It is with great enthusiasm that I write this nomination for Alison Benson, our school counselor at Midland Elementary. As someone who brings positive energy, genuine care, and a passion for making our school a better place each day, Mrs. Benson exemplifies what it truly means to go above and beyond for a school community.

Every single day, Mrs. Benson arrives at Midland with a bright, welcoming smile and an unwavering commitment to our students and staff. Her positivity is contagious, setting a calm and uplifting tone for the entire building. No matter how busy her schedule is or how demanding the day becomes, Mrs. Benson is always willing to lend a helping hand, support in a difficult situation, or offer a listening ear.

What sets Mrs. Benson apart is her extraordinary ability to build genuine, trusting relationships across all levels of our school. She creates a safe, nurturing environment where students feel seen, heard, and valued. Whether helping a student work through a tough emotion, leading small-group or whole-class lessons, or giving a quick message of encouragement in the hallway, she ensures every student is noticed and feels welcome at our school.

Mrs. Benson is an essential part of our staff and is an amazing support for our teachers. She proactively collaborates with staff to brainstorm ideas, manage social-emotional challenges, and provide thoughtful resources in an empathetic way.

Families trust Mrs. Benson implicitly because she communicates openly, offers accessible resources, and walks alongside parents during challenging moments. She bridges the gap between home and school with incredible care and respect.

Additionally, Mrs. Benson embodies a growth mindset. She is always looking for ways to make our school a better, safer, and happier place to learn. Her dedication to continuous improvement directly translates into a warmer, more supportive school culture for everyone.

It is rare to find an educator who so seamlessly combines dedication, emotional intelligence, optimism, and an endless drive for excellence. Mrs. Benson is not only an outstanding counselor, but the heart of our elementary school, and she is truly deserving of this recognition.