

**MEMO****TO:** Bullitt County Board of Education**CC:** Betsy Nutt**From:** Kali Ervin**Date:** May 17, 2023**Re:** May 22nd Board of Education Meeting Student Recognition: Moving Forward and Core Value Award Winners

This year, BCPS began two new recognitions: The Moving Forward Award and The Core Values in Action Award. These awards symbolize the heart of Bullitt County Public Schools: our tagline and the fundamental values we strive to follow each day. The Moving Forward Award is open to any BCPS student, parent, other family member, a Bullitt County community member, or business and the Core Values in Action Award serves to recognize BCPS Staff Members.

Tonight, we are pleased to announce the Spring recipients of these awards.

**Moving Forward Award:**

Ali Hall, Bullitt East High School, 9th Grade Student

*"My 5th grade daughter, Maddy, tried out for the middle school soccer club for the east end, which allows students in 5th-8th grades to try out. Maddy made the B team, which basically means 'we are practicing'. Maddy was upset, but I told her she was a fifth grader and that other girls have been playing for a long time but she should be happy she made one of the teams. Ali Hall overheard me speaking to her mom at practice about how disappointed Maddy was and that she didn't know if she was going to continue to play soccer. Ali took it upon herself to write my daughter an email, encouraging her not to give up. That email changed my daughter's whole attitude. In the email she talked about how she made the B team when she was in seventh grade even though all her friends were on the A team. Ali shared that she used that year to improve her skills and become better. Because of her email, Maddy is now playing soccer. Something just like a simple email changed my daughter's entire outlook on the situation, and I will always be grateful to Ali for that."*

**Core Values in Action Awards:**

Students Matter Most: Katelyn Blaszyński, BLMS Teacher

*"Mrs. Blaszyński honestly embodies all of these Core Values. She ensures all of her students enjoy what they are doing and feel valued and appreciated. My son joined band in 6th grade having never touched an instrument before and she has made him fall in love with music. She encourages him every single day to better himself and others. She has taken a child with autism spectrum disorder and ADHD and given him something to pour his love and focus into. He has never connected with another hobby or another teacher the way he has with her. In less than two years she has given him the confidence and ability to succeed in not just music, but life in general. Not only did he make jazz band, but he also made the Bullitt County Honor Band after only playing his instrument for one year. I truly believe she has been a godsend to not only my son but all of the students she encounters. No one deserves this honor more than her."*

### Embrace Differences: Danielle Jump, OMES Teacher

*“Ms. Jump is the 1st grade teacher for my son. He has had an extremely difficult time this year, as he’s a little different from the other kids in his class. He began really struggling with school, begging not to go, crying each morning until he would make himself sick, and then he would have to miss school. My husband and I sat down with Ms. Joiner, Ms. Melcher, and Ms. Jump several weeks ago to talk through this. Mrs. Jump has gone above and beyond to help my son since that time. She embraced the fact that noises overwhelm and upset him, giving him noise canceling headphones during class. She watched to see what areas of the day were the hardest for him, to make sure she was helping him manage through those together. She connects with him at times throughout the day when he would typically get upset and try to go home. She embraced that he is a child that needs goals and structure. She created a sticker system for him to work through each day to earn rewards and feel a sense of accomplishment. Beyond all of that, she committed to sending me full updates about his day, every afternoon, so I could understand how he was doing, things he may have struggled with that day, and areas to work with him on at night. I cannot imagine how this year would turn out for my son if we didn’t have Mrs. Jump. She has truly worked to understand him, what he needs, how he’s different, and how she can help him. She is an invaluable asset to our family and to Old Mill.”*

### Service Before Self: Rhiannon Jones, BEHS Teacher

*“Mrs. Jones is a great teacher and I look forward to having her class every day - just ask anyone she has taught or is teaching they all love her! She strives to make sure her lessons are engaging and a fun learning experience. She puts her heart into Bullitt East and helps anyone she can and tries to make stressful times into fun times. She makes sure everyone is included, that her students know we matter, and helps us with our future while making sure we keep up with work in her class and others. She is all about Mental Health and gives her classes great resources if needed. I love Mrs. Jones as a teacher and look forward to her class every day. Everything she teaches sticks with me and will for the rest of my life.”*

### Future Focused: Shelly Westwood, BCHS Teacher

*“Mrs. Westwood is a very dedicated person to her job for her students that want to work in the medical field. She is super great at coaching and going the extra mile to do what she can to help her student’s succeed in their future in the healthcare setting. She does classes for them to get their CNA license and pharmacy certification. Bullitt Central is very blessed to have her as their career teacher for the healthcare system.”*

### Proactive Innovation: Pam Swift, BEHS Teacher

*“I nominate the most selfless, above-and-beyond teacher I have ever had the pleasure of learning under. Mrs. Swift is my German 1&2 language teacher. I first had the honor of meeting my role model at the beginning of my junior year in high school. I had procrastinated taking a foreign language in high school because I had heard so many horror stories about students failing Spanish classes and I did not want to risk having the same fate as a straight-A student. I wanted to be a little different and after having the opportunity to visit France, I signed up to learn French. The French class was full so my plan B was to learn German. Imagine my stress about coming into a classroom I have never been into before, with an unfamiliar teacher, then trying to learn a new language on top of that! I was very nervous about what I signed myself up for, but as soon as I walked into Mrs. Swift’s classroom, I was met with her greeting smile. I knew I would be alright. She has this caring charisma that radiates off of her onto her students. She facilitates our classroom to feel more like a family than just a job she has to come to. I knew that I and my peers were valuable to her and that she truly cared for us. Mrs. Swift made learning so much fun from playing Simon Says in only German to singing songs to remember the grammar rules. She embraces the creative sides of her students and encourages them to use their resources to decode the language. Mrs. Swift provides every resource, and more, that her students need to be successful. When a student is tasked with a question in a foreign language, we are encouraged to all work together as a team to translate it into English or respond in that language. I am appreciative that she is teaching us to work in cooperative teams and showing us that we can use our resources to solve problems. Now as a senior taking so many JCTC classes, her classroom is the perfect place for me to feel comfortable to focus and be productive. She has exceptional classroom management and a warming personality that has left such a warm imprint on my heart to adore her so much. I can see that she is the hardest-working teacher I know. She works so hard because she is passionate about teaching her students. What is even more incredible, she teaches French 1, French 2, and German 2 all on the same day. Think of how people you know could do that. Not*

*many, right? Mrs. Swift is Bullitt East's very own superhero. I could not have been happier to have her as my teacher and friend."*