

WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL

Germantown Municipal Council PTO

S.T.A.R. OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH
6:00 P.M.**

**GMSD COMMUNITY BOARD ROOM
3350 SOUTH FOREST HILL IRENE ROAD
GERMANTOWN, TN 38138**





Germantown Municipal Council PTO

ORDER OF CEREMONY

WELCOME - JOY WILLIAMS, GMC PRESIDENT

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -
BOY SCOUT TROOP #2780**

GMC GENERAL MEETING

OPENING REMARKS - SUPERINTENDENT JASON MANUEL

PRESENTATION OF S.T.A.R. OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

KRISTEN MELTON LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

CLOSING - JOY WILLIAMS



Germentown Municipal Council VTO

Board of Managers

PRESIDENT

Joy Williams

TREASURER

Cameshia Rogers

SECRETARY

Elizabeth Gates

LEGISLATION

Terry Rogers

HOSPITALITY

Chelsea Slabaugh
Courtney Browning
Courtney Butler

PROGRAMS

Allyson Ferebee
Ashley Pera

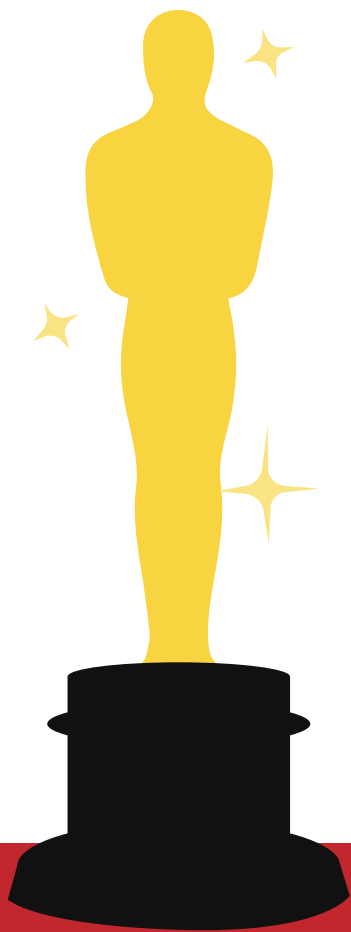
CULTURAL ARTS

Marianne Farabee

COMMUNICATIONS

Julieann DeMatteo

**S.T.A.R. OF
EXCELLENCE
AWARD
RECIPIENTS**



DOGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Amy & Cory Carter

Amy & Cory Carter have been married 12 years and have four children. Their oldest, Hannah, is in 4th grade in Ms. Boyce's class at Dogwood. Hayden is in 2nd grade in Ms. Hammontree's class. Their two youngest, Heidi (4) and Holt (2), attend GBC preschool. Heidi will be joining everyone next year at Dogwood in Kindergarten! They add that they are so excited to have another Dogwood Dolphin! All of their girls have been active in cheerleading and tumbling.

Cory and Amy both serve in various ways at Dogwood Elementary. Cory is a member of Dogwood Dads and volunteers at school events. Amy has been Bookfair Chair and Movie night Chair with Dogwood PTO. Next year, she will serve as Secretary of Dogwood PTO.

When being nominated, this was said about the couple, *"Amy and Cory Carter are always there to support each and every event and things happening at Dogwood. Numerous days you will see one of them at school in the morning and the other at night helping for a different event. We are so lucky to have such selfless volunteers that not only show up to support events but also physically and financially contribute whenever they are available without being asked and with smiles on their faces. They bring joy to everyone who crosses their paths and continually help Dogwood and Dogwood PTO succeed."*

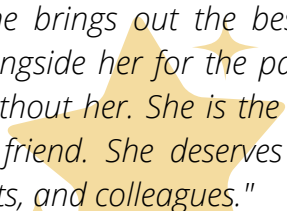


DOGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Melinda Henson

Melinda Henson has been married to Zak Henson for 18 years. She has one stepson, Brayden Henson, who is 24 years old and one daughter, Julia Henson, who is 11 years old and in 5th grade at Dogwood Elementary.

