

OLDHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**CONCERN**

Consider recognizing the following outstanding individuals.

**DISCUSSION**

**Yes, I Can! Award**

Justice Slayton has posthumously been selected as the recipient of the Council for Exceptional Children 2026 Yes, I Can! Award for Technology. The Yes, I Can! Technology Award acknowledges students and youth with exceptionalities who have demonstrated exceptional achievement through the effective use of technology, including assistive technology, to advance their academic and non-academic skills. This award also recognizes the positive impact of technology on the student's social and emotional development or well-being.

She is one of twelve winners in the nation recognized for her determination and achievements. She is the first Oldham County student to win this award, and she is greatly missed by all who knew her.

**KMEA All-State Choir and All-State Bands**

Earning a spot in KMEA All-State Choir or All-State Bands is one of the highest honors for high school musicians. These elite ensembles showcase the most talented musicians from across the state, selected through a rigorous audition process.

These exceptional students performed at the 2026 KMEA Conference with their respective All-State ensembles. Throughout the conference, they had the opportunity to collaborate with renowned professionals and fellow highly talented musicians. This experience allowed them to refine their craft but also broaden their skills.

Seventeen students from Oldham County Schools were selected to perform in All-State Bands and 36 students were selected for All-State Choir.

**KMEA All-State Bands**

**SOHS**

Skyla Cun  
Zoe Gatewood  
Amelia Vanderpoel

**NOHS**

Jonathan Loleng  
Grace Myers  
Piper Davino

**OCHS**

Nick Turner  
Will Matthews  
Killian Jones

Anthony Payne  
Ethan Meredith  
Kaitlyn Osorio  
Cole Birchmeier  
Ryder Cantrell  
Avery Dremov

**All-State Orchestra**

**CAPAA**

Ada Heppermann (NOHS)  
Oryan Admony (SOHS)

**KMEA All-State Choir**

**SOHS**

Andrew Bednar  
Caroline Bednar  
Sylvia Buchenberger  
Sophia Davis  
Cooper Finewood  
Jonas Gomsak  
Daphne Kennedy  
Taylor Meredith  
Livvy Matthews  
Logan Myers  
Ben Osborne  
Matthew Osborne  
Ryan Partington  
Norah Rembold  
Gabriella Watkins

**NOHS**

Alex Reynolds

**OCHS**

Abigail Baker  
Madison Blevins  
Rylei Brown  
Elli Burrell  
Preston Corbin  
Daven Drury  
Clayton Evans  
Edward Gutierrez  
Zakkary Lehman  
Keegan McKinney  
Emilie Thompson  
Josiah Wolfenbarger  
Gabrielle Wood  
Madelynn Burton

Chloe Falt  
Alethea Hill  
Morgan McWane  
Ella Milberger  
Jayden Pace  
Pierce Woodruff

### **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.

#### **Centerfield Elementary**

Centerfield's Ignite Passion winner is their exceptional part-time daycare director, Shallen Rich. After retirement, her presence was missed greatly and they are grateful that she selflessly returned to lead their enrichment center part-time, ensuring its continued success through steady leadership, dedication, planning prowess, business savvy and meticulous adherence to all daycare regulations.

Shallen seeks out grant opportunities that bring innovative resources and fresh learning experiences to Centerfield's youngest students. This year, the grant she earned doubled Centerfield's STEAM resources, brought a math fact fluency software program and initiated work with the Leader in Me After-school Curriculum to continue their mission to inspire learners, empower leaders and develop kind citizens at Cub Club.

In addition to her impact at Centerfield, Shallen serves as a trusted mentor and district-wide resource for her colleagues, generously sharing her expertise and passion for childcare whenever it's needed.

Her presence strengthens not only the daycare but the entire school community, where she actively supports events, initiatives, and partnerships. Since acquiring a Family Resource Center, Shallen and Cub Club Staff have partnered together to host a wide variety of enrichment experiences - everything from dance fitness classes to traveling museums to soybean farming.

As the resident school historian (she really should write a book!), Shallen preserves and celebrates Centerfield's legacy, creating pride and connection among staff and families. Through her enthusiasm, leadership, and commitment to excellence, she truly ignites passion in others and transforms the culture of the after-school community.

#### **Camden Station Elementary**

Camden Station's Ignite Passion winner is Andie Marx. She is incredibly knowledgeable, endlessly kind, and consistently puts students at the center of everything she does. Her passion for teaching is evident in the positive, joyful learning environment she creates each day.

Ms. Marx's classroom is full of "Meerkats," a place where learning is engaging, meaningful, and fun. Her creative and hands-on teaching approaches help students connect their learning to the real world, while her energy and sense of humor—often showcased through her perfectly witty shirts for lessons and celebrations—make students excited to come to school. Students in her classroom explore pumpkins decomposing in fall, the position of the sun and earth through hands-on modeling and are often met with witty responses about what Meerkats would do. Laughter, curiosity, and learning go hand-in-hand in her classroom.

One of Ms. Marx's greatest strengths is her ability to truly see and celebrate students for who they are. She builds strong relationships and helps every child feel valued, confident, and supported. Because of this, students are more willing to take academic risks and develop a genuine love for learning.

Ms. Marx also serves as a positive role model and supportive colleague. She willingly collaborates, shares ideas, and continues to grow professionally in order to better serve students and support her team through her own constant learning.

Ms. Marx embodies the spirit of the Ignite Passion Award. Through her energy, humor, and heart, she inspires students and staff alike and has a lasting, positive impact on Camden Station Elementary and the Oldham County Schools community.

#### South Oldham High School

South Oldham High School proudly selects Bobbie Stoess for the Ignite Passion Award.

Bobbie consistently builds meaningful connections between South Oldham High School and the surrounding community, modeling how local leaders can support students and schools. As Club Service Chair of the South Oldham Rotary, she helps the club recognize outstanding SOHS students each month and supports student futures through scholarships.

Together with the Rotary, Bobbie helped organize the collection of more than 4,000 canned goods for the Barry Stoess Memorial Christmas Food Basket Program. She also leads Mission House, which operates a food pantry for families in need, and works tirelessly to connect our school with families who require support so students can access essential resources.

Bobbie understands that academic success depends on students' needs being met both at home and at school; she approaches this work with compassion, determination, and humility—never seeking recognition while inspiring many others in the community to get involved.

#### **School Board Member Recognition**

Kentucky observes School Board Recognition Month in January, and since we had an inclement weather during our January meeting, we want to take a moment to recognize our dedicated board members today.

Carly Clem, Allison Sheffer, Suzanne Hundley, Dominic Cedillo, and Adam Springer spend countless hours serving the students, families, and community members of Oldham County. Please join us in thanking them for their commitment to ensuring the highest levels of learning for all our students!

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recognize these outstanding individuals.