



RSU 57 MODEL MUSTANG STAFF
April 2026



Staff Name	Location/Role	Why are they a Model Mustang?
Abby Miller	Waterboro Elementary School	Abby's students love her. Her past students visit her and students that didn't even have her light up when they see her. Kids aren't the only ones that love Abby. As a colleague she is always ready to collaborate and share but also to be a calm, trustworthy, and flexible person with an Office quote at just the right moment.
Andrea DeSimone	Waterboro Elementary School	Andrea truly shines in her ability to connect with those around her. She puts deep thought into her teaching and always strives for the highest levels of achievement. Because she works so hard to build positive, trusting relationships with her students while still holding them to high standards, she is able to bring out the very best in every child in her classroom.
Beth Ball	Waterboro Elementary School	Beth greets each person at WES with warmth and a kind smile! The care that she has for each student she works with is evident through her patient and calm presence. Beth is always positive and encouraging students as well as staff-- she makes everyone feel welcome!
Bill Knight	Transportation	Bill is always great about making sure the students he transports are safe and happy! Parents know they can count on Bill for a safe environment. Bill is always willing to give coworkers a hand if needed.
Carla Kelly	Lyman Elementary School	Carla is an incredible educator and co-worker. She is always willing to lend a hand when needed and strives to meet her students where they are at. She gives so much of herself without expecting anything in return. Her passion and creativity for teaching (with both her Pre-K students and student interns) are limitless. She is always thinking "outside the box" and looking to add new skills to her seemingly infinite toolbox. She is Mary Poppins and Miss Frizzle all wrapped into one exceptional human and she is the embodiment of what it means to love what you do.



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Carlee Michaud	Waterboro Elementary School	Carlee has a heart of gold and is very compassionate and kind to the students and staff. She is a big part of our Backpack Program and Food Pantry at our school and goes out of her way to shop and put together numerous bags of groceries and gifts for the students throughout the year. She is very supportive and is a great mentor to many students at WES. We love having Carlee at WES and are very fortunate to have such a wonderful person at our school! She is also very helpful in the office when needed.
Chris Lancaster	Transportation	Chris has not missed a day of work this year! He is here and ready to work, often taking trips at the end of the day to help out with sports at a moment's notice! Thank you, Chris! For all you do for transportation!
Darla McCann	Shapleigh Memorial School	Darla makes such great connections with all of her students! She's an amazing advocate for her students and they're all so lucky to have her by her side. Her students look forward to being with her everyday. I've been so lucky to witness her bond with my own child and I couldn't be more thankful! Thank you for being you Darla!
Dave Hall	Alfred Elementary School	Dave is being nominated as a Model Mustang because he is the epitome of a team player. He routinely looks for ways to help and oftentimes is already stepping in to assist with something before he is even asked. His flexibility and willingness to support our school is always because it is in the best interest of kids. Dave's "how can I help" attitude is genuine and truly makes a difference in our school community. Thank you Dave for your passion and commitment to making our school the best it can be for our students!
Diego Diaz	Alfred Elementary School/Operations	Diego has been a huge help training a new custodial employee at a different school. He made the transition for the employee and school much smoother. He also continues to take his job at Alfred Elementary very seriously and continues to care for the school on a nightly basis. Thank you Diego!
Hanna Kerr	Massabesic Middle School	Hanna has been a great addition to our team! She is always ready to jump in and take on tasks when needed. She is friendly and welcoming to staff, students and parents. Hanna is willing to go above and beyond to help parents when they are having difficulty registering students for sports or just needing a password reset. Always Ready, Responsible and Respectful!!