Mrs. Henson is the 5th grade Math & Science teacher at Dogwood. While this is all she added about herself, others shared much more about why she should receive this award. One person stated, *"She is not only dedicated to her students and her fifth grade team, but she works tirelessly at analyzing data for our entire school so our teachers can guide their instruction to best meet the needs of their students. She's the first to arrive and the last to leave...always shows up for students, class, team and our entire school. She is very deserving of this award."* Another person shared, *"Mrs. Henson is an extremely dedicated teacher who goes above and beyond for her students every day. Mrs. Henson plans exceptional lessons and activities that help students understand math and apply it to real-life situations. She has recently completed her Instructional Leadership Licensure, and she is a great role model for all teachers."* Finally, a Dogwood colleague said this about Mrs. Henson: *"She is an amazing educator who goes above and beyond for her students, colleagues, and the district. She is always going the extra mile to help whoever she can. All of her students current and in years past adore her. She brings out the best in everyone and I can say from working alongside her for the past 8 years I could not handle a school year without her. She is the best colleague and has become a very dear friend. She deserves this award for her dedication to school, students, and colleagues."*



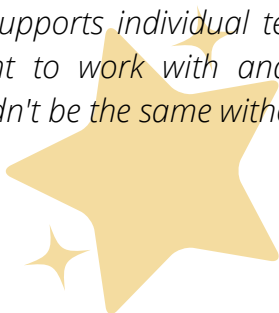
DOGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Joye Phipps

Joye Phipps and her husband have been married for 17 years. They have one daughter, Bess, who attends Dogwood and who enjoys singing and acting in Falcon Footlights.

Mrs. Phipps currently serves as Assistant Principal at Dogwood Elementary. She is a cooperative school leader who pulls people together around a common goal of supporting all students as they grow. At Dogwood, she helps with support staff, scheduling, RTI, 504s, substitutes, and attendance.

One family shared this when nominating her: *"Mrs. Phipps has gone above and beyond for my family. She helped us through the darkest times by making sure our child's educational needs were met. Whatever resources he needed, whether Dogwood had them or not, she found them. She has put his academic, physical, social and emotional needs as a priority and her care and support of him the last years has gone above and beyond. She is AMAZING and very deserving of the award."* Third grade teacher, Ms. Adair, shared this: *"Joye is supportive, consistent, and reliable. She is a constant presence at Dogwood who makes certain that things are running smoothly, everyone has what they need to feel and be successful, and nothing is out of order. She goes out of her way to keep a positive attitude and an upbeat climate at our school."* Finally, Dogwood principal, Jessica Woody had this to say *"She is the backbone of our school and does so many things behind the scenes. She supports individual teachers and students every day. She is a delight to work with and works tirelessly for our Dolphins. We wouldn't be the same without her!!"*



FARMINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Scott McNeil

Scott McNeill has been married to his wife, Kati McNeil for 18 years. They have three sons - Aidan (Houston High), Ian (Houston Middle) and Liam (Farmington). All three boys run cross country and track & field.

Scott has served as the Farmington Cross Country & Track & Field Coach for the last 5 years and the Houston Middle Cross Country and Track & Field Coach for the last 2 years.

When Scott was nominated for the STAR Award, this was shared about him: *"Scott has been the volunteer Cross Country and Track coach for the last 5 years at FES. He has devoted so much time and energy to the program and the kids. The program has been so successful over the years but most of all as the Boys TN State Champs for 2022. We are so thankful for his efforts with the team."*



FARMINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jen McPhaul

Jen McPhaul has been married to husband, Chris McPhaul, for 14 years. They have three sons at currently at Farmington and Houston Middle and and one HHS graduate (Jax, Ian, & Cole). When she's not volunteering for the kids' schools, she's squeezing in work as a hair stylist at Reflections Salon in Germantown where she has worked for the past 24 years.

Jen is currently in her 2nd year as PTO President at Farmington Elementary. She has served in many capacities in her time with Farmington PTO, including: VP Fund Development, Membership Chair, Kids Kan food drive, founder of Falcon Fest and chaired the Falcon Fest Auction for 11 years. She has also served as part of the Hospitality Committee and Programs/Events for Germantown Municipal Council PTO. Jen says that she can't believe her time at Farmington is coming to an end, but is looking forward to serving at Houston Middle.

When nominating Jen for this award, one person shared, *"Jen has been an amazing PTO President but has also faithfully served our school for many years. She has been so organized and detail-oriented throughout the years. She is always on top of every event and really helps the teams to think through all of the logistics needed to make the events run smoothly. She is fantastic at finding ways to save money or stretch our dollars so we can give the most back to our school. She is ALWAYS at the school, connecting with teachers/staff, cleaning out closets, stocking the teacher's lounge, stuffing mailboxes or doing any other project needed. We will miss her so much at FES."*



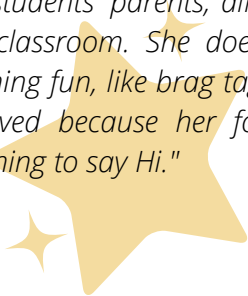
FARMINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bethany Furse

Bethany Furse has been married to her husband Daniel Furse for 28 years and they have two daughters. Their oldest daughter, Meredith, is 24 and is a graduate of the University of Memphis, Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree. She is now hoping to get into the Dental Hygiene program at UT Health Science Center. Their younger daughter, Mattie, is 21 and living her best life as a junior at UT Knoxville. Both daughters attended elementary, middle, and high school within Germantown Municipal School District. She adds that they are very proud of the education they received and how well-prepared for college they were.

