



Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School

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October 8, 2019

Dear Paul Erlebach, School Board Members, and Community Members,

It is my pleasure to recognize Neil Patel as this month's Volunteer of the Month.

When thinking about how to honor Neil Patel as this month's Volunteer of the Month, I found myself asking, "How do I put into words what Neil does for staff and students of Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School?" Defining what a volunteer is seemed like a logical first step. According to Cambridge Dictionary, a volunteer is *a person who does something, especially for other people or for an organization, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it*. This definition is true of what Neil does, times ten.

As far back as I can remember, Neil has been a part of the middle school, spending at least two days per week working with teachers and students in the classroom. It all started fourteen years ago when Neil volunteered in the sixth grade classrooms. Since then he moved into the science classrooms and over the years has spread into all subjects. Currently he is working in the 7-8 grade math classroom on a consistent basis, however at the drop of a hat, he will be found doing duties in the MPR and cafeteria, or wherever he feels support is needed. His volunteerism does not stop at working in the school or classrooms. He is an active member of our Day of Service where he spends the entire day ensuring students understand the importance of giving back to your community.

In addition to this, Neil has been a consistent substitute teacher within the district, with a focus on working in the middle school. I know the definition above states that a volunteer does something without the expectation of being paid, however I know that being paid for this act is not the reason Neil does it. He is truly dedicated to our district with the intention of sharing his knowledge and love of learning. All of us at the middle school, both staff and students, consider Neil a member of our school family.

In closing, it is my honor to recognize Neil Patel as this month's Volunteer of the Month. He truly exemplifies all the characteristics of being a volunteer and then some...he brings the office staff coffee, cookies and other treats on a regular basis.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Neah-Kah-Nie School District.

Lori Dilbeck