struggles and successes with him. He is an advocate for every student who steps through the door and has an incredible passion for school culture and community. His booming voice, approachable demeanor, visibility, and growth mindset encourage his Twain Middle School community to feel included and heard. His students seek his guidance, support, humor, and more importantly their time with him in the cafeteria during his lunch duties.



Chris Powell, Assistant Principal

Carson Middle School, Region 1

Chris believes that every student can achieve academic and personal success. His core beliefs define his leadership philosophy rooted in care for one another, providing students relevant learning opportunities, and having an unwavering commitment to teamwork and excellence. Under Chris’ guidance at Carson, he aligned the grading and reporting policy with equity-centered practices, introduced staff recognition programs that cultivated a community of acknowledgment, and designed school-wide Multi-tiered Systems of Support structures that focus on student interventions and success. Chris leads by example and is passionate about continuous improvement for the benefit of students, staff, and the greater school community. Above all, he works tirelessly to forge positive relationships to create a welcoming climate at Carson.



LaDonna M. Tate, Assistant Principal

Forestdale Elementary School, Region 6

LaDonna is an empathetic and devoted educational leader dedicated to student achievement and social-emotional well-being. She believes that students are at the center of all educational efforts, creating a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student can thrive and reach their full potential. LaDonna's leadership style is based on trust, collaboration, and accountability. She prioritizes the professional growth of all staff and works to create a safe space to build their efficacy. She approaches every situation with humility and a willingness to learn from others, working to maintain positive relationships with staff, students, and families. LaDonna's unwavering commitment to those she serves makes her an exceptional leader and an inspiration to others.



Gregory C. Thomas, Assistant Administrator

Fairfax County Adult High School, Non-Region

Greg believes that collaboration is a leader’s superpower. As an assistant administrator at Fairfax County Adult High School, Greg faced low graduation rates, complex class schedules, and a student body with over 85% multilingual learners. The main obstacles to student success were the Virginia Department of Education end-of-course tests; failing them prevented students from earning necessary credits. Greg collaborated with the instructional team, implementing support structures for test preparation and garnering stakeholder support. As a result, student pass rates soared to record highs in every subject area. Greg champions teamwork, believing that collective success breeds repeat achievements. Collaboration is key, and Greg’s leadership exemplifies its transformative power.