Mrs. Furse began her teaching career in Mississippi in 1987. She moved to Tennessee in 1995 when she got married and started teaching in TN in 2000. Throughout her career, she has lead teacher workshops, served as grade chairs, been on various committees, and a member of PTO every year. She volunteers and participates in PTO activities and encourages students and parents to do as well. She makes efforts to show love, respect, and support to all students in the classroom and in their personal extra-curricular activities inside and outside of school. Mrs. Furse says that she has found that when she supports a student's interests, show them love and respect, they show a very positive response.

These words were shared when nominating her: *"Mrs. Furse is an amazing 2nd grade teacher at FES. She creates a positive, kind and inclusive classroom. She is so encouraging to each student and finds a way to connect with each of them. She is an excellent communicator with her students' parents, allowing them to always know what is going on in her classroom. She does so many "extras" with her class that makes learning fun, like brag tags, special treats and punch cards. You know she is loved because her former students pour into her classroom every morning to say Hi."*



FARMINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lynne Finch

This is Lynne Finch's third year living in Tennessee and working in GMSD, all while at Farmington. She and husband, Zac Finch, and are in their first year of marriage.

Mrs. Finch currently serves as 4th grade ELA/SS teacher at Farmington Elementary. In her short time at FES, she has made quite an impression. One individual shared this about her: *"Mrs. Finch has already contributed so much to FES after just a short time on board. She came in during a super-tough 2020 school year and still found a way to connect with each of her students in a special way. She encourages kindness with affirmation notes and allowing the students time to reflect on the good things about their classmates before they start their day. She brings ELA to life with her lesson plans and book discussions. She makes it a point to visit her students outside of the classroom to see their extracurricular activities and important life events. She is a treasure to FES!"*



FOREST HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Joni Hester

Joni Hester has been married to her husband Jeff for 12 years. They have two boys, Hutch (9) and Holten (6), who both attend Forest Hill Elementary. Both boys keep their parents busy. Hutch with competitive baseball and basketball and Holten with piano and drums lessons.

Joni serves currently as PTO President at Forest Hill. She is wrapping up year 2 and will graciously serve one more year next year.

She has also served as VP of Volunteers and News Chair in Forest Hill's PTO. Outside of school, Joni also serves as a Volunteer in Grace Evangelical Church's Athletic Department.

This was shared about Joni in her nomination: *"She has been an incredible ambassador for Forest Hill Elementary School. When we initially met, our daughter was enrolled in a local private school, but based on Joni constantly talking about the quality of Forest Hill Elementary School, we toured it and ended up transferring our daughter to the school. Joni is always present at the school events, generally there prior to the event to set up and coordinate things, and she stays after the events as well to coordinate takedown and clean up."* Another father added: *"What makes a school a great place for our kids to attend is the people at the school that put their heart into making each day important and enjoyable for the students. Over the past two years under Joni Hester's care and direction, the Forest Hill family has become just that,,,a family. I have never seen someone as dedicated to being a volunteer as Joni. She tirelessly gives of her time making sure Forest Hill is a great place for our kids. She has helped create many wonderful events for the students and faculty while leading the PTO. But what makes her really special, is that she leads by example. She not only helps get all the activities developed and planned, but she attends all of the events. Not as a bystander, but to roll up her sleeves and work. Setting up, being available for whatever is needed at the event, and then cleaning up. Joni is there for it all. She truly is one of the kindest people I have ever met, and her love for Forest Hill and all of its students is apparent every day."*

FOREST HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sarah Ulrich

Sarah Ulrich and family moved to Memphis from Indiana almost 10 years ago. She and husband, Steve, met in middle school and have been married for over 16 years. They have four kids. Anna and Stephen attend Houston Middle and are involved in band, choir, track, basketball and more. Ethan is a 1st grader at FHES. He plays soccer and basketball. Owen is 4, plays soccer and keeps mom & dad busy. They also have two dogs and a rabbit. Sarah says she feels honored and blessed to apply her experience, background and knowledge of running into coaching for the last few years! She LOVES running- it's been a major part of her life since elementary school. She adds that she LOVES her runners just as much! She says *"It's a blast to see their hard work and effort come together as they reach goals whether on the course, track or just in their lives."*

