



DOVER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educate, empower, and inspire all students

Dr. Catherine Houck
Superintendent

Dr. Timothy Mitzel
Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Miranda Weaver
Chief Financial and Operations Officer

Staff Recognition - July 2026

Purpose: The Staff Recognition Board Report serves as a standing monthly agenda item to formally acknowledge employees who demonstrate excellence, leadership, innovation, service, and professional growth across the district.

This initiative reinforces the District's commitment to recognizing the contributions of those who strengthen student outcomes, operational effectiveness, and organizational culture.

Process: Building Principals and Department Leaders submit staff recognitions monthly using a standardized submission process. Submissions are reviewed and organized by recognition category for presentation to the Board of School Directors.

Recognition Categories:

- Recognitions may be presented in one or more of the following categories:
- Student Achievement Support
- Instructional Excellence
- Innovation
- Crisis Response
- Student Support
- Community Engagement
- Operational Excellence
- Safety Support
- Mentorship / Leadership
- Professional Growth
- Going Above & Beyond
- Longevity / Service Contribution

These categories reflect the District's comprehensive commitment to academic excellence, student well-being, operational strength, and community partnership.

Total Recognitions: 47 employees



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Community Engagement

Marsha Hake, Central Registrar and McKinney Vento Homeless Liaison - 23 years

Marsha consistently goes above and beyond to ensure new students and their families feel welcomed and supported as they join Dover Area School District. Through thoughtful communication and close collaboration with families and school administrators, she helps make every transition as smooth as possible, especially during the busy summer months. Thank you, Marsha, for the care and dedication you bring to every family you serve.

Operational Excellence

District Wide

Christine Brown (Custodial Supervisor) - 7 years

Lori Frate (Summer Custodian) - 13 years

Lindsey Homer (Summer Custodian) - 5 years

Stanley Pazdan Jr. (Summer Custodian) - 3 years

Dover Elementary

Austin Grimes (Head Custodian) - 1 year

Jeff Raffensberger (Day Custodian) - 5 years

Geeta Ale-Bhujel (Evening Custodian) - 2 years

Benjamin Forshey (Evening Custodian) - New Employee

Abby Shock (Evening Custodian) - 1 year

Leib Elementary

Shawn Fahs (Head Custodian) - 20 years

Michelle Richter (Day Custodian) - 13 years

Darlene Alloway (Evening Custodian) - 5 years

Dennis Benton Jr. (Evening Custodian) - 15 years



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Weigelstown Elementary

Nathan Kushner (Head Custodian) - 4 years

Miranda Bennett (Day Custodian) - 2 years

Alex Mansberger (Evening Custodian) - 11 years

Erik McClane (Evening Custodian) - 3 years

North Salem Elementary

Sherry Fahs (Head Custodian) - 20 years

Heidi Swords (Day Custodian) - 13 years

Lidiia Budnyk (Evening Custodian) - 3 years

Austin Rule (Evening Custodian) - New Employee

Middle School

Erin Ferree (Head Custodian) - 5 years

Nathan Schiding (Day & Evening Custodian) - New Employee

Anne Himes (Evening Custodian) - 2 years

Manel Priyadarshani Samarasinghe (Evening Custodian) - 2 years

Adrian Weber (Evening Custodian) - 13 years

Dawn Wolf (Evening Custodian) - New Employee

High School

Aaron Tolbert (Head Custodian) - 18 years

Rachael Hoff (Day Custodian) - 8 years

Jacqueline Degenhardt (Evening Custodian) - 13 years



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Christian Xavier Robles Perez (Evening Custodian) - 2 years

Eduardo Rodriguez Gonzalez (Evening Custodian) - 1 year

Eduardo Angel Rodriguez Perez (Evening Custodian) - 2 years

Elijah Santana (Evening Custodian) - 1 year

Hari Sanyasi (Evening Custodian) - New Employee

Throughout the summer, our custodial team has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to prepare every Dover building for the start of another school year. From deep cleaning classrooms and common spaces to tackling countless projects and unexpected challenges, their dedication, teamwork, and pride in their work ensure our students and staff return to clean, safe, and welcoming schools. Their efforts often happen when our buildings are quiet, but the impact of their work is seen and appreciated by everyone who walks through our doors. Thank you for everything you do to make Dover shine.