School Recipients

Annandale High School

Erik Healey - Director of Student Services*

Armstrong Elementary School

Andrea Depiro - Assistant Principal

Beech Tree Elementary School

Bridget Louder - Assistant Principal

Bryant High School

Ramon Lee - Assistant Principal*

Cameron Elementary School

Amanda Snyder - Assistant Principal

Cardinal Forest Elementary School

Ashleigh Long - Assistant Principal

Carl Sandburg Middle School

Katie Pluntke - Assistant Principal

Centreville Elementary School

Rachel Forte - Assistant Principal*

Centreville High School

Alexis Wenzel - Assistant Principal

Chantilly High School

Jihoon Shin - Assistant Principal

Clearview Elementary School

Joshua Redford - Assistant Principal

Clermont Elementary School

Trevia Younger - Assistant Principal

Colin Powell Elementary School

Hope Song - Assistant Principal

Columbia Elementary School

Sarah Boudart - Assistant Principal

**Denotes pyramid winner*

Cub Run Elementary School

Nausheen Haider - Assistant Principal

Eagle View Elementary School

Kaitlin Wilson-Vogel - Assistant Principal

Fairfax County Adult High School

Gregory Thomas - Assistant Administrator*

Fairfax High School

Brian Plancich - Assistant Principal*

Falls Church High School

Sean Rolon - Assistant Principal*

Forest Edge Elementary School

Ashley Fisher - Assistant Principal

Forestdale Elementary School

LaDonna Tate - Assistant Principal*

Forestville Elementary School

Afton Carlson - Assistant Principal

Fort Belvoir Primary School

Norma Gordon - Assistant Principal

Franklin Middle School

Michelle Case - Director of Student Services

Frost Middle School

Danielle Hornbecker - Director of Student Services*

Glasgow Middle School

Jennifer Pallotto - Director of Student Services

Greenbriar East Elementary School

Charita Eley - Assistant Principal

Greenbriar West Elementary School

Jordan Cook - Assistant Principal

Gunston Elementary School

Ebony Opie - Assistant Principal*

Halley Elementary School

Paula Johnson-Tyler - Assistant Principal*

Haycock Elementary School

Jody Delaney - Assistant Principal

Hayfield Secondary School

Carmen Lofton Johnson - Assistant Principal

Herndon Elementary School

Elizabeth Baxter - Assistant Principal*

Herndon Middle School

John Bordenkecher - Assistant Principal

Holmes Middle School

Nicholas Hartman - Assistant Principal

Hunt Valley Elementary School

Chrissy Gibbs - Assistant Principal*

Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences

Charles "Buck" Condill - Assistant Principal*

Justice High School

Christy Hanlon - Director of Student Services*

Kilmer Middle School

Debra David - Assistant Principal

Lake Anne Elementary School

Brittany Rogers - Assistant Principal

Lake Braddock Secondary School

Scott Darwin - Assistant Principal, HS

Langley High School

Geoff Noto - Director of Student Activities

Langston Hughes Middle School

Sharon Duncan-Hudspeth - Assistant Principal

Laurel Hill Elementary School

Thmeaka Traylor - Assistant Principal

Lewis High School

Kimberly Harrison - Director of Student Services

Liberty Middle School

Renee Pete - Director of Student Services

Little Run Elementary School

Lesley Hassen - Assistant Principal

Louise Archer Elementary School

Jennifer Condra - Assistant Principal*

Luther Jackson Middle School

Kelsey Toure - Assistant Principal

Madison High School

Timothy Buckley - Director of Student Services

Mantua Elementary School

Richard Deixler - Assistant Principal

Marshall High School

Danielle Schoolcraft - Assistant Principal

McLean High School

Jeffrey Barham - Assistant Principal

McNair Elementary School

Brandy O'Bryant - Assistant Principal*

Mosaic Elementary School

Brooke Brylawski - Assistant Principal

Oakton High School

Lawrence Stroud - Assistant Principal

Orange Hunt Elementary School

Heather Mathews - Assistant Principal

Poe Middle School

Leslie Rozzoni - Assistant Principal

Rachel Carson Middle School

Chris Powell - Assistant Principal*

Riverside Elementary School

Kaila Wise - Assistant Principal

Robinson Secondary School

Jason Kagarise - Assistant Principal*

Rocky Run Middle School

Young Hong - Director of Student Services*

Sangster Elementary School

Jennifer Redford- Assistant Principal

Saratoga Elementary School

Abigail Lower - Assistant Principal

Shreveewood Elementary School

Katie Vandawalker - Assistant Principal

Silverbrook Elementary School

Shannon Mueck - Assistant Principal

South County High School

Claudia Pirouzan-Jones - Assistant Principal

South County Middle School

Jonathan Mitchell - Assistant Principal

South Lakes High School

Valerie Winter - Assistant Principal

Stone Middle School

Eva-Beth Levy - Assistant Principal

Sunrise Valley Elementary School

Ashley Younger - Assistant Principal

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology

Dylan Forshay - Director of Student Activities

Timber Lane Elementary School

Shele Banford - Assistant Principal *

Twain Middle School

Andrew Orenstein - Assistant Principal, Special Education *

Wakefield Forest Elementary School

Amy Williams - Assistant Principal

Walt Whitman Middle School

Cameron Mathison - Assistant Principal*

Washington Irving Middle School

Meg Gollinger - Director of Student Services

West Potomac High School

Kevin McMahon - Director of Student Services

West Springfield High School

Shannon M Matheny - Assistant Principal

Westfield High School

Amanda Dorr - Assistant Principal

Westgate Elementary School

Summer Manos - Assistant Principal *

Weyanoke Elementary School

Michelle Doyle - Assistant Principal

White Oaks Elementary School

Dana Chen - Assistant Principal *

Woodley Hills Elementary School

Brandon Davis - Assistant Principal

Woodson High School

Kathy Martin - Assistant Principal

Nonschool-Based Leader Finalists

**Michelle D. Andrews, *Domain Architect***

Gatehouse Administration Center, Human Resources

Michelle's FCPS journey began in 1997 as a special education instructional assistant, where she discovered a passion for working with students. That passion led her to become a special education teacher and then an administrative intern. These experiences ignited her desire to support staff on a larger scale. She transitioned to the Department of Special Services as a functional application specialist, then moved to information technology, where she served as the technical lead for several programs. Currently, she leverages her diverse background as one of the technical leads for the new Human Capital Management project. Michelle shared that she is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have helped shape the FCPS special education, student information, and now staff information systems.

**Lisa Forrest, *Administrative Hearing Officer***

Gatehouse Administration Center, Chief Equity Office

Lisa began her career with FCPS in 1997 as a special education teacher at Oakton High School. She is dedicated to ensuring that every student, family, and staff member with whom the Hearings Office interacts is seen, heard, and treated equitably. Lisa believes that the administrative hearing officer and the Hearings Office play an instrumental role in fostering safe, supportive, and positive school environments. They are committed to providing the appropriate multi-tiered services and supports to help every student maximize their potential. As a collaborator, she regularly works with other offices to ensure that students receive the appropriate services and supports, granting them equitable access to high-quality educational, behavioral, and social-emotional wellness resources to promote optimal success.



Michelle Pratt, Director, Procurement Services

Gatehouse Administration Center, Financial Services

Michelle exemplifies exceptional leadership by cultivating collaboration, problem-solving, and building trust with various stakeholders, including her staff, peers, division staff, county partners, and the vendor community. As the director of procurement, she drives sound decision-making processes in vendor selection, ensuring stewardship of taxpayer funds. Michelle is patient with those she works with and her professional demeanor, approach, and effective communication illustrate her commitment to excellence, with a primary focus on customer service. All who work with Michelle will share that her empathy, integrity, and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion are integral to successfully leading the Office of Procurement Services through their important work.



Carrie F. Reynolds, Senior Manager II, Health, Physical, Family Life, & Driver Education

Willow Oaks Administrative Center, Instructional Services

Every day, we make decisions that impact our personal health and wellness. Empowering students to make positive choices related to their physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and environmental health is critically important to living a healthy life. Carrie has strived throughout her career to help ensure students at all grade levels have the knowledge and skills they need to make health-enhancing decisions throughout their lives. She believes in the power of relationships and the necessity of collaboration across disciplines to ensure all students have opportunities to engage in rigorous and meaningful learning experiences. Carrie continuously envisions the next health and physical education goal and sets high standards for her and her team to achieve those goals.



Eleanor P. Stack, Senior Manager III, PreK-12 Special Education Instruction

Willow Oaks Administrative Center, Special Services

Driven by a dedication to students with disabilities and the staff who support them, Ellie’s leadership focus does not waiver. In her role supporting special education programming K-12, a former colleague commented that Ellie inspires others to “collaborate with her and rally behind her in ensuring every student achieves their unique potential.” Ellie values diversity while advocating for inclusivity and is excited by the current work and collaborative actions included in the Enhancement Plan for Students with Disabilities. Ellie is appreciative of the dedicated team of professionals with whom she has the privilege of working and leading. She recognizes that their collaboration, expertise, and support are essential to both her success and towards achieving the organization’s mission.



Elizabeth Visioli, Director, Communications

Gatehouse Administration Center, Chief Experience & Engagement Office

After spending 12 years at Inova Health System, Beth joined FCPS in 2015. Being a part of mission-driven work is important to her, and she feels strongly about uplifting the purpose of public education and the people who dedicate their lives to this challenging work. Beth believes that strong leaders listen to their team and prides herself on giving her staff opportunities to learn and grow in the critical work of supporting FCPS’ mission. She knows that developing relationships built on trust creates efficiency and effectiveness in the work of strategic communications. Specifically, she is proud of her efforts to develop a crisis communications plan and to streamline school leader access to messaging for communities.

Semifinalists

Chief Equity Office

Lisa Forrest - Administrative Hearing Officer

Chief Facilities Services & Capital Programs Office

Brian Schoester - Senior Manager II, Facilities Services Planning

Chief Financial Office

Michelle Pratt - Director, Procurement Services

Chief Information Technology Office

Keith Walker - Database Engineer I/II

Human Resources

Michelle Andrews - Domain Architect

Instructional Services

Carrie Reynolds - Senior Manager II, Health, Physical, Family Life & Driver Education

Office of Communications

Elizabeth Visioli - Director, Communications

Special Services

Ellie Stack - Senior Manager III, Pre-K-12 Special Education Instruction

Transportation

Michele Phillips - Assistant Director, Transportation Services

Outstanding Teacher

The Outstanding Teacher Award recognizes elementary and secondary teachers who demonstrate dedication, commitment, and the ability to propel students to high levels of success. The recipients meet the individual needs of students, foster talent, instill a desire to learn, and nurture cooperative relationships among colleagues and in the community. Any FCPS employee or community member may nominate teachers with at least three full years of experience for this prestigious award.

Elementary Teacher Finalists



Margaret Brinkhuis, Librarian

Cunningham Park Elementary School, Region 1

Meg tumbled into the best career ever 16 years ago after working as a rare book and university librarian. She shares that becoming an elementary teacher librarian was like coming home. Meg creates a welcoming, diverse, and responsive library experience for her students, both in terms of the collection and the library's atmosphere. In addition to teaching information literacy skills and collaborating with classroom teachers in teaching grade-level content, Meg sponsors reading incentive programs, from Book Madness to Battle of the Books, and family literacy nights from Bedtime Stories to Read Across America Night. Meg has also created a summer library where books are given away and two Book Bonanzas where students can choose free books to keep.



