

Inspire Excellence!



- I - Innovative:** Creating engaging and creative learning experiences.
- N - Nurturing:** Supporting students' growth academically and personally.
- S - Supportive:** Building strong relationships with students, families, and colleagues.
- P - Passionate:** Showing enthusiasm and dedication to teaching and learning.
- I - Impactful:** Making a lasting difference in students' lives.
- R - Resilient:** Overcoming challenges with determination and positivity.
- E - Exemplary:** Serving as a role model for the school community.



**October 2025
Award Winner**



Priscilla Meador
Special Programs Secretary
District

"Priscilla Meador exemplifies the very best of Elizabethtown Independent Schools through her kindness, professionalism, and unwavering dedication to others. Priscilla consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that every student, staff member, and visitor feels valued, supported, and heard. Her caring nature creates a welcoming environment that reflects the heart of our district—she truly makes everyone who walks through the door feel like part of the Panther family. What sets Priscilla apart is her incredible ability to manage countless responsibilities with grace and efficiency while always putting others first. Whether assisting administrators, supporting special education staff, coordinating communications, or greeting families from the community, she approaches each task with patience, warmth, and a genuine desire to help." - Mr. Cain Alvey



October 2025 Award Winner



Brittany Collins
Instructional Assistant
Panther Academy

"October's staff recognition for Panther Academy is Brittany Collins. Brittany goes above and beyond to help the students at Panther Academy have the best day possible. One staff member reported that she has taken the time to plan and implement monthly sensory activities in the classroom sensory bin. Although Brittany has worked at PA for less than a year, she has learned quickly how to help some of the most challenging students! Whenever you walk into the room, Brittany is actively working with a student to support the various needs in the room. Brittany is a tremendous asset to not only the students but also the staff she works with. Despite dealing with some challenges throughout the day, Brittany maintains a positive attitude with a smile on her face. Brittany inspires all of us to go the extra mile and help in whatever way we can!" - Mrs. Carla Kuhn



**October 2025
Award Winner**



Melissa Straney
School Secretary/Bookkeeper
Helmwood Heights Elementary

"This month we are proud to recognize Melissa Straney as our Employee of the Month! She has been an essential part of the Helmwood Heights Elementary family for four years—one of those years serving as a PASS assistant supporting students with behavioral needs. That experience gave her a special ability to connect with both kids and adults, and it shines through every day in her role as our school office manager. Simply put, she is invaluable. She keeps our school running smoothly, our staff informed, and—most importantly—she keeps me straight! Whether it's managing a dozen tasks at once, greeting families with a smile, or handling the unexpected with calm professionalism, she does it all with grace and heart. We are so thankful for her dedication, organization, and the warmth she brings to everyone who walks through our doors. Helmwood Heights is a better place because of her! Congratulations, Melissa, and thank you for everything you do!" - Mr. Aaron Howell



**October 2025
Award Winner**



Kaylen Cates
First Grade Teacher
Morningside Elementary

“Kaylen Cates makes a lasting impact on her students every day. Kaylen is caring and supportive of her students’ needs. She collaborates with others in our building to help ensure that her students get the resources and services they need to be successful. Kaylen builds a nurturing and loving classroom culture that allows her students to feel safe and comfortable. She is passionate about her students’ success and she meets them where they are so they can achieve their academic and social goals. She is always kind and approachable; she is a valuable member of our team!” - Mrs. Heather Goodman



**October 2025
Award Winner**



Abbie Flood
ELA Teacher
T.K. Stone Middle

“Abbie Flood has made an immediate impact in our building. She is co-sponsoring our Student Council, coaching volleyball, and collaborating with fellow teachers daily to create engaging and challenging lessons for students. She is building relationships with students and staff and contributing to the vibrant culture of T. K. Stone. We are blessed to have her positive energy and generous spirit in our building.” - Mrs. Hope Janes



**October 2025
Award Winner**



JT Lyon
PE/Health Teacher
Elizabethtown High

"JT Lyon exemplifies what it means to inspire excellence at Elizabethtown High School. As a dedicated PE and Health teacher, he models discipline, teamwork, and perseverance daily. Through his leadership of the weightlifting program, JT has transformed it into an inclusive opportunity that benefits all student-athletes across our athletic programs. Beyond his professional impact, JT's personal character shines through his selflessness, most notably when he donated bone marrow to save the life of a young child last year. His commitment to excellence, service, and the well-being of others truly embodies what it means to be a Panther." - Mr. Josh Henderson