



Nomination for the E+ Team Award: Digital Teaching & Learning Specialist Team

Dear Committee,

I am pleased to nominate the Digital Teaching & Learning Team of Specialists, consisting of Alan Rhees, Blake Pope, Monica Widdison, and Jaymee Barrowes, for their exceptional contributions to our district's educational technology efforts. Each member of this team brought a wealth of experience as respected leaders in their respective buildings, and together, they form an outstanding support system that many teachers and administrators rely on daily.

Last year, the team successfully led the district through a monumental transition from MyStudent to PowerSchool. Guiding full faculties through such a change was a massive undertaking, and it is no exaggeration to say that the transition went as smoothly as it did because of this team's expertise and dedication. They worked hand-in-hand with Tech Services to ensure seamless integration, always staying behind the scenes but consistently ensuring that everything was running efficiently.

Their dedication extends well beyond major transitions. Every day, this team responds to calls from administrators, teachers, and staff members needing help with technology integration, classroom solutions, or troubleshooting. Not a day goes by without one of them stepping in to support a struggling educator or school. Whether it's a 7 a.m. meeting at WestField or a late afternoon session at Valley Elementary, or anywhere in between, this team is always there, guiding teachers and staff in enhancing their technology skills and integrating edtech tools effectively.

The scale of their work is staggering. Last year alone, they completed over 350 support tickets, averaging several requests per day per team member. This level of commitment speaks to their work ethic and their deep care for the people they serve. They carry the weight of edtech training for more than 1,800 staff members across the district, handling this responsibility with professionalism, patience, and grace.

Moreover, the team plays a crucial role in the success of our annual Learn Conference, attended by over 500 teachers. Whether they are running sessions or managing the backchannel, their involvement is pivotal. Each team member takes on an enormous load, ensuring the conference is engaging and impactful for all participants.

What truly sets this team apart is their commitment to lifelong learning. Each member continually strives to stay on the cutting edge of educational technology, not only improving their own skills but also serving as role models for educators throughout the district. Their dedication to innovation, growth, and excellence makes them indispensable to our schools.

For these reasons and many more, I wholeheartedly recommend Alan Rhees, Blake Pope, Monica Widdison, and Jaymee Barrowes for this well-deserved recognition. They embody the spirit of collaboration, service, and leadership, and their impact on our district is immeasurable.

Sincerely,

Nick Harris
Director, Digital Teaching & Learning