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Dale Layne, Superintendent of Schools



Jerome School District and Jiffy Lube/Burton Group announce the **Excellence in Education** recipients for February 2019: *Aimee Mangum, Jerome Middle School Teacher; Jennifer Browne, Horizon Elementary School Teacher; and Lisa Peterson, Jerome Middle School Special Education Para Professional.*

The **Excellence in Education** award recognizes the outstanding work by the staff in the district and schools. The Jerome School District Superintendent, along with a committee of representatives from each building, reviews nominations received by staff, parents, students and community members, and then each month selects 1 elementary certified, 1 secondary certified, and 1 classified staff member consisting of para-professionals, maintenance, food service, secretaries, to receive the award.

Guidelines for selection are:

- Recipients must be a current employee of the Jerome School District; for Certified Nominations: recipient must hold a valid Idaho teacher or pupil personnel certificate; for Classified Nominations: recipient must be employed in any non-certified position;
- Administrators are not eligible for this recognition;
- Students, parents, administrators, or fellow staff members may nominate the individual;
- *The recognition is for those who go above and beyond in making difference in the life of an individual student or lives of a group of students.*

The Excellence in Education Award recipients for February, 2019 are:

Elementary certified recipient: Jennifer Browne. *With 9 years teaching experience, Jennifer has taught 1st Grade and Kindergarten for those years at Horizon Elementary School. She was nominated by a Special Education Teacher, who wrote the following: I would like to start this nomination with a quote. Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be. –Rita Pierson This quote sums up the teacher ... As a special education teacher, I am in contact with a student's general education teacher, to ensure that the special education students are getting their academic needs met. Jenni Browne is a teacher that always comes to me to her to ensure that the students are getting their needs met both academically and behaviorally. Jenni and I have shared some severe behavior students through my time*

here at Horizon Elementary. There are three students that she has had some major impact that we have shared: The first student is in 2nd grade now. He was a high needs student both academically and behaviorally. He repeated first grade. His repeat year in first grade, was with Mrs. Browne ... through his time in Mrs. Browne's class he learned how to be a student. Mrs. Browne took the kid that refused to do his academic work his first year in first grade, to a student reading off his sight words and working his math facts to the best of his abilities in second grade. The next student is now in third grade. He refused to go into his specials (PE & Music), Mrs. Brown and I came up with plans to help this student slowly get into his PE class and music class to participate. He would stand by the doors during this time watching the students. He slowly made his way in to both classes. He is now playing the ukulele with his 3rd grade class in front of an audience for a performance. The third student was an academic need. She was able to keep up with the class at the start of the school year, and the decision was made to keep her in her classroom with Mrs. Browne. She has continued to be successful with Mrs. Browne giving her needed accommodations and modifications. The student's boost in self-esteem shines through. This is thanks to Mrs. Browne believing in her abilities. Mrs. Browne has been a stepping stone to these students success. I have known Mrs. Browne to always be in contact with parents, always keeping them informed about their children. She is adaptable, friendly, and empathetic and it is clear she loves her job. Mrs. Browne sees student's potential, and gives the student the opportunity to succeed. It is clear that she is passionate about teaching and working with children.

Secondary certified recipient: *Aimee Mangum.* *As a Jerome Middle School Teacher, Aimee, has taught in the district for 4 years. She was nominated by a Middle School Team Teacher, with these comments:* Mrs. Mangum is a selfless, caring teacher. For the last four years she has worked extremely hard to do and advocate for what is best for all students not just her own. Even as a brand new teacher she volunteered for committees and made sure that she was involved in the school as a whole so that she could make informed decisions about her teaching. She worked on making assessments/rubrics for different subjects and then shared them with her team. Everything that she does in the education field is for what she feels is best for her students. She attended RTI, PBIS, and school board meetings, on her own time to better educate herself in order to serve her students. At the Middle School she helps on the behavior committee and again spends a lot of her own time helping other teachers with challenging behavior from students. She is an excellent coworker who offers support and encouragement to her fellow teachers. When she sees students in need she has no problem reaching into her own pocket to make sure her students do not go without. She has purchased clothes, food, and school supplies, with her own money, so the students are better prepared to learn at school and not just worry where their next meal or dry clothes will come from. Once when she couldn't get a hold of a parent she drove to their work to talk to them and help them understand what types of things she felt would help that specific child succeed in school. I feel this teacher is the definition of the Excellence in Education with how she goes above and beyond for her students, her school, and her town. Mrs. Mangum is also an active part of the Jerome Booster club and has spent countless hours of her own time and money, volunteering in places like the concession stand at the football games, countless booster meetings, as well as making food for coaches' meetings and taking the meal to Twin Falls and other places.

Classified staff recipient: Lisa Peterson. *As a Special Education Para Professional at the Jerome Middle School, Lisa has been employed with the district for 14 years. Lisa was nominated by a Middle School Special Education Teacher, and the nomination included this information:* Mrs. Peterson overcomes personal adversity each day and puts the student's needs in front of her own as she makes sure they are getting a high quality education. Mrs. Peterson monitors the Health Care Plans, and Behavior Plans with regard to Medicaid billing. In addition she executes a regular probe schedule of the students IEP goals. The attention to detail that she is capable of providing ensures that the students continue to grow and learn in the areas that the IEP team has determined are essential for the child's development. In addition her meticulous maintaining of accurate billing records help increase financial resources which help to deliver essential services to her students. Mrs. Peterson is a person of high moral character and is an outstanding role model for her students and peers. She is highly respected in the building and community. She will advocate for students and their needs often bringing a much needed perspective to the student's developmental progress.

The ***Excellence in Education Award*** program began in 2016 and continues through the 2018-19 school year and has recognized the district's outstanding teachers and classified staff each month, for a full list of award recipients contact the district office. The Jerome School District presents each recipient a plaque with a \$50 gift card provided by Jiffy Lube/Burton Group at the monthly school board meetings.