



**Superintendent of Schools**  
Phone 269-695-8401  
Fax 269-695-8450

401 West Chicago Street  
Buchanan, Michigan 49107

November 13, 2018

Mr. Chris Froelich, Physical Education Teacher  
Buchanan High School

Mr. Froelich:

You were nominated for Buchanan Community Schools' Staff Appreciation, Program. The process to select a winner for the monthly staff appreciation award consists of:

1. Collection of nominee recommendations from parents, students, staff members, community members, and other BCS stakeholders.
2. All names of nominees are placed into a drawing; one name is blindly pulled from the envelope to be selected as the winner of the appreciation award.
3. The winner is then contacted and asked to attend the Board meeting in the month that the selection is made to be presented with a gift, and to be recognized by the Board.

Though you were not selected as the winner for this month of November, we would like to celebrate in acknowledgement by sharing the wonderful accolades that were entered for your nomination this month. Below is the question and response that was submitted.

**What do you appreciate about this person's efforts to make BCS a great place to learn and a great place to work? Please provide as much detail as you wish so we can show our appreciation to this outstanding Buck! \***

*Chris is an amazing source of positivity for our staff. Chris often finds inspirational videos to share at staff meetings to encourage us in what we are doing and boost morale. He does a great job of modeling what it looks like to rise above, stay positive, and remember why we're teachers even when the students are testing us. Chris also develops great relationships with his students and becomes a beacon of light for them as well.*

On behalf of the Board of Education and Administration of Buchanan Community Schools, we thank you for your service and encourage you to keep up the great level of achievement and service to our district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy J. Donahue".

Timothy J. Donahue, Ed.S.  
Superintendent of Schools



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November 13, 2018

Mrs. Jessica Elliott, English Teacher  
Buchanan High School

Mrs. Elliott:

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*Jessica Elliott is an amazing staff member at BHS. Her talents are many as she devotes so much time to giving these talents to the students at BHS. Jessica works tirelessly as the director of the Student Council, Herd Spirit Team, and Yearbook. She makes connections with students as freshmen that last throughout their lifetime. She is an amazing role model for the young people in our building and she never makes a decision without considering what is best for all students. Our activities here at BHS are fabulous and that is a direct result of her organization and attention to detail. She should be recognized for all the amazing things she gives to this school district!*

*These two ladies are rock stars. They did an amazing job planning and executing Homecoming week. With activities after school 3 of the 5 nights they sacrificed time with their families to make sure Homecoming week was a huge hit. These ladies go over the top to support The Herd. The Herd has become a giant part of the school climate for the entire district. The impact The Herd has had on this school is invaluable.*

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November 13, 2018

Mrs. Kristen Wahlstrom  
District Transportation

Mrs. Wahlstrom:

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*Kristen takes very seriously the safety of the children on her bus. There were quite a few less riders on her take home route one afternoon. She knew that our grandson who attends Middle School did not ride the bus home earlier that day. She arrived at our granddaughter's stop (who is a first grader) quite a bit early. Kristen waited while our granddaughter rang the doorbell. When no one answered, Kristen had her get back on the bus and she proceeded on with the route. Kristen recognized our son-in-law's vehicle on his way home and brought Esme back to him. Esme was not even afraid.*

On behalf of the Board of Education and Administration of Buchanan Community Schools, we thank you for your service and encourage you to keep up the great level of achievement and service to our district.

Sincerely,

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November 13, 2018

Mr. Brian Pruett, Assistant Principal  
Buchanan High School

Mr. Pruett:

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*Brian Pruett has been working his butt off in the absence of Stacey DeMaio. He have never complained he just goes about his work. He has picked up the slack and done an amazing job. He has truly gone above and beyond.*

On behalf of the Board of Education and Administration of Buchanan Community Schools, we thank you for your service and encourage you to keep up the great level of achievement and service to our district.

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November 13, 2018

Mrs. Stacey DeMaio, Principal  
Buchanan High School

Mrs. DeMaio:

You were nominated for Buchanan Community Schools' Staff Appreciation, Program. The process to select a winner for the monthly staff appreciation award consists of:

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**What do you appreciate about this person's efforts to make BCS a great place to learn and a great place to work? Please provide as much detail as you wish so we can show our appreciation to this outstanding Buck! \***

