



*The Raymore-Peculiar  
Public School Foundation  
presents the*



**Raymore-Peculiar  
Teacher of the Year and  
Support Staff Employee of the  
Year**

*April 12, 2022*

*Raymore-Peculiar High School*

***Raymore-Peculiar Teacher of the Year and  
Support Staff Employee of the Year Banquet  
April 12, 2022***

**Welcome** ..... Dr. Mike Slagle, Superintendent

**Musical Performance**..... Treble Chamber 6 Choir

*“Love Learns By Laughing”*

*“Deo Dicamus Gratias”*

**About the Public School Foundation** ..... Jodie Huston, Foundation Executive Director

**Teacher and Support Staff Employee of the Year Programs** ..... Dr. Slagle

**Introduction of Support Staff Finalists**

..... Dr. Bryan Pettengill, Assistant Superintendent, Operations

..... Ms. Cynthia Byous, Chief Financial Officer

*Diana Boos*

*Karla Heinrich*

*Dinah Covey*

*Pam Horner*

*Gigi Duran*

*Sam Myers*

*Ray Fann*

*Kristi Patterson*

*Terri Greufe*

*Crystal Sheppard*

**Introduction of Teacher of the Year Finalists**

..... Dr. Al Voelker, Assistant Superintendent, Academic Services

..... Dr. Lisa Hatfield, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

*Jenni Beck*

*Rachel McClain*

*Colleen Bennett*

*Jennifer Ramirez*

*Sarah Hanf*

*Kim Rice*

*Angie LaSala*

*Jory Williamson*

*Erin Lyon*

*Shaniece Wise*

### **Diana Boos, Support Staff Finalist**

Diana Boos is the day lead custodian at Creekmoor Elementary School. She has been in this position for 2 1/2 years, and has worked for the district for 5 years.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*"Diana works tirelessly to keep our school clean and running efficiently. She responds quickly whenever anyone calls for assistance, and she always has a positive attitude. Diana is a major asset to our school!"*



### **Dinah Covey, Support Staff Finalist**

Dinah Covey is the principal's secretary at the High School. She has been in this position for four years, and has worked for the district for 16 years.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*"If an early bird gets the worm, Dinah gets all of the worms. She can answer her phone, get supplies from her cabinet, enter information on the computer, eat lunch, buzz someone out the door, help a student, help a parent, and pick up a piece of trash on the floor in less than a second."*



### **Gigi Duran, Support Staff Finalist**

Gigi Duran is a member of the kitchen staff at Stonegate Elementary. She has worked in this position for five years, and has worked in the district for a total of nine years.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*"I am continually impressed with the work ethic Gigi possesses. She goes non-stop from the moment her feet hit the kitchen floor each morning un-*



### **Raymond Fann, Support Staff Finalist**

Ray Fann is a Maintenance Technician in the Buildings and Grounds Department. He has been in this position for almost 2 years.

#### **From his nomination letter:**

*"He deserves this award because he helped us by coming to our school and fixing things and putting up whiteboards. He built new tables in the cafeteria. The kindergartners, first, second and third graders love them."*





### **Terri Greufe, Support Staff Finalist**

Terri Greufe is the nurse at Bridle Ridge Elementary School. This is her third year in the position, but Terri has worked with the district since 2018 as a Cafeteria/Recess Monitor, then as a district substitute.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*"You help everyone in this school stay healthy and not sick, so I'm trying to nominate you. You have always helped me and you're very kind to me*



### **Karla Heinrich, Support Staff Finalist**

Karla Heinrich has been the attendance secretary at Raymore Elementary for 11 years. Before that, she was a substitute teacher for three years.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*"Karla has been a valuable part of our Raymore family since her children attended this school. She was an active, supportive parent in our PTA. She is always positive and never seems too busy to help out. We are lucky to*



### **Pam Horner, Support Staff Finalist**

Pam Horner works as a paraprofessional at Eagle Glen Elementary. She has worked in that position for 9 years, but has been in the district for 14 years. She was a substitute before becoming a paraprofessional.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*"Ms. Horner provides outstanding support for the students as well as the teacher. I am in awe of her consistent confidence, patience, warmth, and*



### **Sam Myers, Support Staff Finalist**

Sam Myers is a paraprofessional at Eagle Glen Elementary. He has been in this position since 2018.