Several Forest Hill parents reached out in nominating Sarah. One had this to share: *"She volunteers countless hours in the fall and spring to coach cross country and track and field. She encourages our kids daily to become better no matter what their skill level is. She celebrates their successes and pours into them. She is a positive influence in their lives."* Another parent added: *"Coach Sarah, as the students call her, volunteers her time and talents with our students at FHES for Cross Country and Track. Her time and attention to each student athlete was seen all season. She worked with each runner and met them at their needs. Coach Sarah worked to give each athlete weekly goals and presented them in a team fashion that allowed students to cheer each other on. Whether the fastest on the team or the one making the most improvements, all athletes were given the same level of attention and care."*



FOREST HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mike Maggipinto

Mike Maggipinto, also known as Officer Mike, is the School Resource Officer at Forest Hill Elementary School. Mike has been a Germantown Police Officer for 17 years. He and his wife, Candace Plaisance, have been married for 15 years. She teaches AP US and AP European History at Houston High School. They have two daughters, Julia and Violet. Julia is a sophomore at Houston High and is in the Honors Academy. Violet is in 7th grade at Houston Middle and she plays golf and softball.

One Forest Hill family shared this about Mike when nominating him: *"Officer Mike goes above and beyond for our school every day. From directing traffic in all types of weather conditions, helping students in the cafeteria, to joining classes on the playground, he is there ensuring safety for all our Fox families and students. He is also always willing to help PTO with events at the school and steps in whenever needed. For our Daddy/Daughter dance, he helped ensure the event could happen by attending and recruiting help, so that all attendees felt safe. Officer Mike is a treasure and we are blessed to have him."*



FOREST HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jordyn Potter

Jordyn Potter has worked in Pediatrics for six years and has been with GMSD for four. She says her favorite part of her job is building relationships with her students and their families. Ms. Potter also works as needed at Baptist East in Acute Care. At Forest Hill, she serves as an ESE team lead and is involved in Forest Hill's Sunshine Program, Best Buddies, and book club.

Outside of work, Jordyn enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with friends and family. She is an active member of Exceptional Connections International, which is a local non-profit with whom she will be traveling back to Nairobi, Kenya, this summer to provide education and training on individuals with special needs to local teachers, caregivers, and community members.

One co-worker had this to say about Ms. Potter: *"Jordyn is a bright spot in her students' day. It shows on the excited, sweet faces of even her nonverbal students as soon as they spot her. She comes to school with a positive spirit and wears a smile every day. She truly loves what she does everyday and is always willing to go above and beyond for her students and the teachers at Forest Hill."*



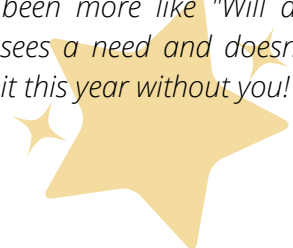
HOUSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Julieann DeMatteo

Julieann DeMatteo has been married to her husband for 16 years and together for 22 years. They have two sons, Mikey (13) and Jojo (12) who are both attending HMS. Mikey played football for HMS this year and basketball for Germantown Parks and Rec. Jojo just played his last year of GFL as well as basketball for Germantown Parks and Recreation. This year Mikey was inducted into the NJHS as well as the Beta club at HMS. Jojo is in his second year of playing Bass for the HMS orchestra under Mr. Tony Smith as an honors orchestra student. He and the HMS honors orchestra students competed in Disney World in March.

Julieann is currently on the board at HMS as part of the Haunted Houston committee and is the President-Elect for the 23-24 school year. She also serves on the GMC PTO as VP of Communications. She is the current Vice-President on the Germantown Orchestra Parent group as well. Julieann has a history of service to schools. She and her family moved here from Holmdel, NJ where she spent 5 years on the Village School PSA where the boys attended from Pre-K to 3rd grade. She served as the VP of fundraising for 2 years and the last two years, she served as president. She was finishing out that position when they moved to TN. Julieann says she is so grateful for the opportunities that she has had to be a part of her sons' school and their community both in Holmdel and here in Germantown. She is especially grateful for the sacrifices her sons and husband have to make to allow her the time to give to the community. Without their support Julieann says couldn't do what she's grown to love doing.

