

Morrow County School District

Serving the Families of Boardman, Heppner, and Irrigon in Northeastern Oregon



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Morrow County SD 2021 Crystal Apple Winner Bios

Charlene Baker is a Special Education Teacher at Riverside Jr/Sr High School who has worked for the district for 14 years. She always strives beyond what is expected for her students and cares deeply for each individual's success. Charlene goes the extra mile to establish positive relationships with students' families, leading to former students routinely returning to check in with her. Dedicated and hardworking, she assumes additional roles in the district to support students and staff. Charlene recently served in the role of Special Education Community Lead for Boardman schools, dedicating countless hours mentoring and supporting Special Education staff as they worked in virtual, hybrid and in-person settings.

Amber Benetti is a Sixth Grade Teacher at Irrigon Elementary School who has worked four years at MCSD. During the pandemic, she has excelled at connecting with students and keeping them engaged. Positive, upbeat and caring, Amber always puts her students first. She goes above and beyond her role as an educator – she has opened her classroom for staff to visit and observe and is willing to meet with them for individual support when requested. Amber truly believes in being a life-long learner and applies new methods, skills and ideas in her classroom to make learning fun. "If Amber feels as though a student's needs are not being met, she will find a way to make it happen."

Darlene Jacobsen is a First Grade Teacher at Sam Boardman Elementary School and has worked for the district for eight years. Darlene made distance learning during COVID-19 successful for her students, ensuring that virtual connections supported their academic growth. As a strong team leader, she works diligently to constantly improve her teaching and share ideas and tools with colleagues. A nominator said Darlene operates at the highest level of integrity, reliability and professionalism. "One can see how much her students adore her and create special memories being in her class. She truly makes each individual feel important and valued by her."

Teresa Parret is an Assistant Custodian at Heppner Jr/Sr High School and has worked in the district for 18 years. Her dedication and thoroughness every day make the school building the cleanest and safest environment for all. Teresa goes the extra mile to ensure that the facilities are welcoming to students, staff and visitors alike. "She will be greatly missed at HJSHS and we wish her the best with her retirement plans!"

Congratulations!

Morrow County Schools, in partnership with families and communities, provide each student the opportunity to develop values, knowledge, skills and self-confidence to become life-long learners and responsible citizens.