Amanda Castellucci, First Grade ESOL Teacher

Woodburn Elementary School, Region 2

As a teacher of multilingual learners, Amanda's passion is rooted in an unwavering belief that her students deserve an education that nurtures who they are as individuals and who they will become as productive, caring adults in the future. She treats her students as she hopes her own children have been treated by their teachers through the years, with acceptance and love. While maintaining high academic expectations, she often reminds her students that their multilingualism and multiculturalism are superpowers to be treasured. She shares that she is a better teacher and human because of the work she is privileged to do on behalf of her students each and every day.



Hadley Harrison, Fourth Grade Teacher

Union Mill Elementary School, Region 4

Hadley's teaching approach is individualized, engaging, and purposeful. As a fourth-grade teacher, he places high importance on fostering positive and enduring connections with his students. He invests time in getting to know each student, establishing trust, and fostering a positive learning experience for all. With an upbeat attitude, dynamic energy, and passion for teaching, Hadley inspires students of all grade levels and abilities to actively participate and interact with him throughout the school day. These interactions strengthen relationships within the school and community. Overall, Hadley's most fulfilling aspect of teaching is observing the growth of his students and providing ongoing mentorship as they progress through their educational journey and beyond.



Shea K. Hestmark, Second Grade Teacher

Columbia Elementary School, Region 6

Shea is a dedicated and passionate second-grade teacher committed to fostering a welcoming environment, supporting student agency, and creating rigorous learning opportunities. Through developing strong relationships, Shea successfully motivates her students to take risks and grow as learners. Her commitment to equity and inclusion drives her to advocate for all students, ensuring each individual feels valued and supported in their educational journey. Shea's work does not end at her classroom door, as she has taken on various leadership roles dedicated to ensuring the success of all students within her school community. Shea believes effective communication, an atmosphere of trust, and a commitment to inclusion drive positive change.



Stephanie Sniffin, *Fourth Grade Advanced Academics Program Teacher*

Poplar Tree Elementary School, Region 5

Stephanie enters her classroom each day with a positive, enthusiastic energy that helps her build strong relationships with her students. Her students are excited to come to school because they know they're walking into a loving, supportive, and inclusive environment that empowers risk-taking. She fosters a sense of belonging and embeds projects that provide opportunities to collaborate, lead, and experience real-world scenarios. Stephanie's connection extends through the Student Council Association, where she shapes student leaders through her work as the teacher sponsor. In this role, she guides them in running events that directly impact the entire community, making all feel valued, while instilling the importance of giving back and showing kindness towards others.



Anna D. Yortzidis, *First Grade Teacher*

Franconia Elementary School, Region 3

Anna is a dedicated teacher who creates a caring learning environment that is built on acceptance and inclusivity. Her passion ignites a love for learning in every student. She tailors lessons to individual needs, fostering understanding and self-esteem. Anna implements many different daily activities to promote social-emotional development and community building, including morning meetings, afternoon circles, and mindful movement and breathing. Beyond the classroom, Anna fosters strong connections as she collaborates with colleagues, families, and students, building a supportive community that thrives on open communication. Her leadership extends far beyond academics, evident in her many roles, including team lead, master schedule committee chairperson, World Showcase Day Committee member, Whole School Morning Meeting Committee member, and yearbook advisor.

Secondary Teacher Finalists



Tyesha Augustin, *Health & Physical Education Teacher*

Sandburg Middle School, Region 3

Ty is an energetic, passionate, and dedicated educator and leader who believes in the holistic development of students and pushes to ensure that every student at Sandburg feels seen, valued, and supported. Through her innate ability to connect meaningfully with students, Ty works to instill in every student the belief that they can grow, be well and succeed now and in the future. What truly sets Ty apart is her innovative and forward-thinking approach as demonstrated through her various roles in the building. She is a change agent who always offers creative solutions in the best interest of students and staff. She serves as a beacon of hope for all who come into contact with her.



Rocco DeBonis, *Librarian*

Fairfax County Adult High School, Non-Region

Rocco believes the library is the biggest classroom in the school. As a school librarian, he strives to support and supplement curriculum in the classroom, to offer fun and enrichment in the library, and to provide outreach to stakeholders and community members beyond the library's walls. He is the first-ever librarian at the Fairfax County Adult High School, where he continues to build a digital and physical library tailored to the needs of the Adult High School's bi-lingual emergent students. Rocco supports staff and students at the school's three campuses and in its day and evening programs. He strives to expand the school librarian role by offering co-teaching, literacy coaching, knowledge management, and digital librarianship.



Maya Gueron, *ESOL Teacher*

Madison High School, Region 1

Maya is constantly learning and implementing new ways to support English learners in the Madison pyramid. As a teacher, she builds off students' diverse strengths and experiences to cultivate a classroom culture of growth and possibility. She invites students to think deeply, solve real-world problems, and communicate effectively. As department chair, Maya also helps champion instructional practices that help students across the school learn and show what they know. Most importantly, she strives to involve English learners and their families in the larger school community by lowering communication barriers and actively inviting their input and participation. Her work is characterized by creativity, patience, and a firm belief that everyone has gifts to foster and share with the world.



Madison McKenna, *Severe Disabilities Teacher*

West Springfield High School, Region 4

Madi works tirelessly to create unique and inclusive experiences for all students at West Springfield High School. She encourages her fellow Spartans to find the beauty in connecting with others and to foster meaningful relationships in the world of education. Through her reestablishment of Buddies Club, her initiative to enroll students with disabilities in Leadership and Student Government Association, and her sponsorship of many senior classes, Madi has been able to bridge the social gap between her students and their peers. She has established a family dynamic with her team and together, they provide opportunities for students that may never have been possible otherwise. The passion that she exudes is infectious and has inspired the next generation to pursue a career in special education.



Colleen Nolan, *Intellectual Disabilities Teacher*

Marshall High School, Region 5

Colleen strongly believes that every student has the potential and ability to learn. Her goal is to make sure that students have the skills needed to be as independent as possible as well as to be active members of their communities after their time at Marshall High School. Colleen strives to provide a safe learning environment, to demonstrate responsible citizenship, and to empower students to achieve. Colleen enjoys being a part of the Marshall school community by acting as an advisor to the Best Buddies club and Special Olympics Unified team as well as being a Marshall Swim and Dive coach. Colleen is honored to work with her school team - students, teachers, and families - to facilitate student growth and achievement.