When nominating her, the HMS PTO board had this to say *"Julieann is fairly new to our area, but from the moment she was recruited to help with Haunted Houston last year, she has not stopped. Her official title was Haunted Houston Concessions but should have been more like "Will do whatever is needed." Julieann is a go-getter who sees a need and doesn't hesitate to find a solution. We wouldn't have made it this year without you!"*



HOUSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Amy Shackelford

Amy Shackelford is a CPA who has worked for Pfizer for 20 years. She and husband, Jason Shackelford, have been married for 20 years. They have two children, twins Sarabeth and Houston, who are 8th graders at Houston Middle School. Both kids are in the National Junior Honor Society. Sarabeth has been on the HMS Pom Team for the last 3 years and will join the HHS Varsity Pom Team at HHS next year. Houston has been a member of HMS Band and the Houston Middle Baseball Team.

Amy is wrapping up having served as HMS PTO Treasurer for two years, HMS Pom Booster President, and HMS Band Board for 2 years. Her past involvement includes HMS Pom Booster Secretary, FES PTO Treasurer, Falcon Footlights Booster Club Treasurer, FES PTO Publicity Co-chair, and Hospitality Committee Member with FES PTO.

When nominating Amy, one HMS PTO board member said *"Amy Shackelford is a faithful steward of our funds and meticulous in her record-keeping. It is a hugely quiet but behind the scenes job, and we are so thankful for her!"*



HOUSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Brian Fisher

Brian Fisher has been happily married for 17 years to his wife, Josie Fisher. They have 11-year-old twins, Ayla and Blake. Ayla is a 5th grader at Rossville Christian Academy, where she is active in the school choir and art programs. Blake is a 5th grader at Farmington, where he is active in the school's orchestra and enjoys playing soccer for Germantown Legends.

Mr. Fisher has been in education for over 16 years as a former physical education teacher and District Health and Wellness Supervisor for Shelby County Schools. In 2014, he was hired to serve as GMSD's Coordinated School Supervisor in the Office of Student Services. He held the supervisory position until 2020, when he transitioned to Assistant Principal at Houston Middle School. As Assistant Principal, he has had the pleasure of serving students as their grade level administrator, HMS student class scheduler, 504 coordinator, bus coordinator, attendance compliance, emergency coordinator, and additional roles to best meet the students' and staff's needs at Houston Middle.

One HMS PTO volunteer had this to share him: *"Mr. Fisher has done a phenomenal job implementing the new schedules. He has taken Mrs. Davis' vision and made it a workable system that is benefiting both our students and teachers in so many ways. He is an enormous help to us for Haunted Houston, devoting his entire day to helping us with crowd control and this year even directing traffic! When I see him in the hallways during school hours, he is fist bumping and talking to the students between classes and showing his commitment to building relationships. Thank you, Mr. Fisher, and congratulations!"*



HOUSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Spencer Nesvick

Spencer Nesvick is in his 15th year teaching and has been the Band Director at Houston Middle since 2014. Prior to working for HMS, Mr. Nesvick served as Assistant Band Director at Houston High School. In 2008, Mr. Nesvick earned a Bachelor's in Music Education from the University of Memphis. While a college student, he participated in the Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Bands, and Graduate Brass Quintet. His fondest memories come from his time as Field Commander for the Mighty Sound of the South, the University's Marching Band. He oversees the Houston Middle School Band program, including the Houston Middle Colorguard and feels fortunate to direct the 7th/8th Grade Concert Band which has received Superior Ratings his entire tenure at the school. He also teaches the beginning band classes which start flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, and tuba. Mr. Nesvick is an active member of the West Tennessee Band and Orchestra Association. He has presented clinics at the All-West Clinic and at teacher inservices for Shelby County Schools and Germantown Municipal Schools. He has received multiple teaching awards including New Teacher of the Year in 2009 and more recently Teacher of the Month for the city of Germantown. In 2019, he was recognized by the CMA Foundation as a Music Teacher of Excellence. This past school year he was awarded Teacher of the Year for Houston Middle School and Teacher of the Year for grades 5-8 for Germantown Municipal School District.

Mr. Nesvick enjoys spending time with his wonderful wife, Kate, five-year-old son Otto, and their newest baby boy, Oscar. Their growing family loves living in the quaint and safe community of Germantown, TN with their two dogs named Ellie and Moxie as well as the coolest cat ever named Jupiter.

