



**Ventana Vista Elementary School**  
*Catalina Foothills School District*  
6085 N. Kolb Road, Tucson, AZ, 85750  
Office (520) 209-8000

September 13, 2026

Dear Superintendent Bartlett and CFSD School Board Members:

I am honored to nominate Emilie Rubio, President of the Ventana Vista Family Faculty Organization (FFO), for the Super Volunteer Award. Emilie is an extraordinary volunteer whose energy, dedication, creativity, and genuine care for our school community have made an incredible impact on Ventana Vista Elementary School.

Since becoming FFO President, Emilie has worked intentionally to make the FFO more welcoming and inclusive of new families. She has also made strengthening our school culture a priority, finding ways to help teachers and staff feel valued and appreciated. She partners strategically with school leadership to identify ways the FFO can support students, families, and staff and help create a school community where everyone feels connected and valued.

One of Emilie's greatest strengths is her ability to bring people together. She is warm, welcoming, and constantly building connections. She recognizes people's strengths and creates meaningful opportunities for them to participate. She assigns specific roles so volunteers and staff know how they can contribute, making involvement accessible, organized, and successful. Her communication, organization, and follow-through consistently turn ideas into reality.

Emilie is also a true go-getter. She is not afraid to ask for what is needed, share a new idea, or find a better way to accomplish something. When STEAM Week was not working as planned, she transformed Mileage Club into a fundraising event and revamped it to encourage greater participation from students and staff. She continually looks for creative ways to make school events more engaging and meaningful.

Her willingness to support others is equally impressive. When a teacher has an idea for an event, Emilie jumps in to help with planning, organization, and resources. Her support of Loteria is a wonderful example of helping an event grow into a meaningful community experience. She is also partnering with Mrs. Lee to help make Popsta a major choir event for the school year. Emilie does not need to be in the spotlight; she sees what needs to be done and gets to work.

What sets Emilie apart is that she does not view volunteering as simply helping at school events. She takes her role seriously and is deeply invested in making Ventana Vista a place where families and staff feel connected, supported, and part of a positive community where children can thrive. She listens to feedback, collaborates, problem-solves, reflects on what can be improved, and follows through.

Emilie leads with both her head and her heart. She has helped transform our FFO into an energetic, inclusive, collaborative organization that is deeply connected to the life of our school. She consistently goes above and beyond, pouring her time, energy, creativity, and passion into everything she does for Ventana Vista.

Emilie Rubio is an outstanding example of a Super Volunteer, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition. I am proud to nominate her and deeply grateful for the tremendous difference she makes in our school community.

Sincerely,

**Mamie Spillane**

Principal  
Ventana Vista Elementary School