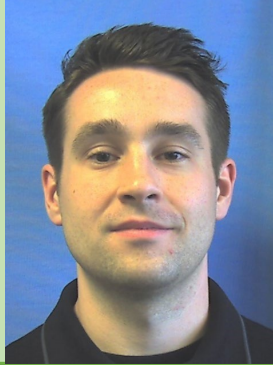


Leading Learning Award September 2024



Nick Veldkamp

“Nick Veldkamp's professional contribution to Kent ISD's Adult Education program has both quantitatively and qualitatively improved programming for adult learners and allowed for staff to serve student technology and digital literacy needs with increased ease. Over the years, I have often witnessed Nick's consistent willingness to assist staff beyond IT installation or troubleshooting needs. This includes but is not limited to, suggesting creative ideas for technology use in adult programming, along with navigating Google applications and Microsoft products for presentation or data amalgamation needs.

Nick has been facilitating the many challenges that result from a program location move or construction project - the adult education program is currently experiencing both.

The entire adult education team thanks Nick for demonstrating unconditional patience, dedication, and professionalism in the pursuit of service to Kent ISD's Adult Education Program.”



Karrie Smith

“Karrie and I have worked together for over a year in the Elementary ASD classroom at Pine Grove. This year, I have watched Karrie put students first every single day. She does this by prioritizing her relationships with students, allowing them to feel comfortable to be themselves around her. She has been a leader in providing instruction based on joy, student interest, and assent. I feel that she has also helped me become a better educator. In our discussions, her level-headed input helps me make better decisions for our classroom. Overall, her patience, quiet strength, and ability to see the good in everyone (staff and students) have made her an invaluable teammate in our classroom and at Pine Grove Learning Center.”