

Putnam City Schools  Foundation  
*presents the*



**2020-2021**

*Golden Apple  
Awards*

**APRIL 19, 2021**

# Welcome

The Putnam City Schools Foundation is pleased to present the Golden Apple Awards. With a mission to enhance and enrich the educational opportunities of children in Putnam City Schools, we are proud to acknowledge so many outstanding individuals who work diligently to provide our students with the highest level of support during an especially challenging year.

This year's stellar nominees made the task of choosing winners extremely difficult. We are grateful for each person who took time to nominate these worthy individuals. We are thankful for the Golden Apple Selection Committee, made up of volunteers from throughout the school district, whose efforts during this entire process were exemplary.

Congratulations to the 2020-2021 Golden Apple Award winners! We look forward to watching your continued impact on the students of Putnam City Schools.

*Sponsored by*



# *Golden Apple Award Winners*

2020-2021

**Terry Kimberling**

Harvest Hills Elementary

**Courtney Krodel**

Information Technology

**Alex Martinez**

Central Elementary

**Marie Page**

Putnam City North High School

**Stephanie Russell**

Coronado Heights Elementary

**Evangeline Smith**

Western Oaks Elementary

*The purpose of the Golden Apple is to  
define, recognize, and reward excellence  
in education for personnel and patrons of  
Putnam City Schools.*

*Terry Kimberling*  
HARVEST HILLS ELEMENTARY  
LEAD CUSTODIAN

**Terry Kimberling** is the lead custodian at Harvest Hills Elementary and has worked in the Putnam City School District for 40 years. He is held in high regard for his thoughtfulness and caring attitude, often going above and beyond his regular duties with random acts of kindness. Terry is known for his proactive approach to his work and concern for making the school a safe and clean environment for students and staff. He makes it a point to understand each teacher's needs and preferences so their classrooms are always equipped and cleaned according to their requests.

Quotes from those who nominated Terry:

- *"Terry's daily efforts make our lives so much easier and in turn help us be better teachers. He lightens our load so we are able to focus on educating the future."*
- *"He is always putting people's needs above his own. He goes to great lengths to make sure we have what we need and is always there to help. He is one of the hardest workers I know."*
- *"Terry lives to be an inspiration to others. He writes uplifting posts and lets people know they are genuinely cared for."*

*Courtney Krodel*  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
HELP DESK

**Courtney Krodel** has worked in the district for three years as the voice of the Information Technology Department's help desk, and in that time has made a huge impact on staff and students. Her exceptional work ethic and positive attitude were integral to the success of the district's transition to distance learning in response to the pandemic. During the month of August, she worked 12-15 hour days, six days a week preparing iPads for students and laptops for teachers so they would have the tools they needed for virtual learning. Courtney is highly respected for her professionalism and service-minded dedication to her work. She consistently exhibits grace under pressure with a positive attitude and a kind and helpful voice. Staff members know that when help is needed, Courtney will be there to save the day!

Quotes from those who nominated Courtney:

- *"Every single day Courtney goes the extra mile to ensure our district employees feel empowered and cared for."*
- *"She is kind, funny, and always finds a way to smile and add humor to situations that might otherwise be frustrating."*
- *"Courtney's dedication was and continues to be a factor in the district's ability to be flexible in our instructional delivery."*

*Alex Martinez*  
CENTRAL ELEMENTARY  
TEACHING ASSISTANT

In just two years as a Teaching Assistant at Central Elementary, **Alex Martinez** has made quite an impact on the students, families and staff. From serving as the school's technology guru, substituting in several grades, and even acting as a second physical education teacher, he is always available to fill in wherever help is needed, even when it's outside the scope of his position. Alex's spirit of service was no more evident than when he saw families struggling during the pandemic. Quickly stepping into action, he collaborated with his church to offer Central's students a safe place to go for Wi-Fi access, tutoring, and meals which he had donated. He is truly an asset to the district.

