

ASHE COUNTY ANNOUNCES EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

The Ashe County School System is a wonderful place to work and is home to great staff members and educators. Each year, schools nominate stand-out employees who go above and beyond the call of duty for individual awards and recognitions. As a system, Ashe County Schools recognizes four distinct categories (1) Classified Employee of the Year, (2) Supervisory/Support Staff Employee of the Year, (3) Rookie of the Year and (4) Teacher of the Year. Each of these awards highlight different aspects of the school system, which are all essential components to create a successful educational environment.

Classified Employee of the Year

We are excited to announce Mrs. Elaine May as the recipient of the **“Classified Employee of the Year”** for 2020-2021! Mrs. May is a cafeteria assistant/baker at Blue Ridge Elementary School. Superintendent Phyllis Yates, along with other administrators from Central Support Services, surprised Mrs. May with the announcement on Friday, May 29, 2020.



Mrs. May began her career with Ashe County Schools in 2014 as a substitute cafeteria assistant and soon moved into a full-time position at Blue Ridge Elementary School. She is dedicated to her job, takes pride in her work, and wants the best for the students. She is fully engaged with the students each and every day. She greets them with a smile and showers them with encouraging words when they arrive in the cafeteria. Her job is very important to her. She is most often seen baking delicious breads and pastries, but is also knowledgeable in other areas of the kitchen. She works with the staff at Blue Ridge to ensure that a healthy and nutritious meal is ready for our students and staff.

One individual who nominated Mrs. May put it this way, **“Mrs. May is great to work with, she has such a positive attitude and is always willing to help students and staff.”** When asked to speak about Mrs. May, Principal Joallen Lowder stated, **“Mrs. May is a tremendous asset to the BRES family. She is a consistent source of kindness in our school and is always willing to step up to the plate and help meet the needs of children. We are thankful that she is on our team!”**

The following is a list of employees who were nominated from each school or site:

Shelby Dowell – Ashe County Middle School
Dwayne Farmer – Ashe County High School
Beth Hodges – Ashe Early College
Judy Roark – Ashe Early Learning Center
Elaine May – Blue Ridge Elementary School
Nita Absher – Mountain View Elementary School
Patty Richardson – Westwood Elementary School

Staff members eligible for this award are: teacher assistants, bus drivers, bus monitors, custodians, office staff, cafeteria staff, bus garage mechanics, and maintenance staff

Supervisory/Support Employee of the Year

We are proud to announce Mrs. Lynnette Stallings as the **“Supervisory/Support Employee of the Year”** for the 2020-2021 school year! Mrs. Stallings has worked in education for a total of 38 years and is currently serving as a school counselor at Ashe County Middle School. Superintendent Phyllis Yates, along with other administrators from Central Support Services, surprised Mrs. Stallings with the announcement on Friday, May 29, 2020.



Mrs. Stallings originally began working for Ashe County Schools as a counselor at Ashe County High School in 2007. In 2011, Mrs. Stallings moved to the middle school and has been there since. She is a great listening ear for students and parents. She is also a tremendous asset to her school and the community as a whole. In addition, Mrs. Stallings helps plan social events for the staff members at ACMS and has a positive presence wherever she goes.

Principal Dustin Farmer said the following of Mrs. Stallings, **“Everything she does is in the interest of what is best for students. She is a true servant and desires to see students succeed in every area of their lives. We are blessed to have her working here at ACMS.”**

The following is a list of employees who were nominated from each school or site:

Lynette Stallings – Ashe County Middle School
Travis Bennett – Ashe County High School

Julie Jones – Ashe Early College
Jessica Jordan – Blue Ridge Elementary School
Michelle Keith – Mountain View Elementary
Marty Norris – Westwood Elementary

Staff members eligible for this award are: assistant principals, media coordinators, school counselors, school psychologists, technology facilitators, teacher leadership specialists, technology technicians, speech-language teachers, and nurses

Rookie of the Year

Ashe County Schools is pleased to announce that Ashe County Middle School’s Mr. Dalton Lewis has been selected as the county’s **“Rookie of the Year”** for the 2020-2021 school year! This award goes to teachers who are in their first full year of service in education. Mr. Lewis is among an excellent group of beginning teachers who entered our schools this year. Superintendent Phyllis Yates, along with other administrators from Central Support Services, surprised Mr. Lewis with the announcement on Friday, May 29, 2020.



Mr. Lewis teaches 7th Grade English/language arts and social studies and has a passion for teaching and learning. He starts each day by greeting students with a high-five and a cheerful smile.

When asked to comment about Mr. Lewis, Principal Dustin Farmer said, ***“The students love him. He is well beyond his years in this profession. He is eager to learn, to listen, and he always brings his ‘A-Game’.”***

The following is a list of employees who were nominated from each school or site:

Dalton Lewis – Ashe County Middle School
Crystal Bennett – Ashe County High School
Brian Armstrong – Ashe Early College
Mollie Davis – Blue Ridge Elementary School
Mazie Sullivan – Westwood Elementary

Staff members eligible for this award are: teachers in their first full year in the profession

Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Mr. Danny Eldreth for being selected as **“Teacher of the Year”** for Ashe County Schools for the 2020-2021 school year! This is the highest honor that a teacher in our county can obtain. Mr. Eldreth has worked for Ashe County Middle School for almost twenty years. Superintendent Phyllis Yates, along with other administrators from Central Support Services, surprised Mr. Eldreth with the announcement on Friday, May 29, 2020.



Mr. Eldreth is a fun person to be around and has a wonderful presence in the classroom. He is actually licensed to teach all four core subject areas and is willing to accept the challenge of teaching new things. This year his teaching assignment is seventh grade math and science. He is best known for his terrific personality and for being willing to work with all students and holding high expectations for his students.

Principal Dustin Farmer said the following about Mr. Eldreth, ***“He could honestly win this award each and every year. He is just great all around. He builds relationships better than anyone else in the business. He is unique in that he makes the content relatable for all of his students.”***

The following is a list of employees who were nominated from each school or site:

Danny Eldreth – Ashe County Middle School
Kelly Lopp – Ashe County High School
Dawn Powers – Blue Ridge Elementary School
Preston Roberts – Mountain View Elementary
Cara Elliott – Westwood Elementary

Staff members eligible for this award are: teachers who spend at least 70% of their day directly teaching students, have completed three full years of service at their current school, and hold a Standard Professional 2 license