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Heather Mayo	Transportation	Heather is always willing to help out where help is needed. Whether it is an extra run or going to pick up a bus that has been repaired. She always has a positive attitude and stands up for what is right. Whom ever she encounters throughout the day you usually see them laughing or smiling after. She truly cares about the children on her bus!! Heather is a genuinely kind and thoughtful person!!
Jason Cassette	Transportation	Jason is always willing to help. Whenever extra needs to be done he steps up and volunteers to assist. He is here everyday and we appreciate that! Thank you, Jason! For all you do!
Jillian Towne	Waterboro Elementary School	Jillian has been an incredible addition to the WES team, bringing a high level of creativity and innovation to her classroom. She is a dedicated teacher who consistently designs engaging lessons that spark genuine curiosity in her students. By prioritizing individual connections, she ensures that every child feels seen and supported in their learning journey.
Jim Farias	Technology	Jim is always ready to help with all of our questions. Jim is friendly and knowledgeable and shows great patience with our staff. Thank you!!
Jodi Winn	Waterboro Elementary School	Jodi embodies the ideal educator that every parent hopes for. She balances high expectations and student accountability with a kind, supportive approach. By consistently finding creative ways to extend learning and challenge her students, she ensures every child reaches their potential. Her professional and respectful communication with families ensures a strong bridge between school and home, making her a true Model Mustang.
John Carter	Waterboro Elementary School/Custodial	I'd like to recognize John for stepping in to assist with grounds work at WES. His willingness to support the grounds department - an essential part of our operations team - demonstrates a strong commitment to teamwork and collaboration. Efforts like this reflect our shared dedication to working together as one unified district, always ready to support one another to keep things running smoothly.
Joseph Polletta	Technology	Always so friendly, helpful, accommodating and especially patient! He came to switch out my broken laptop and helped me every step of the way. Extremely knowledgeable!



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Karen Shirk	Massabesic High School	Karen has been making a conscious effort to implement evidence based practice approaches she has learned from in-services for MHS Life Skills students, such as being a communication detective, honoring multimodal communication attempts, and validating different perspectives. This has resulted in increased connections with the students, an explosion of language development, and being better attuned to student needs. The growth Karen has made is palpable by students and staff members. A big thanks for the shifts you have already made and here's to your continued journey!
Katherine Fournier	Massabesic High School	Katherine consistently goes above and beyond for her students, ensuring each one feels heard and included. Most recently, she took the lead in launching a new club called the Inclusive Adventures Club. The group will focus on social skills, physical movement, creating new experiences and fostering a willingness to learn and try new things within a comforting and inclusive environment for students with and without disabilities. Way to go Katherine!
Kristin Nason	East Building	Kris has helped me so much this year, and is a great mentor. She brings so much knowledge and positivity. Kris is always on top of her work and looking to help others.
Kristin Nason	East Building/Special Education	Kristin is always upbeat and always has a smile on her face. Running into her in the hallway is guaranteed to brighten your day. She is also an incredible baker and occasionally brings in delicious snacks to share with those of us lucky enough to be in the East Building.
Kristina Bear	Alfred Elementary School	Kris is a trusted colleague and friend to the entire Alfred staff. Her positive energy is contagious. She loves her class and every child in her class is made to feel special. She is constantly trying out new ideas and sharing what she learns with others.
Laurie Knight	Transportation	Laurie wears many hats here in transportation. She is not only a dispatcher but also a daily driver lately. She makes sure that all sports trips are filled, even if that means she has to stay late to ensure the teams have a ride back afterwards. She was even given an award by the High School wrestling team-recognized as DRIVER OF THE YEAR! She is amazing at everything she does. The district is lucky to have such a dedicated driver!