*I would like to nominate Stacey DeMaio, Buchanan High School Principal, for the Bucks Staff Appreciation award. Stacey DeMaio is an outstanding principal at BHS and her staff flourishes under her direction. In today's world, education has started to earn a negative connotation. Many teachers complain about their work and their administration on a regular basis. However, for teachers at BHS, that is not the case. In fact, for us, it is the opposite. For teachers at BHS, we praise the leadership, collaboration, and inspiration that we see in our principal, Mrs. DeMaio. Being a teacher is not an easy job. The days are long, the work comes home, and it is mentally, physically, and emotionally exhausting. However, when I think about the support and encouragement that I receive from Stacey, it makes the load seem so much lighter. It is not uncommon for Stacey to pop into our rooms and check in to see how we are doing. She regularly checks in via email, text, the Remind app, handwritten note, and face-to-face communication to give us reminders, keep us on track, and motivate us to be the best teachers we can be. She makes our teaching environment fun and encourages teamwork in every way; by grade level, department, through book studies, and through various special committees. Stacey encourages us to work hard, think outside of the box, and to always keep our students' best interests in mind. I am a very active teacher (Student Council adviser, Spirit Team adviser, and Yearbook adviser), and I can wholeheartedly say that Stacey makes a valiant effort to offer me support and guidance in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities. Even when we have crazy ideas (like a school-wide lip dub during the school day), Stacey does what she can to make every event better for the students and the staff. It is rare to find someone in a leadership position who is so open-minded, approachable, willing to listen, and innovative. It is rare to find a teacher who says "Yes, I feel completely supported by my principal." However, I tell people that on a regular basis. This*

*past year has been undeniably the worst year of Stacey's life. Since finding out about Ian's cancer in February, she has faced struggle after struggle. She has been plagued with doctor's visits, chemotherapy appointments, emergency room visits and more. Even though these things have taken her away from our building for periods of time, she has remained steadfast in her communication with our staff. I am thrilled that Stacey is currently in Texas (as that is where she needs to be and should be), but I am also astounded at her willingness to stay in-tune to our needs at BHS. Even from Ian's bedside, she continues to send texts and emails to bridge any gap that could occur amongst our staff. Her communication and collaboration is outstanding... and I'm not sure I could ever remotely replicate that kind of commitment if I were in her position. I am so thankful to work at BHS with a remarkable staff and fearless leadership. It is my firm belief that our students are so successful because of the positive environment within our school. This environment would not be possible without such awesome leadership. Thank you, Stacey DeMaio, for giving 100% to our students and staff and for inspiring me to do the same. Respectfully, Jessica Elliott*

On behalf of the Board of Education and Administration of Buchanan Community Schools, we thank you for your service and encourage you to keep up the great level of achievement and service to our district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy J. Donahue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timothy J. Donahue, Ed.S.  
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Mr. Mark Hollandsworth,  
Music Education/Band Instructor  
Buchanan High School & Middle School

Mr. Hollandsworth:

You were nominated for Buchanan Community Schools' Staff Appreciation, Program. The process to select a winner for the monthly staff appreciation award consists of:

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*I appreciate his dedication and hard work to our growing band program. He always makes sure that kids reach their full potential by pushing them to the best of their ability. Mr. Hollandsworth has a great impact to the minds and lives of everyone in Buchanan, and he's one person I will definitely miss after graduation. He emphasizes equal opportunity and accountability in both marching and concert settings, so that everyone feels important while having some fun along the way. I admire Mr. Hollandsworth for all the time he puts into our program and it makes me proud to be a member of the Buchanan Bands.*

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November 13, 2018

Mrs. Renee Cornwell, Administrative Assistant to  
Principal  
Buchanan High School

Mrs. Cornwell:

You were nominated for Buchanan Community Schools' Staff Appreciation, Program. The process to select a winner for the monthly staff appreciation award consists of:

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*I would like to nominate Renee Cornwell, Buchanan High School Administrative Assistant to the Principal, for the Bucks Staff Appreciation award. Since my involvement with Buchanan Community Schools began in 2008, I was instantly astounded by Renee Cornwell's upbeat attitude, positive outlook, compassion, and willingness to go the "extra mile." When I started substitute teaching during this time, Renee was the Administrative Assistant at Buchanan Middle School. She welcomed me into the building and immediately made me feel welcomed and valued. That year, she even went out of her way to help me fill needed sub jobs in the building; which ensured that good classroom substitutes were being sought for the district. When I completed my secondary education classes and began seeking out student teaching internships, I was placed at BHS. I was delighted to find that Renee Cornwell was now working in the building I would be student-teaching. Since then, I have only grown to appreciate and admire Renee's work ethic and undeniable passion for the community of Buchanan and its schools. The job of an Administrative Assistant is thankless. It is tiresome and it is chaotic. At any given moment, this person is answering the doors and doing his or her best to direct visitors while keeping our school safe. He or she has a day full of interruptions from students, staff, substitutes, parents, principals, the business office, athletics, and other guests. The phone rings incessantly. Emails flood inboxes. And all of this, plus so much more I have not mentioned, leaves little time to complete one simple task entirely before being forced in another direction. Renee Cornwell handles all of these tasks with efficiency, grace, and a smile. She is the epitome of what an Administrative Assistant can be at the position's full capacity. (In fact, I've often heard teachers at other districts exclaim that they could only dream of having an Administrative Assistant like Renee.)*