Amber Ucekay, *Learning Disabilities Teacher*

Lewis High School, Region 6

As an educator, coach, mentor, and member of the Lewis community, Amber is dedicated to forming bonds that promote inclusion, innovation, and confidence. As a learning disabilities teacher, Amber creates an inclusive environment where every student's unique abilities are celebrated and nurtured. Amber's innovative teaching methods and compassionate approach foster a love of learning that inspires students to surpass academic challenges and embrace their full potential. Her commitment to equity and accessibility ensures that every student and colleague receives the resources and encouragement they need to thrive. Through her tireless advocacy and guidance, she instills confidence and determination, empowering her students and colleagues to overcome obstacles and achieve success both inside and outside the classroom.



Rebecca Van Vranken, *ESOL Teacher*

McLean High School, Region 2

Rebecca inspires, motivates, and encourages all her students through high standards, a relentless work ethic, and a caring and welcoming classroom environment. She is a strong advocate for student achievement and encourages her students to not only achieve academically but to set goals to achieve their dreams. She sees the limitless potential in all her students. She ensures that her students have the proper support to be successful in school and collaborates closely with her department, content teachers, counselors, administrators, and families to seek inventive ways to increase engagement and build confident and resilient students. In her classes, "no one can slack, and we don't worry about grades, we focus on the learning."



School Recipients

Aldrin Elementary School

Megan McElrath - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Annandale High School

Lauren Paz Soldan - Spanish Language Teacher

Annandale Terrace Elementary School

Leigha Pehlivan - Art Teacher

Armstrong Elementary School

Shannon Blaisdell - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences

Janice Perreault - Librarian

Bailey's Upper Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences

Kim Mann - Resource Teacher

Beech Tree Elementary School

Jordan Vachon - First Grade Teacher*

Belvedere Elementary School

Margot Hwang - Fourth Grade Teacher

Bonnie Brae Elementary School

Lindsay Sloane - Second Grade Teacher*

Braddock Elementary School

Lisa England - First Grade Inclusion Teacher

Bren Mar Park Elementary School

Shannon Springfield - Art Teacher

Brookfield Elementary School

Annamarie Biss - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Bryant High School

Ronald Virts - History & Social Studies Teacher

Bucknell Elementary School

Justine Read - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Bull Run Elementary School

Kristen Birge - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Burke School

Bernard Jones - Emotional Disabilities Teacher

Bush Hill Elementary School

Stacie Becker - Kindergarten Teacher

Camelot Elementary School

Christine Vickers - Librarian

Cameron Elementary School

Jessica Migliorini - Librarian

Canterbury Woods Elementary School

Melissa Adams - Fourth Grade Teacher*

Cardinal Forest Elementary School

Anna Cooper - ESOL Teacher

Carl Sandburg Middle School

Tyesha Augustin - Health & Physical Education Teacher*

Centre Ridge Elementary School

Emily Evans - Fourth Grade Teacher

Centreville Elementary School

Neerja Rai - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Centreville High School

Lora Ann Hamilton - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Chantilly High School

Betty Simmons - Photography Teacher

Cherry Run Elementary School

Carol Bulger - Sixth Grade Science/Language Arts Teacher*

Chesterbrook Elementary School

Elizabeth Butler - Second Grade Teacher*

Churchill Road Elementary School

Barbara Jackson - Kindergarten Teacher*

Clearview Elementary School

Charlotte Orlando - Kindergarten Teacher

Coates Elementary School

Laura Turner - Second Grade Teacher

Colin Powell Elementary School

Evelyn Faustino - First Grade Teacher

Columbia Elementary School

Shea Hestmark - Second Grade Teacher*

Cooper Middle School

Tara Williams - Family & Consumer Sciences

Crestwood Elementary School

Denise Orr-Rowe - First Grade Teacher

Crossfield Elementary School

Andrea MacRae - Sixth Grade Teacher

Cub Run Elementary School

Tracy Cousino - First Grade Teacher*

Cunningham Park Elementary School

Meg Brinkhuis - Librarian*

Daniels Run Elementary School

Kim Morrison - Kindergarten Teacher

Davis Career Center

Andrew Hahn - Career & Transition Teacher

Deer Park Elementary School

Lee White - Reading Teacher

Dogwood Elementary School

Megan Jacques - ESOL Teacher

Dranesville Elementary School

Heidi Bajpai - Second Grade Teacher

Eagle View Elementary School

Ann Brownridge - Second Grade Teacher

Edison High School

Chris Kniesly - Biology Teacher*

Fairfax County Adult High School

Rocco DeBonis - Librarian*

Fairfax High School

Gabrielle Addy - History & Social Studies Teacher*

Fairfax Villa Elementary School
Maria Vadala - Kindergarten Teacher

Fairhill Elementary School
Rose Fahey - Fourth Grade Teacher

Fairview Elementary School
Catherine Coulter - Sixth Grade Teacher

Falls Church High School
Josh Toth - History & Social Studies Teacher

Flint Hill Elementary School
Kaylyn Shaffer - Third Grade Teacher

Floris Elementary School
Chris Neach - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Forest Edge Elementary School
Meghan Hanson - Sixth Grade Teacher

Forestdale Elementary School
Ilana Carden - Kindergarten Teacher

Forestville Elementary School
Lisa Thompson - Third Grade Teacher
Kate Ciullo - Librarian

Fort Belvoir Primary School
Elan Fenderson - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Fort Belvoir Upper Elementary School
Brittany Jiles - Music Teacher*

Fort Hunt Elementary School
Kiani Marrero-Perez - First Grade Teacher

Franconia Elementary School
Anna Yortzidis - First Grade Teacher*

Franklin Middle School
Sarah Francis - Mathematics Teacher

Frost Middle School
Stephanie Pepper - History & Social Studies Teacher

Glasgow Middle School
Carolina Guarda - ESOL Teacher

Great Falls Elementary School
Eileen Donohue - Sixth Grade Teacher

Greenbriar East Elementary School
Pamela Muller - Fourth Grade Teacher

Greenbriar West Elementary School
Laura Howard - Third Grade Teacher

Groveton Elementary School
Ashlee Anderson - Third Grade Teacher

Gunston Elementary School
Bridget Cheatham - Physical Education Teacher

Halley Elementary School
Andrea Johnston - ESOL Lead Teacher

Haycock Elementary School
Kathy Williams - Fifth Grade Teacher

Hayfield Elementary School
Nicole Johnson - Fourth Grade Teacher

Hayfield Secondary School
Nicole Bevenour - English Teacher (MS)*

Herndon Elementary School
Irma Young - ESOL Teacher*

Herndon High School
Christopher Cunningham - Director of Guitar Studies

Herndon Middle School
Laura Loy - Theatre Arts Teacher

Hollin Meadows Elementary School
Evelyn Ransom - Kindergarten Teacher*

Holmes Middle School
Donna Casto - English Teacher*

Hunt Valley Elementary School
Jennifer Cox - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences
Amanda Tobia - Art Teacher

