**RECOGNITIONS**

**October 14, 2024**

**OLDHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**CONCERN**

Consider Recognizing the Following Outstanding Individuals

**DISCUSSION**

**Ignite Passion Award**

The Ignite Passion Award recognizes individuals or groups that have demonstrated exceptional commitment and efforts in fostering passion and enthusiasm within Oldham County Schools. As noted last month, recipients of the Ignite Passion Award are not merely achievers; they are catalysts for positive change, transforming the atmosphere and culture within their school or within the school district. These individuals or groups possess a unique ability to ignite the flames of inspiration within students, staff, families, or the community, encouraging others to pursue excellence and embrace their own passions.

Locust Grove’s Ignite Passion Award winner is Katie Thompson. Mrs. Johnson serves as the Library Media Specialist and STC at Locust Grove. Even though her office is in the library, her positive impact extends far beyond. Mrs. Johnson collaborates with their instructional coach to plan and implement professional learning for teachers in the area of explicit teaching. She models instructional practices for students and teachers during every library lesson. Her knowledge and expertise of evidence-based practices is extensive. Mrs. Johnson is consistently seeking opportunities to strengthen her teaching craft.

This year, Katie is a member of the Deeper Learning Cohort in Oldham County. Her innovative teaching style and drive to create rich learning experiences for students benefits the entire school community. She ignites a passion for reading with school-wide monthly reading challenges and rewards. In addition to all her daily teaching, she also hosts a book club before school for intermediate readers. Mrs. Johnson acknowledges the importance of involving families in education and she coordinates Grandparents Night at the Book Fair, Sunrise Reader Events for families and she is an integral contributor to the yearly STEM Fair and Leadership Day.

Mrs. Johnson also serves as an essential member of Locust Grove’s leadership team. She works diligently with staff to create a positive climate and culture. She supports individual students by establishing relationships with those that need connection the most

The volunteer duo, Sonny and Sonja Mays, are the Oldham County Middle School Ignite Passion Award winners. Sonny and Sonja Mays are parents and grandparents of OCMS students. Last year, they took on leadership of the OCMS Booster club.  Sonja is the president of the Booster Club and Sonny oversees the concession stands for all home athletic events. The Mays have been instrumental in building support for athletic programs, recruiting parent volunteers, and raising funds for new uniforms and equipment for the teams. They are tireless workers and can be seen at OCMS every Tuesday and Thursday night cheering on the teams, working the concession stand, and building relationships with OCMS families. They have helped ignite passion and energy among parents in the community, and we are truly grateful for their service and efforts.

**“Yes, I Can” Award Winner**

OCMS student, Ivy Becker, is the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children (KYCEC) 2024 “Yes, I Can” winner in School and Community Activities category. This award honors children and youth with disabilities from across the state who excel at school and in the community.

In the summer of 2023, Ivy asked her mom to teach her how to sew in order to make and sell bookmarks, in hopes to inspire others to read. By the fall, Ivy had sewn hundreds of bookmarks and was selling them to educators, family, and friends. Ivy also sold her bookmarks at a local brick and mortar in LaGrange. As a way to give back to others, Ivy donates proceeds from her sales to several charities that are close to her heart, including the PKD Foundation, Aicardi-Goutieres Syndrome Advocacy Association, and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.

Ivy has found a creative and passionate way to engage community members of all ages and to share her love of reading. Her philanthropic efforts to raise funds for disability research will make a positive impact in Oldham County and beyond. It’s remarkable how she dedicates herself to helping other while also navigating her own obstacles with determination and strength. Her ability to overcome difficulties serves as a powerful example to everyone around her, demonstrating that a positive attitude can lead to great things.

**National Merit Semifinalists**

Each year, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation honors students across the nation whose scores are the highest in the PSAT/NMSQT test taken in the fall of their junior year. This year, seven students from Oldham County Schools have been named National Merit Semifinalists.

Approximately one-third of the national high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT, are notified that they have qualified as semifinalists. Semifinalists advance to finalist standing in the scholarship competition by meeting high academic standards, as well as demonstrating community involvement, strong work ethic, and extracurricular pursuits. Additionally, the student must be recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT scores that align with their earlier performance on the qualifying test. Finalists will be announced in the spring.

**NOHS**

Nicholas Fiorini

Charlie Dugan

**OCHS**

Madelyn “Duck” Evans

Hannah Tatum

**SOHS**

Ethan Raque

Larkin Hendren

Nihal Jacob

**National Principals Month**

Each October, National Principals Month recognizes the essential role that principals play in making a school excellent. Principals set the academic tone for their schools, and it is their vision, dedication, and determination that provide the mobilizing force for achieving student success. Our principals are the bedrock of our educational community. They are not only administrators but also mentors, advocates, and champions of our educational mission. They work tirelessly to create a positive school culture and bring our community together.

During National Principals Month, we ask our entire community to join us in showing appreciation for the dedication and hard work of our principals. We are grateful for their unwavering commitment to our students’ well-being and academic achievement. Thank you.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recognize these individuals for their outstanding accomplishment!