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Laurie Knight	Transportation	I would like to nominate Laurie Knight as a Model Mustang for her dedication, fairness, and commitment to our district. Laurie plays a vital role in the office, handling dispatch, answering parent calls, and organizing trips and sports transportation for the entire district. Her ability to manage so many moving parts with professionalism and care does not go unnoticed. In addition to her office responsibilities, Laurie steps in to drive a bus when needed, always ensuring that students are transported safely and reliably. She leads trip meetings with honesty and fairness, creating a respectful and trustworthy environment for everyone involved. Despite having a very busy life, Laurie consistently makes time to check in with drivers, offering support and making sure everyone feels heard and valued. Laurie truly represents what it means to be a Model Mustang through her hard work, integrity, and dedication to both students and staff.
Liane Farias	East Building	Liane and her ed techs have been working with an especially challenging student in their room whom they are doing their best with. The challenges that the student has exhibited are extremely difficult, but Liane and her staff have been doing their best to meet the needs of this student while still meeting the needs of all of the students in their program. They have been pushed to be creative, patient and determined and they are doing extremely well. Keep it up!
Liane Renaud	Massabesic High School	Liane is the brain of Massabesic High School. She is organized beyond belief and helps teachers, staff, and admin with ANY issue or question with a smile. She is incredibly knowledgeable about each and every aspect of running this building. Her wealth of information paired with her patient kindness is appreciated and revered. Liane is who keeps our Mustangs running strong!
Lindsay Geno	Massabesic Middle School	Lindsay cares for all her students. She works closely with staff, students, and their families to ensure each student has the physical, educational, and social-emotional support they need. She always has a smile for everyone she comes across.



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Marisa Penny	Shapleigh Memorial School	Marisa is a true example of a hands on and hard working principal leader. She has a calm and positive demeanor that builds connections with her staff. Staff and students feel like a valued member of a school team. She just doesn't manage a school, but has created a culture of belonging for all. She can be tough when needed and lend a listening ear as well. Truly impressed how she is everywhere at once and hardly ever in her office. She is always in classrooms and supporting teachers. Marisa is an inspirational leader and Shapleigh Elementary is better due to her presence!
Mark Mercier	Massabesic High School	Mark goes above and beyond to help students achieve their potential. He has contacted other teachers that might have students in common to uncover patterns in work habits and strengths or weaknesses across curricula. He devotes his time and energy after school compiling this data and spending time working with students who might need the extra support to reach their goals and meet or exceed standards.
Mary Gogia	East Building	Mary is a wonderful person who brings compassion and a smile each day to our East Building. She has transformed our entry way making it a fun, energetic place to walk into everyday! You don't realize how much of an impact your surroundings have on you until you don't have it. She decorates for each holiday promptly and provides goodies from time to time. She is the best!!!
Deputy Matt Cummer	Massabesic High School	Deputy Cummer came to our Freshman English classes, presenting on the laws with traffic stops to add important context to our book unit. He did a presentation for about 6 different classes over the course of 2 days, explaining the case law and making himself available for questions. On top of that, he did a 24 hour polar plunge to raise money for the Special Olympics in Maine! Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and being a role model to our students!
Matt Wellwood	Waterboro Elementary School/Custodial	I want to recognize Matt for his vigilance in identifying safety hazards and maintaining the integrity and safety of WES, both inside and out. He is always looking for ways to support and improve things throughout the school, and his proactiveness ensures that our environment remains safe and well maintained. Thank you, Matt!



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Mathew Wellwood	Waterboro Elementary School/Custodial	Matt is such a wonderful addition to our school. He is very hard working and rarely idle. He recently picked up lots of garbage that was found on the school's property from cars that pass by. He also removed several broken pieces of tar from the playground. He helped to rake the wood chips in the playground to cushion areas where the playground equipment needed it. He is very friendly to the staff and students and we appreciate everything he does to help make our school clean.
Melissa Martell	Massabesic High School/Operations	Melissa has made a great addition to our team. Teachers in her section have been telling us how much of a difference she is making in their classrooms.
Mildred Axelsen	Waterboro Elementary School	Mili is such a hard worker. She is dedicated to every student she works with. Her students love her and can tell how much she cares about them. She is easy to speak with and ask for advice. She is a wonderful resource for Waterboro teachers.
Missy Knight	Transportation	I would like to nominate Missy Knight for Model Mustang. Missy is an essential part of our team, working behind the scenes in the office to keep everything running smoothly. She handles dispatch, answers parent calls with patience and professionalism, assists drivers with questions, organizes routes, and even pulls camera footage when needed. On top of all that, she is always willing to step in and drive a van when necessary. Missy consistently goes above and beyond without seeking recognition. Her flexibility, reliability, and dedication do not go unnoticed. She plays a critical role in supporting both staff and students, and her calm, can-do attitude makes a difference every single day. Missy truly embodies what it means to be a Model Mustang.
Missy Knight	Transportation	Missy does her job with a calm professionalism that is inspiring. On a typical day she deals with hundreds of different requests, logistics, problems, in a fast paced environment where everything moves quickly. She handles all this with a kind attitude, a smile, and a genuine caring for all. I would nominate the other support staff and supervisors of transportation as well. This is incredible to witness on a daily basis. All the drivers are the unsung heroes. The level of being responsible for transporting precious cargo day in and day out is not long on me and they have my utmost respect and prayers daily for safety. My hats off to all!