Hutchison Elementary School
Christine Carter - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Interagency Alternative Schools
Tim Murphy - Alternative School Teacher

Island Creek Elementary School
Meg Morrison - Kindergarten Teacher

Justice High School
Cynthia Martinez - Geosystems Teacher

Katherine Johnson Middle School
Cheryl Coyne - Social Studies Teacher

Keene Mill Elementary School
Nancy Akroyd - Fifth Grade Teacher*

Kent Gardens Elementary School
Chris Hinton - Fourth Grade Teacher

Key Center
Lauren Swale - Behavior Resource Teacher

Kilmer Center
Caryn Fuqua - Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

Kilmer Middle School
Ruth Baxley - Mathematics Teacher

Kings Glen Elementary School
Sarah Maison - Fifth Grade Teacher

Kings Park Elementary School
Kelsey Jordan - Music Teacher

Lake Anne Elementary School
Lauren Garcia - Kindergarten Teacher

Lake Braddock Secondary School
Ashley Danish - High School Learning Disabilities Teacher*

Lane Elementary School
Amanda Villanueva - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Langley High School
Gifford Krivak - English Teacher

*Denotes pyramid winner



Langston Hughes Middle School

Cassie Cook - Mathematics Teacher

Laurel Hill Elementary School

Rosaleen Sypher - Second Grade Teacher

Laurel Ridge Elementary School

Maureen McCormick - ESOL Teacher

Lees Corner Elementary School

Melissa Carbonara - Second Grade Teacher

Lewis High School

Amber Ucekay - Learning Disabilities Teacher*

Liberty Middle School

Morrise Queirolo - Civics Teacher

Little Run Elementary School

Maggie Heninger - ESOL teacher

London Towne Elementary School

Michelle Miller - Second Grade Teacher

Longfellow Middle School

Ellen Metcalfe - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Lorton Station Elementary School

Denise McGuinness - Third Grade Teacher*

Louise Archer Elementary School

Tracey Kitchen - First Grade Teacher

Luther Jackson Middle School

Sharon Parker - Social Studies Teacher

Lynbrook Elementary School

Kari Arnold - Physical Education Teacher*

Madison High School

Maya Gueron - ESOL Teacher*

Mantua Elementary School

Nathalie Shirley - Art Teacher

Marshall High School

Colleen Nolan - Intellectual Disabilities Teacher*

Marshall Road Elementary School

Amy Pannutti - ESOL Teacher

McLean High School

Rebecca Van Vranken - ESOL Teacher*

McNair Elementary School

Melissa Walsh - First Grade Teacher

McNair Upper Elementary School

Kathleen Adkisson - Gifted Education Center Teacher

Mosaic Elementary School

Estefania Salinas - Fourth Grade Teacher

Mount Eagle Elementary School

Felicia Wilson - PreK Teacher

Mount Vernon High School

Jess Shaw - Theatre Arts Teacher*

Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School

Leslie Paul - Librarian

Navy Elementary School

Kristen Cooksey - First Grade Teacher

Newington Forest Elementary School

Elly Slugg - Special Education Teacher*

North Springfield Elementary School

Johanna Burton - Preschool Teacher

Oak Hill Elementary School

Rebecca Fredericks - Fourth Grade Teacher

Oak View Elementary School

Betsy Sweet - Music Teacher

Oakton Elementary School

Kris Danzenbaker - Kindergarten Teacher

Oakton High School

Harnam Arneja - Mathematics Teacher

Olde Creek Elementary School

Katharine Piermatteo - Kindergarten Teacher

Orange Hunt Elementary School

Dawn Hotaling - Second Grade Teacher

Parklawn Elementary School

Emma Whitaker - Second Grade Teacher

Poe Middle School

Amelia Bowen - French Teacher

Poplar Tree Elementary School

Stephanie Sniffin - Fourth Grade Advanced Academics Program Teacher*

Providence Elementary School

Didi Kumalo - Multiple Disabilities Teacher*

Pulley Career Center

Boyoung Christina Byun - Career & Transition Teacher

Rachel Carson Middle School

Elena Pappas James - ESOL Teacher

Ravensworth Elementary School

Maggie Stem - Elementary Special Education Teacher and Department Chair

Riverside Elementary School

Stephany Tlatelpa - Second Grade Teacher

Robinson Secondary School

Debbie Supernor - Math Teacher (HS)
Hannah Lockard - ESOL Teacher (MS)*

Rocky Run Middle School

Rose Cho - Civics Teacher*

Rolling Valley Elementary School

Emily Griswold Mendez - Second Grade Teacher

Rose Hill Elementary School

Laura Osborne - Preschool Teacher

Sangster Elementary School

Alexis Yang - Special Education Teacher

Saratoga Elementary School

Heather Webb - Fourth Grade Teacher

Shreviewood Elementary School

Gina Thomas - First Grade Teacher

Silverbrook Elementary School

Sarah Samuels- First Grade Teacher

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School

Matt Zupan - Physical Education Teacher

South County High School

Carol Floto - English Teacher

South County Middle School

Jessica Gregory - Special Education Teacher*

South Lakes High School

Sherri Evans - Mathematics Teacher

Spring Hill Elementary School

Emily Scannell - Special Education Teacher and Department Chair

Stone Middle School

Alison Neun - Resource Teacher*

Stratford Landing Elementary School

Patricia Rothweiler - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Sunrise Valley Elementary School

Carol Peyton - Third Grade Teacher

Terra Centre Elementary School

Jennifer Parise - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Terraset Elementary School

Silje Carling - Second Grade Teacher*

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology

Jonathan Osborne - Mathematics Teacher

Thoreau Middle School

George Paz - Learning Disabilities Teacher

Timber Lane Elementary School

Kathleen Sabatino - Sixth Grade Teacher

Twain Middle School

Laura Nikander - Seventh Grade Mathematics Teacher

Union Mill Elementary School

Hadley Harrison - Fourth Grade Teacher*

Vienna Elementary School

Susan Keltner - Second Grade Teacher

Virginia Run Elementary School

Jeremiah Tyler - Music Teacher

Wakefield Forest Elementary School

Briana Trone - First Grade Teacher

Walt Whitman Middle School

Holly Siletzky - English Teacher

Waples Mill Elementary School

Erin Reynolds - Second Grade Teacher*

Washington Irving Middle School

Bridget Healey - Reading Specialist

Wayneood Elementary School

Molly (Margaret) Prater - Second Grade Teacher

West Potomac High School

Tyrone Strother - Health & Physical Education Teacher

West Springfield Elementary School

Amy Stevenson - Librarian

West Springfield High School

Madison McKenna - Severe Disabilities Teacher*

Westfield High School

Jessica Kirkpatrick - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Westgate Elementary School

Steve Miner - Second Grade Teacher

Westlawn Elementary School

Deirdre Ladd - Fifth Grade Teacher

Weyanoke Elementary School

Josie Mani - Advanced Academics Resource Teacher

White Oaks Elementary School

David Hartzell - Physical Education Teacher

Willow Springs Elementary School

Diana Martin - Fourth Grade Teacher

Wolftrap Elementary School

Kate Piester - Multiple Disabilities Teacher

Woodburn Elementary School

Amanda Castellucci - ESOL Teacher*

Woodley Hills Elementary School

Alex Keightley - ESOL Teacher

Woodson High School

Travis Pugh - Mathematics Teacher*



Outstanding Principal

The Outstanding Principal Award recognizes an extraordinary principal who demonstrates superior leadership qualities and creates an exceptional educational environment. The recipient of this award is an innovative and highly effective administrator. They are a committed, knowledgeable educator whose vision inspires and guides staff, students, and the community to help lead their school to excellence. Any FCPS employee or community member may nominate principals with at least three full years of experience for this prestigious award.

