



Kenton County School District | *It's about ALL kids.*

**THE KENTON COUNTY BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

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Dr. Henry Webb, Superintendent of Schools

W.O.W. Awards

Melissa Back District Learning Interventionist

I ran into a particular student yesterday who was beaming as she told me she had finished her last required credit to get her diploma...This student has faced *significant* challenges this past year as a teen mom including a homeless identification under the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act. I can't begin to tell you the amazing support Melissa Back, a Reducing Barriers to Learning Interventionist, has provided the student from the first time she asked if she could accompany me on a home instruction visit following the baby's delivery just to meet her. Melissa has met with her regularly since that time as a mentor and I have no doubt that she would have dropped out of school a few months ago if Melissa had not advocated for her at the school level. Melissa has truly gone "above and beyond" to connect with this student and to reduce her barriers to learning including helping this student take the next steps toward postsecondary education and her dream of becoming a Special Education teacher. In the midst of all the things like pension reform, active shooter drills and spring snow days, it is always nice to be reminded through relationships like this one why we are here.

Shannon Gross Twenhofel Middle School

I am nominating my daughter's principal Dr. Shannon Gross at Twenhofel Middle School for his exemplary role as a principal. In the day and age that we live in where students are practicing ALICE drills in their classroom. I was talking with my daughter, and it was after the Feb. 14 incident in Florida. I had received an all call from Dr. Gross and he made us aware of a situation and how he took care of it. I was discussing with my daughter how thankful I was with how Dr. Gross always informs us of what is going on and how he has handled the situation. These were the words that I focused on and why I am nominating him for a WOW award. My daughter said, "Mom, Dr. Gross is over protective of us just like you." To know that my daughter knows that the principal over her building takes their safety in his hands like a parent does touched my heart. I am so thankful to have his leadership and the positive way he handles the students and staff is one of the reasons I have open enrolled my daughter at Twenhofel and one reason they are a "Distinguished" school. Thank you Dr. Gross for taking such great care of my child and all children at Twenhofel Middle school as if they are your own!!!

Karen Paolucci Dixie Height High School

I just want to let everyone know how I feel about Karen Paolucci. She is an unsung hero! Every month, she changes the bulletin board in the cafeteria (and for special occasions, in-between). She is always wearing a smile and has something positive to say, no matter what her day has been like. I am very proud to have the privilege to work here and to get to know Karen. Thanks for EVERYTHING you do!

Kenton County Board of Education

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