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Nancy Grose	District	Nancy has gone above and beyond her primary role by integrating sign language instruction into our daily routine. Her kind spirit and willingness to share her knowledge encourages even the most hesitant learners to participate. By sharing her expertise, she has left a lasting mark on our class, not just by teaching us how to sign, but teaching us how to care.
Pam Ledoux	Massabesic Middle School	Pam is always upbeat and ready for whatever comes along! She has a great attitude and it shows when you walk into the office. Pam is a master at spreadsheets and is extremely organized. Teachers and students alike know Pam is the person to see if they need test scores, forms, or answers! If she doesn't know the answer right away, she will research and find out. We are so fortunate to have Pam back here at MMS and part of our team!
Richie Newton	Transportation	Richie is a transportation director who goes above and beyond every day, ensuring everything runs smoothly. He is here at 4:15am every morning and doesn't leave, some days till well after the last bus parks.
Rob Pellerin	Massabesic Middle School	Rob has been an asset to our district, he is knowledgeable, professional, kind. He is always looking for ways to connect with students in a positive manner and bring his passion to boots on the ground work with the student body. Thanks for being you and a great team member!
Steve Smith	East Building/Food Service	Steve shows up every day, is consistent, and is friendly. He has been a shining face for our East students day in and day out with lunch and breakfast. These students thrive on routine, and he provides that. The kids knowing what to expect each day starts them off right, and Steve helps do that! Thanks, Steve!
Tim French	Operations/Grounds	Tim has come on board and immediately added a positive attitude to the grounds department. He jumps into any task and is always looking to stay busy-thank you Tim!
Tina Stearns	Transportation	Tina is absolutely the best person that really loves her job and the children she transports! She creates such a loving and positive atmosphere for students and coworkers! Thank you for always being a ray of sunshine!



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Tom Nelson	Massabesic Middle School	Tom Nelson is a Model Mustang because he goes above and beyond at everything they do. In the classroom, he fosters a supportive and engaging learning environment, encouraging students to grow academically while building confidence and critical thinking skills. As an athletic liaison, he bridges communication between students, staff, and athletic programs, ensuring that student-athletes are supported both on and off the field. His dedication to the athletes and students also shows through his standout mustang announcements where he pushes coaches to recognize team players for their successes. Whilst he also the entire time supports the coaches throughout the challenging seasons. His ability to balance these roles demonstrates strong leadership, empathy, and a genuine investment in student and peer success. By consistently showing responsibility and care for others, he exemplifies what it means to be a positive role model in both education and athletics.
Victoria Reynolds	East Building	Victoria always has a positive attitude and energy, willing to help out when and where she can. She brings a light to our district!
Xamara Gonzalez	Massabesic High School/Operations	Xamara has been an excellent addition to the high school as a 1st shift custodian. Not only is she constantly keeping the school clean and staying busy, but she has a great attitude and is willing to help in any way to make the high school a cleaner, healthier place. Thank you Xamara!
A Valued Team Member	MHS Speech-Language Pathologist	They have been working very hard with staff at East to help them to meet the complex communication needs of the students. Their knowledge and techniques which help staff to model various communication methods to use with students has resulted in our students communicating more and using more words to express themselves. It's great to see. Nice work! And great work from all the staff!!