

OLDHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

CONCERN

Consider Recognizing the Following Outstanding Individuals

DISCUSSION

Ignite Passion Award

The Ignite Passion Award recognizes individuals or groups who demonstrate exceptional commitment and efforts in igniting passion and enthusiasm within Oldham County Schools. This month's award recipients are not merely achievers; they are catalysts for positive change, transforming the atmosphere and culture within their school or district. These individuals possess a unique ability to ignite the sense of inspiration within students, staff, families, or the community, encouraging others to pursue excellence and embrace their own passions..

OCHS - Gail Sowell, Instructional Coach

OCHS proudly recognizes Gail Sowell with the Ignite Passion Award for her exceptional dedication and commitment to creating outstanding experiences for both students and staff. Ms. Sowell exemplifies what it means to go above and beyond in her role as Instructional Coach. Her work is distinguished by her commitment to putting student needs first, which she accomplishes through her exceptional support and coaching of teachers.

What sets Ms. Sowell apart is her accessibility and willingness to meet teachers where they are. She is always available to listen to concerns, brainstorm solutions, and provide hands-on support. Rather than simply telling teachers what to do, she rolls up her sleeves and works alongside them—modeling instructional strategies in real-time and co-teaching lessons. This collaborative approach builds teacher confidence and capacity while directly improving student learning experiences.

Ms. Sowell has spearheaded literacy initiatives at OCHS that have fundamentally strengthened instructional practices. She has not only led this critical work but has also supported countless teachers through the implementation process, ensuring that these research-based strategies are effectively integrated into classrooms across the school. Her leadership in this area has created a ripple effect, improving literacy outcomes and learning experiences for all our students.

Ms. Sowell's impact extends far beyond individual coaching sessions—she is building a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration that benefits our entire school community. Her dedication to excellence in instruction directly translates to excellence in student experiences.

Arvin - Lillian Davis, Teacher

Arvin Center is proud to recognize Lillian Davis as their Ignite Passion Award recipient!

Pun intended—Lillian is truly *on fire* for inspiring the next generation of fire industry professionals. She has embraced the Arvin culture as though she's been part of it for years, showing deep care for her students and their opportunities. Lillian's commitment to helping

students thrive—both in the classroom and as members of the community—shines through in everything she does. Although this is just the first year of our partnership, we are confident that under Lillian’s leadership, the fire science program will continue to grow and never be extinguished.

Thank you, Lillian Davis, for choosing Arvin and our students of Oldham County—you are truly making a difference by *igniting passion* in our youth!

Buckner - Amie Dennison, Office Manager

Office Manager, Amie Dennison, exemplifies what it means to ignite passion within the school community. Her tireless dedication ensures that both teachers and students have the tools, support, and encouragement they need to be successful every day. Mrs. Dennison works behind the scenes with remarkable efficiency and grace, ensuring that classrooms are always covered by developing and maintaining strong relationships with our substitute teachers—no small task in today’s schools.

Her patience and professionalism shine as she supports parents navigating the Online Registration system, taking the time to guide each family with understanding and care. Beyond the walls of our building, Amie serves as a vital communicator between Buckner Elementary and the greater community, keeping parents and community members informed and connected to the great things happening at school.

Amie Dennison’s influence is felt in every corner of Buckner Elementary. She is a catalyst for positivity, connection, and excellence—qualities that have become foundational to our school’s success. Her commitment, kindness, and enthusiasm inspire those around her to bring their best every day. Buckner is a stronger, more passionate, and more connected school because of her.

La Grange Elementary – Carter Kelly

Carter Kelly exemplifies what it means to ignite passion in education through his tireless dedication, leadership, and service. Wearing multiple hats in La Grange Elementary’s building, Carter serves as an STC, a 3rd grade teacher, after-school Leopard Spot leader, and Technology Club sponsor. His Technology Club provides students with real-world opportunities to troubleshoot and solve technology issues throughout the building—empowering them with practical skills, confidence, and teamwork experience.

Carter’s impact extends beyond the classroom. Staff members across the school seek his help daily for technology support, and he always finds time to assist, no matter how busy he is. His patience, expertise, and willingness to serve make him an invaluable resource to both students and colleagues.

In addition to his many roles in education, Carter serves our country proudly as a member of the Air Force Reserves—a true example of dedication and integrity. His commitment to excellence, continuous learning through multiple degrees, and his ability to build meaningful relationships with students make him a shining example of passion in action.

Carter Kelly’s enthusiasm, service, and heart for students make him more than deserving of the Ignite Passion Award.

RECOMMENDATION

Recognize these individuals for their outstanding accomplishment!

