



PRESS RELEASE
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West Bend School District Awards Five Support Employee of the Year Awards for 2024

West Bend — Five employees of the West Bend School District were recently honored with a Support Employee of the Year Award. These awards recognize outstanding contributions to the West Bend School District by people who are aides, coordinators, custodians and maintenance workers, drivers, clerical workers, school nutrition workers, or other office staff. These five employees are integral not only to the other staff, but to students. The winners include:

Marietta Bailey, media center paraprofessional, East and West High Schools

Marietta started with the district in September 1996. Marietta cares deeply about the students receiving the best possible education. This dedication is reflected not just in her own knowledge, but in the vibrant and ever-evolving space she has created within the school library.

September Bentley, special education paraprofessional, McLane Elementary

September's colleagues who nominated her for this award say her patience is unmatched, while she is also the first to lend a hand and volunteer to help. In fact, they said her impact on the school goes far beyond the school as students and families from years ago still remember her.

Cassandra Thorson, special education paraprofessional, Silverbrook Intermediate

Cassandra's love for Silverbrook is evident, not just in her words, but in her actions. Her positive attitude and work ethic set a wonderful example for everyone around her. She is a vital part of Silverbrook's school community and her commitment to her students and colleagues shines through in everything she does.

Kerry Hughes, special education coordinator, West Bend School District

Kerry has served as a special education teacher, WBSD Way leader, and special education coordinator with the district. She is the embodiment of dedication and compassion. As a special

education coordinator, she champions the needs of all students, not just those she personally works with. Kerry is a leader in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes club, and the driving force behind the WBSD Way program.

Monica Weinberger, sign language interpreter, at Silverbrook Intermediate

Monica started with the district in December 2017 and is not just an interpreter, she is a communication bridge, a tireless advocate, and a true inspiration. She is constantly seeking new ways to support all students and staff, fostering an inclusive learning environment. She also played a pivotal role in developing a district-wide Deaf Awareness program.

The West Bend Joint School District #1 is proud to serve nearly 6,000 students and their families from the city of West Bend, villages of Jackson and Newburg, and townships of Barton, Polk, Trenton, Jackson, West Bend, and Addison. We strive to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts, and co-curricular activities. Within our community-based 4K program, Head Start program, five elementary schools (K-4), one intermediate school (5-6), one middle school (7-8), and two high schools (9-12), families can expect a caring, inclusive learning environment that supports the development of the whole child. Visit www.west-bend.k12.wi.us for more information.

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