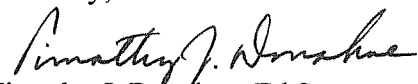


*Aside from her secretarial duties, Renee goes above and beyond to support our staff and students. She takes time to show interest in our teachers' lives and well-being. She attends various sporting and extra-curricular activities to build up and support our student body. She has planned various events that range from After Prom to Girls Be Positive to Frank Mucha's beautiful memorial service... tasks and responsibilities that are in no way included in her "job description." Renee works diligently for this district with humility and selflessness. Even when she faces adversity, difficulties, and what may seem like insurmountable obstacles, she chooses to rise above and to be an example of love. Above all, Renee acts out of pride and deep affection for Buchanan and she always keeps our students' best interests in mind. She is, without doubt, what every Buck should be. These two ladies are rock stars. They did an amazing job planning and executing Homecoming week. With activities after school 3 of the 5 nights they sacrificed time with their families to make sure Homecoming week was a huge hit. These ladies go over the top to support The Herd. The Herd has become a giant part of the school climate for the entire district. The impact The Herd has had on this school is invaluable.*

*I feel strongly that Renee is the heartbeat of the High School. For many staff and students she is the primary source for questions, information and advice. She does so many things for the students, staff, parents and administrators. She is a master of multitasking and always willing to help in a selfless way. Often times the support she provides comes at the cost of personal time. This building would not function smoothly without her. On a personal note when I was absent from school for some medical issues she stayed in constant contact with me and my family. The support I felt was amazing. I will carry a lifetime of debt to her. I am honored to call her a colleague and friend. This building is better because she is here.*

On behalf of the Board of Education and Administration of Buchanan Community Schools, we thank you for your service and encourage you to keep up the great level of achievement and service to our district.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Donahue, Ed.S.  
Superintendent of Schools



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November 13, 2018

Mrs. Stacey Lee, Special Education  
Buchanan Middle School

Mrs. Lee:

You were nominated for Buchanan Community Schools' Staff Appreciation, Program. The process to select a winner for the monthly staff appreciation award consists of:

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**What do you appreciate about this person's efforts to make BCS a great place to learn and a great place to work? Please provide as much detail as you wish so we can show our appreciation to this outstanding Buck! \***

*She makes all the kids feel welcomed and loved. She tries to help all kids even if there not in her class. She goes above and beyond to help kids if they need food or a person to cry to. She is also great with parents and helping other staff. Many kids would lost if she wasn't here.*

On behalf of the Board of Education and Administration of Buchanan Community Schools, we thank you for your service and encourage you to keep up the great level of achievement and service to our district.

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Mrs. Melissa Frost, Science Teacher  
Buchanan High School

Mrs. Frost:

You were nominated for Buchanan Community Schools' Staff Appreciation, Program. The process to select a winner for the monthly staff appreciation award consists of:

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*Melissa has spent numerous hours with kindergarten and first grade teacher's on the science vertical team to rework our Battle Creek science journals to better fit our students' needs. She has redesigned the journals to focus on the power standards necessary for student success and helped to make them much more developmentally appropriate for our youngest Bucks'. Her knowledge about her content area is top notch and she has an innate ability to help boost our confidence. She understands our frustration with having to teach all curriculum areas and is always available to help. After spending this time with Melissa I feel much more confident about my ability to teach science and even a little more excited!! I am proud to work with someone so professional and caring.*

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November 13, 2018

Mrs. Lisa Holok, Language Arts/P.E. Teacher  
Buchanan High School

Mrs. Holok:

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*Lisa Holok is a tremendous teacher at Buchanan High School. She makes connections with so many students year after year. She is able to reach and relate to students of all types with her loving and dynamic personality. She is also a director of the Student Council, Herd Spirit Team, and runs the Blood Drives at BHS. Through all of these channels she makes BHS a place that students want to come to learn and come to experience high school at its best. She has kept students in school that have wanted to leave, just by making them feel special and welcome at BHS. This building would not be the same without her and she deserves to be recognized for being an amazing educator every single day.*

*These two ladies are rock stars. They did an amazing job planning and executing Homecoming week. With activities after school 3 of the 5 nights they sacrificed time with their families to make sure Homecoming week was a huge hit. These ladies go over the top to support The Herd. The Herd has become a giant part of the school climate for the entire district. The impact The Herd has had on this school is invaluable.*

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