Finalists



Shawn P. DeRose, Principal
Annandale High School, Region 6

"You can judge the quality of a school by how well it meets the needs of its most vulnerable students." This quote by Pedro Noguera, drives Shawn's work as leader of Annandale High School. As principal, he has built strong systems to support all students and ensure their academic, wellness, and behavior needs are met. However, Shawn would be the first to tell you that this work is not done alone. He takes time to get to know staff, students, and families by name, and prioritizes collaborating to live the vision that Annandale High School is a community that finds strength in diversity, fosters belonging, and inspires lifelong learning.



Rebecca L. Forgy, Principal
Parklawn Elementary School, Region 2

"We are Family. We are Learners. We are Parklawn." Rebecca consistently demonstrates an unwavering commitment to student and staff success and has fostered a community built on strong communication and meaningful relationships. This belief is evident in the everyday practices at Parklawn, whether it be for academic instruction, social-emotional well-being, or with family/school/community partnerships. She believes in building capacity in the staff; serving with an approach that cultivates leadership and professional learning. Rebecca's dedication to putting students first is evident in every decision and initiative she undertakes. As one staff member shared, "Her tireless dedication to students, commitment to professional development, and ability to foster a positive work environment make her an invaluable asset to FCPS."



Jamie C. Gadley, Principal
Dranesville Elementary School, Region 1

Jamie is an educator and leader fueled by a passion for creating a vibrant learning community where connection, care, and joy are evident. She believes that every student and staff member deserves the opportunity to flourish in a safe and supportive learning environment. Her leadership has played a pivotal role in aligning the school's vision and goals with the broader objectives of the school district, resulting in the Virginia Department of Education 2023 Continuous Improvement Exemplar Award and the reduction of chronic absenteeism. Her dedication extends beyond the school walls, fostering partnerships within the community to elevate connection, access, relationships, excellence, and stakeholder engagement. DranesvilleCARES, indeed, and Jamie is a champion for the mission and the members of the Dranesville community.



Jeffrey D. Litz, Principal
Marshall High School, Region 5

In his ten years as principal, Jeff has brought transformative leadership to Marshall while making it Virginia's top International Baccalaureate (IB) school, with over 90% of seniors taking at least one IB course. Jeff's commitment to equity is evident in his advocacy for consistent instructional and grading practices. His innovative thinking and collaborative leadership make Marshall a leader in the Professional Learning Communities model. He fosters a culture of trust as he prioritizes relationships within the community, and his legacy is one of improving academic and student wellness outcomes. A student stated, "Mr. Litz works tirelessly to make Marshall a safe and welcoming place where students are encouraged to explore new pursuits and be their authentic selves, which is rare in high schools these days."



LaRonda Peterson, Principal
Riverside Elementary School, Region 3

LaRonda is an enthusiastic educator with a dedication that spans over 25 years and is deeply committed to preparing students for success. Central to her leadership style is the cultivation of relationships and fostering a sense of belonging for everyone. A staff member notes, "LaRonda's presence throughout the building is known, and students get excited to see her everywhere, every day." She has fostered an environment centered on learning and results, empowering students, staff, and stakeholders to realize and achieve their utmost potential. She skillfully leads a highly diverse school with a personal touch, working alongside staff to make magic happen for students. LaRonda's ultimate desire is for students to walk away with memories from their elementary school experience that last a lifetime.



Tracey Phillips, Principal
Robinson Secondary School, Region 4

As an alumna of Robinson herself, Tracey embodies unparalleled school pride and fosters a deep connection to the school's climate. Her commitment to attending school events and consistent acknowledgment of student achievements underscores her genuine dedication to the collective success of the school. Tracey sets a standard for educational leadership that is both proactive and solution-oriented. Her transparent and composed demeanor fosters trust among parents, students, and staff, facilitating an environment conducive to collaborative problem-solving and innovation. Amidst the challenges faced by educators, she injects joy and appreciation into the school environment, revitalizing staff morale with heartfelt expressions of gratitude and fostering an atmosphere of positivity and support throughout the academic year.