#### **From his nomination letter:**

*"I've had the pleasure of working with him for several years now and he is one of the most genuine people I have ever met. Mr. Sam demonstrates compassion for all of the students. It is easy to see how much he cares for*

### **Kristi Patterson, Support Staff Finalist**

Kristi Patterson has been the attendance secretary at East Middle School since February 2020. Previously, she was a substitute for the District from 2013 to 2020.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*"Mrs. Patterson is the first person students and parents see when they walk into the building, and she makes sure to provide them with a warm,*



### **Crystal Sheppard, Support Staff Finalist**

Crystal Sheppard is a cook at Stonegate Elementary. She has been in the position for three and a half years.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*"Crystal knows every student by name and their breakfast and lunch choices. She plans ahead for when students are absent and are unable to make their food selection the day before to ensure they have their preferred breakfast waiting for them when they return."*



### **Jenni Beck, Teacher Finalist**

Jenni Beck is a school counselor at Raymore Elementary. She has been in this position for 12 years, and has worked for the district for 15 years.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*"Jenni seems as though she was born to be a counselor. I have, quite literally, never seen her be anything other than positive, upbeat and composed. At school, students love her warm, calm demeanor. They know that with her, no matter what emotions or situations they are going*



### **Colleen Bennett, Teacher Finalist**

Colleen Bennett is a first grade teacher at Peculiar Elementary. She has been teaching first or second grade for 24 years, with 19 years in the Ray-Pec School District.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*"Mrs. Bennett is a teacher that genuinely cares for her students and spends each day getting to know them on a personal level. She is an empathic individual who can sense when someone is having a difficult time*





### **Sarah Hanf, Teacher Finalist**

Sarah Hanf teaches elementary English Language Learner students. She has been teaching in the district since 2018, all in that position.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*“She is not only making sure her students are able to succeed academically; she is also helping students succeed in life. By making sure her students are able to understand how to read, speak, and write in English, she’s also making an impact on her students’ futures.”*



### **Angie LaSala, Teacher Finalist**

Angie LaSala is a fourth grade teacher at Raymore Elementary. She has been teaching for 22 years, with 16 years in the Ray-Pec School District.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*“Angie LaSala has been a blessing in all of our lives. I cannot rave about her as a teacher and a human being, enough. She has made such an impact on our daughter that we know will stay with her forever.”*



### **Erin Lyon, Teacher Finalist**

Erin Lyon teaches math at Ray-Pec High School. She has been teaching at Ray-Pec for 15 years, and she has been teaching a total of 17 years.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*“She has genuinely made the day better for every single kid. Her class is one of the things I look forward to most in the day. Mrs. Lyon is always patient and willing to help when needed.”*



### **Haley Mathis, Teacher Finalist**

Haley Mathis teaches seventh grade math at South Middle School. She has been teaching in the district since 2018.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*“Haley consistently goes above and beyond to build positive relationships with students and create a climate of mutual respect. Students feel welcomed and supported in her classroom.”*

### **Rachel McClain, Teacher Finalist**

Rachel McClain teaches art at South Middle School. She has worked in that position since 2017.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*“She consistently goes above and beyond to build positive relationships with students and create a climate of mutual respect. She is able to motivate students to get excited about art while having fun at the same time.”*



### **Jennifer Ramirez, Teacher Finalist**

Jennifer Ramirez teaches English Language Arts at Ray-Pec Academy. She has worked in this position since 2019.

#### **From her nomination letters:**

*“There are so many people she has impacted with her leadership and kind heart. She treats everyone as if they are her own kids.”*

*“She is respectful, sweet, generous, and most importantly, the best teacher*



### **Kim Rice, Teacher Finalist**

Kim Rice teaches kindergarten at Bridle Ridge Elementary School. She has been a classroom teacher since 2015.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*“Mrs. Rice has taught my son how to not only find his assertive voice, but also feel more comfortable coming to adults with situations that he needs help with. When my child feels loved, safe, and comfortable enough to ask for help, then I know that person has truly connected with my child.”*



### **Jory Williamson, Teacher Finalist**

Jory Williamson is a Physical Education teacher at East Middle School. She has been teaching in the district for five years, all at East Middle School.

#### **From her nomination letter:**

*“What she does beyond her curriculum or sport is what sets her apart. She interacts with the kids, listens to the kids, and is there for the kids. When she sees a teachable moment, she takes it. When she sees a kiddo who is struggling outside of class, she reaches out.”*



## **Shanicece Wise, Teacher Finalist**

Shaniece Wise teaches fifth grade at Timber Creek Elementary School. She has been teaching at Timber Creek since 2017. She also taught third grade.

### **From her nomination letter:**

*“She is very kind and she is very respectful, also very funny and always makes sure we are safe and feeling 100 percent loved. She never lets anyone say anything bad to others, and gives us a lot of positive affirmations.”*



### **For the Winners**

*\$500 cash award sponsored by JE Dunn • Desk award • Banners for his or her school  
8x10 photo on display at the Administrative Services Center (from Pearce Photographics)  
Teacher of the Year ring from Balfour*

**All Finalists:** *Plaque and gift bag*

### **Thanks to these contributors**

*Affordable Elegance • Mr. Handyman—John and Allison Bruflat • Dr. Kristel Barr •  
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Outdoor Solutions, Kurt and Dr. Mary Shatford*

### **Thanks to these sponsors**

*Balfour, Blue Rain Roofing, Erica Sorrick, JE Dunn, Jodi Price*

### **Thanks to our judges**

**Ann Greene**, former school public relations specialist, Olathe School District

**Jeff Kramer**, Superintendent, Archie R-V School District

**Connie Studyvin**, retired teacher, Raytown School District (and former STARR Teacher)

**Cherie Turney**, community member