Aside from teaching at HMS, Mr. Nesvick has also been an Assistant Soccer Coach for U6 Legends, Chairperson for Memphis Area Concert Festival, Former Conductor and Music Director of the Germantown Performing Arts Center's Youth Wind Ensemble, former guest clinician at Christian Brothers Honor Band Clinic and the University of Memphis Summer Music Camp

HMS PTO shared this about Mr. Nesvick: *"He fosters an environment where his students learn about music, instruments, performing, being part of a group and working hard to accomplish both personal and group goals. Mr. Nesvick also invests significant additional after school hours to make sure his students are prepared and involved. He provides extra practice times, offers after school symphonic camps and fun activities such as movie night and game night. HMS band is award winning and continues to get bigger and better because of Mr. Nesvick and his dedication."*

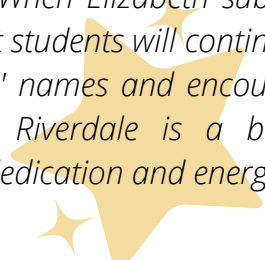
RIVERDALE SCHOOL

Elizabeth Richardson

Elizabeth Richardson and husband Keith are celebrating 5 years of marriage this fall. She has one son, Nicholas, who is an 8th grade honor student at a Riverdale. She also has two grown stepsons, Conner and Cody.

Elizabeth counts it an honor to have served on the Riverdale PTO board for many years. She has served as Historian, Box Top chair, Membership Chair and Treasurer. She has also been room mother all 9 years while at Riverdale. Outside of her service to Riverdale, Elizabeth has served on Germantown's Beautification Commission. Before her volunteer days, she previously worked in Special Education at Riverdale for 5 years. Currently she also works as a substitute teacher at Riverdale. Elizabeth and her husband have co-chaired the Poplar Estates Homeowners Yard of the Month Committee. Next year, she is making plans to join and serve with Houston High PTSO.

When nominating Elizabeth, another Riverdale volunteer had this to share: *"Elizabeth has always gone above and beyond for Riverdale's students and employees. She is willing to volunteer anywhere there's a need, from encouraging top reading challenges of the AR program to helping art teachers and students promote fundraising for top-of-the-line supplies through the Art Markets. When our school began to show the need for quality substitutes, Elizabeth applied through Kelly services to further support our teachers and students. When Elizabeth substitutes, the teacher can have full confidence that students will continue to learn and be cared for. She learns students' names and encourages each one through positive reinforcement. Riverdale is a better place because of Elizabeth Richardson's dedication and energetic support."*



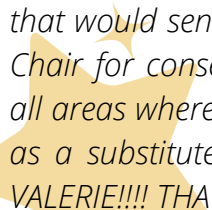
RIVERDALE SCHOOL

Valerie Shimko

Valerie Shimko has been married to her husband for 20 years. Together they have two boys, Connor who is in 11th grade at Houston High and Logan, who is in 8th grade at Riverdale. Currently, Valerie finds herself down a new career path, subbing full-time at Riverdale as a science and STEM teacher. She says, "What a ride it has been this year!"

Before her tenure at Riverdale, Valerie served at both Germantown Elementary and on the GMC PTO as Treasurer and Membership Chair. While in her time at Riverdale, she has served as Ways and Means Chair, Vice-President, and PTSO President. She also serves as the Cultural Arts chairperson with HHS PTSO.

When nominating Valerie, her friends and fellow volunteers had this to say: *"Nine years ago, Valerie Shimko came to Riverdale with her family from Germantown Elementary. Having been a valuable member of the GES PTA, she plugged in immediately as a room parent in kindergarten...Fast forward nine years to the present, we would not have been able to raise the money that we have, planned numerous, memorable events for students and families, and have our PTO represented on different city of Germantown events as well as GMC PTO events."* Another shared *"Valerie has always tackled the hard jobs on the board that would send so many running for the hills!! FUNDRAISING Chair for consecutive terms, President.....and helping in most all areas where it was needed. She has even jumped in to help as a substitute teacher! On a scooter!!!!!! Who does that???* VALERIE!!!! THAT'S WHO!"



RIVERDALE SCHOOL

Michael Bennett, Sr.

Michael Bennett, Sr. has been married to Glenda Bennett for 32 years. They have 2 daughters Tatyana and Tiara, 2 sons Dennis and Michael Jr. and 9 grandchildren. Tatyana and Tiara graduated from Gateway Christian School, while Dennis graduated from Faith Heritage and Michael Jr. graduated from Raleigh Egypt High School.

In nominating Mr. Bennett for the S.T.A.R. Award, one parent shared this: *"Last year, my first grader asked me if Mr. Buse and Mr. Bennett made millions of dollars because they worked so hard. I told him I wish the world did work that way. I know that both of these men are extremely busy, but whenever I stop either of them to ask a question or I see them get pulled away from their current task they have the best attitude and kindest hearts. I am grateful that my children and all of Riverdale have these gentlemen to look up to for how men with demanding jobs can carry themselves with such grace, patience, and good will."* Congratulations Mr. Bennett!