School Recipients

Annandale High School
Shawn DeRose

Bush Hill Elementary School
Mary Duffy

Cameron Elementary School
Eric Johnson

Centre Ridge Elementary School
Jennifer Hertzberg

Centreville Elementary School
Joshua Douds

Chantilly High School
Amy Goodloe

Chesterbrook Elementary School
Stacy Kirkpatrick

Colin Powell Elementary School
Jamie Luerssen

Daniels Run Elementary School
Christopher Smith

Dranesville Elementary School
Jamie Gadley

Fairfax High School
Georgina Aye

Falls Church High School
Ben Nowak

Glasgow Middle School
Victor Powell

Greenbriar West Elementary School
Andrew Blount

Haycock Elementary School
Liz Beaty

Hayfield Secondary School
Darin Thompson

Hutchison Elementary School
Sarah Aiello

Justice High School
Tiffany Narcisse

Kent Gardens Elementary School
Holly McGuigan

Kings Park Elementary School
Dotty Lin

Lake Anne Elementary School
Jill Stewart

Langston Hughes Middle School
Herman Mizell

Laurel Hill Elementary School
Janice Dalton

Longfellow Middle School
Jim Patrick

Lorton Station Elementary School

Francis Legagneur

Louise Archer Elementary School

Michelle Makrigiorgos

Marshall High School

Jeffrey Litz

Parklawn Elementary School

Rebecca Forgy

Poplar Tree Elementary School

Susan Andujar

Ravensworth Elementary School

Erika Aspuria

Riverside Elementary School

LaRonda Peterson

Robinson Secondary School

Tracey Phillips

Sangster Elementary School

Allison Jankovich

Shrewood Elementary School

Joshua DeSmyter

Waples Mill Elementary School

Meishe Thirus

Westgate Elementary School

Hallie Demetriades



SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Karl Frisch

Chair, Providence District

Melanie K. Meren

Vice Chair, Hunter Mill District

Rachna Sizemore Heizer

Braddock District

Robyn Lady

Dranesville District

Marcia St. John-Cunning

Franconia District

Ricardy Anderson

Mason District

Mateo Dunne

Mount Vernon District

Sandy Anderson

Springfield District

Seema Dixit

Sully District

Kyle McDaniel

Member, At-Large

Ryan McElveen

Member, At-Large

Ilryong Moon

Member, At-Large

Rida Karim

Student Representative

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

Dr. Michelle C. Reid

Division Superintendent

Sloan Presidio

Chief Academic Officer

Nardos King

Chief Equity Officer

Lisa Youngblood Hall

*Chief Experience and
Engagement Officer*

Janice Szymanski

*Chief of Facilities Services
and Capital Programs*

Leigh Burden

Chief Financial Officer

William Solomon

Chief Human Resources Officer

Gautam Sethi

Chief Information Technology Officer

Andy Mueck

Chief Operating Officer

Tom Vaccarello

Chief Safety and Security Officer

Geovanny Ponce

Chief of Schools

Marty Smith

Chief of Staff

John Foster

Division Counsel

Douglas Tyson

Assistant Superintendent, Region 1

Megan Vroman

Assistant Superintendent, Region 2

Ray Lonnett

Assistant Superintendent, Region 3

Penny Gros

Assistant Superintendent, Region 4

Rebecca Baenig

Assistant Superintendent, Region 5

Michelle Boyd

Assistant Superintendent, Region 6

Noel Klimenko

*Assistant Superintendent,
Instructional Services*

Marie Lemmon

*Assistant Superintendent, School
Improvement and Supports*

Terri Edmunds-Heard

*Assistant Superintendent (Interim),
Special Services*

Marcy Kneale

*Assistant Superintendent (Interim)
Strategy, Planning and Learning*

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the school, pyramid and department awards liaisons who gave their time assisting nominees with completing nomination packets, organizing the screening and selection processes, and maintaining the data necessary during this process. Without them, we would not be able to recognize all of our amazing employees!

School Award Liaisons

AIM Bryant	Jennifer McBain	Colvin Run Elementary	Kurt Soderstrom
ALC at Mountain View	Susan Lee	Cooper Middle	Kyle Laspe
Aldrin Elementary	Lesley Aschenbach	Crestwood Elementary	Denise Davis
Annandale High	Jae Lee	Crossfield Elementary	Kristy Kim
Annandale Terrace Elementary	Essel Linton	Cub Run Elementary	Jenny Schoen Sisk
Archer Elementary	Rebecca Stille	Cunningham Park Elementary	Matthew Hupp
Armstrong Elementary	Virginia St Clair	Daniels Run Elementary	Sara Van Aalst
Bailey's Elementary	Tracey Brown Rice	Davis Career Center	Carli McIntosh
Bailey's Upper Elementary	Christina Awad	Deer Park Elementary	Michelle McCoy
Beech Tree Elementary	Diamond Torres	Dogwood Elementary	Viviana Calderon
Belle View Elementary	Ann Hardin	Dranesville Elementary	Megan Kowalczyk
Belvedere Elementary	Sara Gostomski	Dunn Loring EC Resource Ctr	Tracy Pounder
Bonnie Brae Elementary	Lindsay Sloane	Eagle View Elementary	Jillian Tselepis
Braddock Elementary	Holly Dowling	Edison High	Edward Osborne
Bren Mar Park Elementary	Anna Suhring	Fairfax County Adult High	Laura Cespedes Mora
Brookfield Elementary	Victoria Stacy	Fairfax High	Ginny Cate
Bryant High	Beth Beaulieu	Fairfax High School Academy	Nancy Melnick
Bucknell Elementary	Gabriel Favors	Fairfax Villa Elementary	Jennifer Adams
Bull Run EC Resource Ctr	Melissa Modarressi	Fairhill Elementary	Leslie Howard
Bull Run Elementary	Celine Leary	Fairview Elementary	Karen Fructuoso
Burke School	Jessica Moberly	Falls Church High	Sean Rolon
Bush Hill Elementary	Lalin Courtney	FCPS Online Campus	Joy Gordon
Camelot Elementary	Matthew Salerno	Flint Hill Elementary	Jennifer Starr
Cameron Elementary	Crystal Coleman	Floris Elementary	Amy Albanese
Cameron Elementary	Claudia Saravia	Floris Elementary	Willa McGrath
Canterbury Woods Elementary	Diana Lucci	Forest Edge Elementary	Megan Tipton
Cardinal Forest Elementary	Timothy Pulte	Forest Edge Elementary	Ashley Fisher
Carson Middle	Monique Berkeley	Forest Edge Elementary	Jaielle Manning
Carson Middle	Veronica Delaney	Forest Edge Elementary	Sharamaine Williams
Cedar Lane School	Andrea Jones	Forestdale Elementary	Jeanne Igo
Centre Ridge Elementary	Brinda Abu-Obaid	Forestville Elementary	Jennifer Wright
Centreville Elementary	Anna Tiesler	Fort Belvoir Elementary	Ellie Quattlebaum
Centreville High	Sarah Lutes	Fort Belvoir Upper School	Whitney Smith
Chantilly High	Zachary Winfrey	Fort Hunt Elementary	Tracy Hutchison
Cherry Run Elementary	Mary Gatton	Franconia Elementary	Lizzie Pater
Chesterbrook Elementary	Holley Remer	Franklin Middle	Danna Hailfinger
Churchill Road Elementary	Ashley Scott	Freedom Hill Elementary	Eric Kopacz
Churchill Road Elementary	Samantha Amatucci	Frost Middle	Susan Morningstar
Clearview Elementary	Holly Inman	Garfield Elementary	Michele Neville
Clermont Elementary	Lisa Gibson	Glasgow Middle	Andrew Watson
Coates Elementary	Amy Marney	Glen Forest Elementary	Karla MandujanoGraham
Columbia Elementary	Sandy McCargo	Graham Road Elementary	Tawanya Scarboro