Summer Maintenance Support

Justin Danner - 1 year

Nena Menard - 1st Summer

Ryan Mitchell - 1 year

Our summer maintenance team has been a tremendous help in preparing our schools for the upcoming year, tackling projects across the district wherever an extra set of hands was needed. A special thank you to Justin and Ryan for returning for their second summer and once again jumping in to support the team with a positive attitude and strong work ethic. We also appreciate Nena for joining the team this summer and making an immediate impact through her willingness to help wherever needed.

Michael Heiland, District Courier - 1 year

Mike played an essential role in preparing for this year's Extended School Year (ESY) program by ensuring materials and resources were delivered to the right places before students arrived. His reliability, responsiveness, and willingness to go the extra mile helped make for a smooth and successful start, and we are grateful for the important role he plays in supporting our students, staff, and schools.

Jacqueline Becker, Computer Technician - 3 years

Jackie was independently nominated by two different departments this month, a reflection of the impact she has across our district. From ensuring new employees have the technology and access they need during onboarding to preparing devices well in advance for the Extended School Year (ESY) program,



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she consistently goes above and beyond with responsiveness, organization, and a commitment to helping others succeed. Her behind-the-scenes work makes a lasting difference for our students, staff, and schools.

Russel Moon, Computer Technician - 9 years & **Michael Parks**, Computer Technician - 24 years

Russ and Michael played an important role in preparing and delivering student iPads ahead of the start of the Extended School Year (ESY) program, ensuring students and staff had the technology they needed from day one. Their reliability, teamwork, and commitment to supporting student learning helped create a seamless start to the program. Thank you both for going the extra mile to ensure our students have the tools they need to succeed.

Trista Morthland, Administrative Assistant - 5 years (Weigelstown Elementary)

Trista has worked tirelessly throughout the summer to prepare for the new school year, from coordinating student registration to ensuring the front office is organized and ready to welcome students, families, and staff. Her positive attitude, attention to detail, and dedication behind the scenes help set the stage for a successful year. Thank you, Trista, for everything you do to support the Dover community.

Heather Thomas, Payroll Coordinator - 21 years

Heather has dedicated countless extra hours to ensure our transition to Skyward has been successful while making certain every employee is paid accurately and on time despite the many challenges that come with implementing a new system. Her commitment to our employees isn't limited to major projects. She consistently goes above and beyond every day, always looking for ways to improve processes and create the best possible employee experience at Dover.

Rebekah Shoemaker, Accounts Receivable and Employee Onboarding - 10 years

Rebekah has been an incredible partner throughout one of our busiest hiring seasons, bringing a positive attitude and a willingness to help wherever needed during her first summer of onboarding. From double-checking paperwork and updating Skyward to connecting with new hires, she has helped ensure every employee begins their Dover journey feeling prepared, welcomed, and set up for success.

Going Above & Beyond

Kelly Funke - Exceptional Children Administrative Assistant - 27 years

Kelly went above and beyond to help ensure a successful start to the Extended School Year (ESY) program by coordinating transportation and purchasing student-specific reinforcers to meet individual needs. These important tasks require significant time and attention in addition to her regular responsibilities, but her dedication to removing barriers and supporting student success never wavers. Thank you, Kelly, for the care and commitment you bring to our students every day.



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Lisa Wilt - Administrative Assistant - 18 years (Middle School)

Lisa has gone above and beyond this summer by stepping up to provide guidance and support for many of the Middle School's day-to-day operations during the principals absence. Her knowledge, flexibility, and willingness to expand her summer hours have helped ensure the building is well prepared to welcome students and staff back in August. Thank you, Lisa, for your dedication and leadership.