RIVERDALE SCHOOL

Ron Buse

Mr. Ron Buse has been married to wife Sheri Miller Buse for 31 years. They have three daughters Jenna (18), Katie (16), and Lauren (15). Jenna currently attends Northwest Community College and attended high school at Growing in Grace Christian School, where she was part of Beta Club, Cheerleading, Band, Volleyball, and Softball. Katie Buse is a Sophomore at Walnut High School where she is part of Beta Club, Band, Cheerleading, and Archery. Youngest daughter, Lauren Buse is a Freshman at Walnut High School, where she participates in Beta Club, Band, and Archery.

In Mr. Buse's nomination, one Riverdale parent had this to share: *"Mr. Buse is your go-to guy at Riverdale. When you need help Mr. Buse is always there to help and always with a smile on his face and kind words."* Another parent said: *"Mr. Buse is such a blessing to Riverdale. He is always working to improve the school environment whether in cleanliness or safety or organization and ALWAYS with a smile on his face. He is quick to help with whatever is asked. Mr. Buse's kindhearted, hardworking, jovial spirit makes him a positive father figure for students and faculty alike. I cannot imagine someone more deserving of an award based on excellence."*



HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Aynsley Clark

Aynsley Clark has been married to husband Karmas Clark for 23 years. Together they have 11 children - one is a police dispatcher, one plays basketball at the University of West Alabama, four attend Houston High School, and five attend Faith Heritage Christian Academy.

Aynsley has been an incredible volunteer for Houston High School Boys' Basketball and also serves as President of PTO at Faith Heritage Christian Academy.

In nominating Aynsley, one HHS parent had this to share: *"Ms. Aynsley Clark continually shares her time, talent and organizational skills in meaningful ways that positively impact the GMSD experience. In addition to being the working mother of eleven children, some of whom currently represent Houston High School in various academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs (i.e., varsity basketball, cheer, drama etc.), she maintains a visual presence at school events while serving as an exemplar volunteer and contributor both in our school and in the larger community. This year Aynsley could be seen in the stands cheering for two of her sons on the HHS Varsity Basketball Team and daughter on the Cheer team or organizing the concession stand purchases and volunteers with one or more of her family members. Aynsley demonstrates servant leadership, teamwork, and reliability - all skills that make her a true asset to GMSD."*



HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Sherri Sands

Sherri Sands and husband, Brian, have been married for 26 years. All three of their children attended Farmington, Houston Middle, and Houston High School. Christopher was class of 2017, Charles was class of 2021, and Bennett is currently a junior at HHS.

Sherri has filled many roles in her time as a volunteer. Her first PTA role was as cultural arts rep in her oldest son's kindergarten class at Farmington. Throughout the years she volunteered at Farmington with book fairs, health room, Snowflake Ball, field day, holiday treat shop, and holiday parties. Sherri gave tours of Farmington and says it was one of her favorite things to do! She served as Welcome Committee chair and American Education Week co-chair with Farmington PTO. She decorated many classroom doors and volunteered in her kids' classrooms at FES every chance she had. Sherri also became famous for designing the costumes for musicals at Farmington and HMS, including Aladdin, Willy Wonka, Music Man, The Little Mermaid, Beauty & the Beast, Musical Revue, Alice in Wonderland, Annie, and Into the Woods, and also helped with decorating the sets. She was part of the pit crew and was a uniform mom for The Houston Band, chaperoned band trips, fed multitudes of band kids, hemmed hundreds of pants and designed the drum major uniforms. While with HHS PTSO, she has served as Hospitality co-chair, Secretary, Vice-president, and wrapping up her 3rd year as PTSO president. Within GMSD, she has served on calendar committees, curriculum review committee, and Houston High Master Plan committee. Sherri is also proud to share that she has been a member of Moms in Prayer, served as a substitute teacher in GMSD, and for the last 12 years has taught high school girls in Sunday school. Her involvement with the student ministry at GBC is also something she is very proud to share.

Another parent and volunteer had this to share about Sherri: *"It has been such a privilege to serve with Sherri in many different ways over the years. The patience with which she serves is unmatched and the talents she has shared with our schools is immeasurable. I am personally thankful for her example of what it looks like to serve humbly, selflessly, and with a joyful heart."*

HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Timeka Craig

Timeka Craig and husband, Ervin Craig, have been married for a year and a half. She has one daughter in 6th grade at Riverdale. She plays the Trombone in the band and also plays soccer for Riverdale. Her daughter is also a Jr Girl Scout in the Germantown Troop led by Jessica Minton, one of Houston High School's science teachers.