Quotes from those who nominated Alex:

- *"The world needs more Alexes. He has been an absolute blessing to all who have had the privilege of knowing him."*
- *"His positive, nurturing, and fun-loving demeanor helped him build and maintain relationships with students of all ages."*
- *"Mr. Martinez is a living example of Putnam City's mission and goals. He is consistently involved in the Putnam City community and collaborates with teachers and staff. His motivation is to help students thrive and succeed."*

*Marie Page*  
PUTNAM CITY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL  
DECA TEACHER

**Marie Page** has been with Putnam City Schools for over 20 years. Mama Page, as she is lovingly referred to by students and staff alike, is known for her spirit of giving, words of encouragement, and support for a myriad of causes important to students. In addition to teaching them about marketing and entrepreneurship in her role as DECA Teacher, her students learn life skills. She excels at establishing long-lasting relationships with her students. Marie often works with “problem” students, taking them under her wing and getting them to see that they have worth and value. Both former students and distance students reach out to her for advice and just to keep in touch.

Quotes from those who nominated Marie:

- *“...we are called as educators to act in loco parentis, in place of parents. There is no greater indication that someone is doing just that than being granted the honorary title of “Mama Page.”*
- *“She goes above and beyond for her students and her co-workers.”*
- *“Marie and her diligent efforts have a positive impact on the lives of her students...She plants the seeds of confidence and integrity, while forging genuine and supportive relationships.”*

# *Stephanie Russell*

CORONADO HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

TITLE ONE TEACHING ASSISTANT & VOLUNTEER

In twelve years of involvement at Coronado, **Stephanie Russell** has served as homeroom parent, PTO volunteer, and for the last four years as a staff member in the role of Teaching Assistant and Substitute. She is admired for her quiet, reassuring presence, positive attitude and her contagious smile. Stephanie is always willing to help in any way possible and is the first to volunteer whether it is providing snacks for special activities, fundraising, or making sure the teachers have the extra supplies they need. She is a shining example of the profound and lasting impact investing in children has.

Quotes from those who nominated Stephanie:

- *“When I reflect upon what a great educator should be, Stephanie comes to mind...I know she will do whatever it takes to ensure that we are always doing what is best for our kids.”*
- *“She is extremely patient and encouraging with our struggling students as she helps them learn and feel successful.”*
- *“The students and faculty whom Stephanie touches everyday in car line, the lunchroom, small group, or in the hallway are blessed beyond measure by her kind smile.”*

# *Evangeline “Vangie” Smith*

WESTERN OAKS ELEMENTARY

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER & VOLUNTEER

For over two decades, **Vangie Smith** has been an irreplaceable member of the Western Oaks Elementary family. She volunteers, substitutes, serves on the PTO, and works in the After School Daycare. At a time in life when many people retire, Vangie displays incredible energy in whatever role she takes. In everything she does she goes above and beyond in her efforts. Those who know her describe her as dedicated, flexible, and dependable. This is reflected in her willingness to help at a moment's notice, whether in the office, in the classroom, or translating during parent/teacher conferences with Spanish-speaking patrons. Vangie is highly revered by students and staff alike.

Quotes from those who nominated Vangie:

- *“Anytime a teacher needs someone to fill in, they contact Vangie first because they know she will make sure the students in the classroom are taken care of and that they will learn. We teachers often worry when we leave our students in someone else’s hands for the day, but not when we know Vangie is there.”*
- *“The students love and respect her just as much as their own teacher.”*
- *“She cares deeply for our children and staff, and that dedication is seen in the number of hours she puts in, paid and unpaid.”*

## *About the Foundation*

For over 30 years, the Putnam City Schools Foundation has invested more than \$3.5 million to meet the needs of students, families, and educators within our district.

With a volunteer board comprised of parents, alumni, and community leaders, as well as two staff members, we continually strive to achieve our mission of enhancing and enriching educational opportunities of children in Putnam City Schools.

Through our varied avenues of support, such as Early Birds, English Language Literacy Classes, Community Fund, YES! Grants, and scholarships for both students and teachers, we aim to continue the tradition of excellence in Putnam City Schools.

To learn more about the Putnam City Schools Foundation and how you can help impact our community, visit our website [www.pcf4kids.org](http://www.pcf4kids.org) or connect with us on social media.

@pcf4kids



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