Great Falls Elementary	Amy Keefer	Lees Corner Elementary	Rachel Estrada
Great Falls Elementary	Jen Roberts	Liberty Middle	Jennifer Filsinger
Greenbriar East Elementary	Lina Beardall	Little Run Elementary	Svetlana Tsoy
Greenbriar West Elementary	Adena Fitzgerald	London Towne Elementary	Lucy Zamora
Greenbriar West Elementary	Victoria Wimmer	Longfellow Middle	Tara Fortune
Groveton Elementary	Natasha Findley	Lorton Station Elementary	Jamie Muller
Groveton Elementary	Miriam Tejada	Lynbrook Elementary	Heber Paredes
Gunston Elementary	Kevin Fahy	Lynbrook Elementary	Karen Baxter
Halley Elementary	Jennifer Buchko	Madison High	Claire Rowan
Halley Elementary	Carol Poblete	Mantua Elementary	Susan Song
Haycock Elementary	Meihua Qian	Marshall High	Pierce Bello
Hayfield Elementary	Wendy Ergler	Marshall Road Elementary	Jennifer Heflin
Hayfield High	Anthony Garza	Mason Crest Elementary	Larry Aiello
Hayfield Middle	James Mercer	McLean High	Jenny Sobota
Herndon Elementary	Tiffany Bryant	McNair Elementary	Brandy O'Bryant
Herndon High	Jamila Alarcon	McNair Upper Elementary	Betty Dailly
Herndon Middle	Michele Giardina	Mosaic Elementary	Michael King
Herndon Middle	Kimberly Negro	Mount Eagle Elementary	Mary Frances Daly
Hollin Meadows Elementary	Jon Gates	Mount Vernon High	Haeyoung Lee
Holmes Middle	Christopher Kamar	Mount Vernon Woods Elementary	Artesha Adamson
Hughes Middle	Susie Lilburn	Mountain View High	Kim Witeck
Hunt Valley Elementary	Sharon Sacks	Navy Elementary	Christine McMillan
Hunters Woods Elementary	Laura King	Newington Forest Elementary	Jennifer Min
Hutchison Elementary	Kelly Coghlan	North Springfield Elementary	Teryl Pomeroy
Hybla Valley Elementary	Karlie Hale	Oak Hill Elementary	Melissa Hoffman
Interagency Alternative Secondary Ctr	Dave Penland	Oak View Elementary	Allison Sheppard
Irving Middle	Cindy Conley	Oakton Elementary	Tan Holsclaw
Island Creek Elementary	Karen Baxter	Oakton High	Gabrielle Coaquira
Island Creek Elementary	Sorenda Bickerstaff	Olde Creek Elementary	Julie Wilson
Jackson Middle School	Misbah Alhawsawi	Orange Hunt Elementary	Connie Keefer
Jefferson Sci/Tech High	Chrystal Benson	Parklawn Elementary	Rachel Zamudio
John R. Lewis High	Antoni Blanco	Pine Spring Elementary	Bridget Lovas
John R. Lewis High	Sherrie Soos	Poe Middle	Vacant
Justice High	Rashawn Luckman	Poplar Tree Elementary	Kelli Doyle
Katherine Johnson Middle	Emily Gardiner	Powell Elementary	Caryn Baptiste
Keene Mill Elementary	Ellen Colter	Providence Elementary	Sharon Hickey
Kent Gardens Elementary	Sarah Talley	Pulley Career Center	Deb Rich
Key Center	Helly Ahmadyar	Quander Road School	George Deneault
Key Middle School	Debbie Vel	Ravensworth Elementary	Melissa Keller
Kilmer Center	Jennifer Pasinetti-Fuller	Riverside Elementary	Stephany Tlatelpa
Kilmer Middle	Melissa Smith	Robinson Secondary	Bryan Hazard
Kings Glen Elementary	Claudia Alvarado	Rocky Run Middle	Anna Slevin
Kings Park Elementary	Beth Beavers	Rolling Valley Elementary	Anne Walker
Lake Anne Elementary	Tasha Simmons	Rose Hill Elementary	Danny Adams
Lake Braddock Secondary	Julie Moore	Sandburg Middle	Dee Williams
Lane Elementary	Linda Crouch	Sangster Elementary	Meghan Buckles
Lane Elementary	Linda Simon	Saratoga Elementary	Starr Arnett
Langley High	Wayne Biernesser	Sherman Elementary	Janet Tan
Laurel Hill Elementary	Zartakshai Babai	Shreveewood Elementary	Kimberly Adams
Laurel Ridge Elementary	Catherine Durfey	Shreveewood Elementary	Coreen Pinkerton

Silverbrook Elementary
 Sleepy Hollow Elementary
 South County High
 South County Middle
 South Lakes High
 Spring Hill Elementary
 Springfield Estates Elementary
 Stenwood Elementary
 Stone Middle
 Stratford Landing Elementary
 Sunrise Valley Elementary
 Terra-Centre Elementary
 Terraset Elementary
 Thoreau Middle
 Timber Lane Elementary
 Twain Middle
 Union Mill Elementary
 Vienna Elementary
 Virginia Hills EC Resource Ctr
 Virginia Run Elementary
 Wakefield Forest Elementary
 Waples Mill Elementary
 Waples Mill Elementary
 Washington Mill Elementary
 Waynewood Elementary
 West Potomac High
 West Springfield Elementary
 West Springfield High
 Westbriar Elementary
 Westfield High School
 Westgate Elementary
 Westlawn Elementary
 Weyanoke Elementary
 White Oaks Elementary
 Whitman Middle
 Willow Springs Elementary
 Wolftrap Elementary
 Woodburn Elementary
 Woodlawn Elementary
 Woodley Hills Elementary
 Woodson High

Lidia Garcia
 Tim Scesney
 Lisa Beskenis
 Maureen Carlstrom
 Melissa LaBare
 Daniel Solsberry
 Constanza Lowe
 Lyndsay Kilberg
 Eva-Beth Levy
 Barbara Flores Rocha
 Olubukunmi Peters
 Pamela Roldan
 Carly Lane
 Christopher Pinkerton
 Ashley Davis
 Brenda Mejia
 Marissa Snider
 Amber Burnett
 Kimberly Dupont
 Anna Woodward
 Michelle Lucas
 Sarah Jacobs
 Bianca Sanchez
 Tara Pensiero
 Benjamin Reigner
 Michael Henrich
 Sherri Braxton
 John Thorson
 Sheryl McGrady
 Jazmin Ferdinand
 Summer Manos
 Stephanie Carpenter
 Kerry Rousseau
 Donna Buffington
 Lindsey Miller
 Laura Tapper
 Kathleen Feidler
 Sage Coury
 Ryan McGuin
 Natacia James
 Eileen Oviatt

Central Office Award Liaisons

Chief Academic Office	Patricia Worrall
Chief Equity Office	Linda Ferguson
Chief Experience & Engagement Office	Dawn Clements
Chief Facilities Services & Capital Programs Office	Brandon Armentrout
Chief Financial Office	Meg DeBoe
Chief Information Technology Office	Maralyn Jones
Chief of Schools Office	Iona Spikes
Chief of Staff Office	Celeste Jones
Chief Operating Office	Queenie Tran
Human Resources	Stacey Davis
Instructional Services	Jen Mattice and Karin Williams
Office of Communications	Patty Granados
Special Services	Donna Desaulniers
Strategy, Planning & Learning	Celeste Jones
Transportation	Bahia Rouif

SPECIAL THANKS

Department of Human Resources
 Department of Information Technology
 Office of Communication

