



**WEST CHICAGO
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

— Reach Higher. Achieve Together. —
Alcanza Más. Logrando Juntos.

Board Salute

JoAnn Nelson - Leman Middle School LBS1

Submitted by: Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business & Operations

JoAnn Nelson shows up — not just for her students, but for every family, every colleague, and every moment that matters in this community.

As an LBS1, JoAnn Nelson has dedicated herself to students who need a steady, caring presence — and that is exactly what she provides every single day. She understands that special education is not just about instruction; it is about belonging, trust, and possibility. Her students don't just learn in her classroom — they grow.

JoAnn builds deep, genuine relationships with the families she serves. Parents and guardians know they have a true partner in her — someone who listens, communicates, and advocates tirelessly for their children. That partnership makes all the difference.

Her collaborative spirit extends well beyond her own classroom. JoAnn works hand-in-hand with colleagues across the building, sharing her expertise and lifting up those around her. She makes the entire team stronger.

And if you've ever attended a school event — a concert, a game, a celebration — chances are you've seen JoAnn there. She shows up. Every time. Her presence sends a clear message to students: you matter to me outside of this classroom too.

Congratulations on demonstrating these Portrait of a Teacher traits:

Reflective, Effective Communicator, Lifelong Learner, Dedicated Professional