You can find Timeka in the front office at Houston High School. She is the HHS Front Office Secretary and was recently asked and joined the School Culture Committee at HHS.

In her nomination of Timeka for the STAR Award, one parent had this to say about her: *"She is always so pleasant to anyone who comes in and out of the school when I am up there! She goes above and beyond for my family every day when she makes a point of talking through an ongoing issue my son is having. He goes out of his way to go and see her at some point during the school day because of her awesome advice and because she shows him compassion and lets him know she cares very much about him! Thank you, Timeka!"*



HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Ashley Kreitz

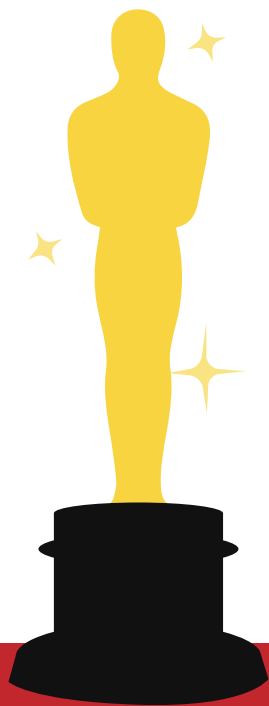
Ashley Kreitz is proud to share that she has three children: Ryne, Meredith, and William. She currently serves as one of the college and career counselors at Houston High School. She says she has enjoyed being a part of the Germantown community and volunteering in the Germantown Football League, at church, and with various activities and groups in Germantown.

When nominating her, one parent shared this about Ashley: *"Ms. Kreitz has always been so welcoming to us ever since we joined HHS for my sons' Sophomore year. She is always so encouraging to all of the students, and I have noted that she makes a point to go out of her way to ensure the students feel important and supported by her. She offered up some advice to my son and went the extra mile by giving us a personal contact to call to help him get involved in aviation. Today, from that suggestion and contact, my son is now flying an airplane and has a passion to become a pilot. Ms. Kreitz does not forget his path either as she follows up and asks for pictures. She makes him feel special and important in a school of 2,000 students!"*



Kristen Melton

"Legacy of Excellence" Award



The **Legacy of Excellence Award** was created in memory of **Kristen Ames Melton**, who tragically passed away in October of 2016. Kristen's legacy is one of kindness, selflessness and tremendous work ethic. She never hesitated to go above and beyond for anyone and everyone, even those she had just met. Nominees for the Legacy of Excellence Award should embody the qualities that made Kristen so very special.

Kristen Melton

Legacy of Excellence Recipient

Mandy Vezina



Mandy Vezina and husband, Jacob Vezina, have been married for 22 years. They have two children. Louise is 13 years old and in the 8th grade at HMS, where she is on HMS Cheer and participates in Lacrosse. Their son, George, is 17 years old and is in the 11th grade at Houston High. He is on the HHS football team, Rugby team, and HHS orchestra.

Mandy first started her career as a volunteer as room mom at Dogwood and was also Movie Night Chair at Dogwood. While at Houston Middle, she was Honor Roll & Recognition Co-Chair, Parliamentarian, Co-president and President. She also serves as a HHS Football Booster Club volunteer and a 901 Rugby volunteer.

In nominating Mandy, HMS PTO Vice-President Toni Nygren shared this: *"She has been a valuable addition to our PTO over the last couple of years, and I know she was in many roles before taking on her role as parliamentarian for HMS. She is also very active in HHS football booster club and always lending a hand whenever needed."* HMS PTO President Erin Avery also had this to say about Mandy's service: *"Mandy has served our schools in many capacities over the last decade. She was active in the Dogwood PTA/PTO, is past President and current Parliamentarian of the HMS PTO, and she works tirelessly as President of the HHS Football Booster Club. She is passionate about our school district, and as a former teacher herself, she is a strong advocate for our wonderful teachers and administration. Mandy has given countless time, energy, thought, resources, and love to our schools and is absolutely one of the best and most faithful volunteers in our school system. She is highly deserving of this honor, and I am excited to nominate her."* Thank you, Mandy Vezina, for continuing to exemplify Kristen Melton's Legacy of Excellence.



SPECIAL THANKS TO...

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Brian Curry, Amy Eoff, Angela Griffith, , Ryan Strain

Kate Crowder, GMSD Communications Coordinator

GMSD School Principals, Assistant Principals, and
Staff

Boy Scout Troop #2780

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