

Randolph County School System “RCSS STAR Employees” for December 2025



Archdale Elementary School – Lauren Savona

Ms. Savona has embraced her leadership role by supporting co-teachers who are both new to the school and to the grade level, guiding them with patience and expertise. She cares deeply about her students and works every day to help them grow academically, emotionally, and socially—an essential focus in kindergarten. She consistently advocates for what is best for children and strives to understand school structures so she can navigate them effectively. Her commitment ensures students receive what they need to succeed. Through her leadership, she positively impacts not only her own classroom but the entire team around her.

Hopewell Elementary School – Marissa Hancock

Mrs. Hancock took on a new grade level this year, stepping outside her comfort zone with confidence and a strong commitment to her students. Her classroom environment is consistently positive, nurturing, and focused on growth. She sets high expectations while providing the support and encouragement her students need to succeed. Marisa shares her expertise with her team, offering ideas, guidance, and positive collaboration. Her dedication, adaptability, and belief in her students make her an outstanding candidate for the Star Employee Award!

John Lawrence Elementary School – Jamie Gordon

Jamie Gordon is an exceptional music and art teacher at John Lawrence Elementary School. She consistently creates a positive and engaging learning environment where students feel encouraged to express themselves creatively. Her lessons are well-planned, hands-on, and designed to foster both artistic skill and confidence. Students look forward to her class each week, and she has passion and genuine care for her students. Congratulations to Mrs. Gordon for being the December Star Employee for John Lawrence Elementary School!

New Market Elementary School – Chesney Strider

Ms. Strider, 1st grade teacher, is a constant source of positivity, even in the most challenging situations. She brings fresh ideas to our school and lifts others up with her encouraging words. Chesney always puts her students first and approaches every responsibility with exceptional dedication. This year, she has taken on countless tasks with grace, efficiency, and incredible multitasking skills. She is a natural—creative, joyful, and truly a bright light at New Market and we are proud for her to represent New Market as our Star Employee for December.

Randolph Early College High School – Ericka Bell

Mrs. Ericka Bell has been a dedicated math teacher at RECHS since 2012 and currently serves as our Math Department Chair. She brings exceptional expertise to students across all levels and is presently working closely with a small group of Math 1 learners, providing targeted, personalized support. Mrs. Bell also plays a key role in ACT Prep for juniors, strengthening their skills and confidence ahead of testing. Beyond the classroom, she advises both the Art Club and Junior Civitan, creating meaningful opportunities for student involvement and leadership. She is a calming, supportive presence on campus and often offers encouragement and support to staff when it is most needed.

Trindale Elementary School – Rebecca Surles

Rebecca Surles has been selected as the STAR Employee for Trindale Elementary School because she consistently goes well above and beyond the responsibilities outlined in her job description. She has a remarkable gift for balancing genuine love and care with high expectations for all students. Rebecca works collaboratively with teams of teachers, district staff, families, and administrators to ensure students receive the support they need to thrive. Whether she is asked to drive a bus, teach reading, facilitate student learning in social-emotional and behavioral areas, or serve on student support teams, she is always willing to help in any capacity. She approaches every role with grace, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the success of our students.

Trinity Elementary School – Kimberley Dudley

Mrs. Dudley is being recognized as Trinity Elementary's STAR staff for the month of December due to her overwhelming school spirit and Bulldog pride. Her easy-going nature is infectious. She strives to be the best teacher and teammate she can be each day. Mrs. Dudley always seeks opportunities to better herself professionally and soaks in all the knowledge. A statement from a colleague: Mrs. Dudley wholeheartedly loves her students, and this school, and her smile is a delight to see on even the hardest days.

Trinity High School – Misty Hildreth

Mrs. Hildreth is an energetic and highly involved lead teacher at Trinity High School. She is passionate about the success of all students, from leading the tutoring of small groups to participating in the school's attendance committee. Mrs. Hildreth can be found behind the scenes and on the front lines of student learning. Mrs. Hildreth expertly leads the professional development of teachers. The impact of her contributions is evident in all that goes on at Trinity High School. She is a valued faculty member and leader at Trinity High School and we gladly select her as our STAR Employee for December.

Trinity Middle School – Kathy Turnas

Kathy Turnas is the true definition of dedication and teamwork. She takes on anything that comes her way with a smile, whether it is driving buses, covering the front desk, learning a new student information system, or stepping in wherever she is needed. Kathy supports staff by covering lunches, assisting parents, handling enrollments, and managing the daily challenges that come her way with grace and professionalism. She continually goes above and beyond—always helpful, always patient, and always making time for others. Kathy has started the school year strong with a brand-new student information system, and her outstanding effort makes her an undeniable choice as our STAR Employee for December.

Wheatmore High School – Eric Johnson

It is Wheatmore's honor to recognize our Star Employee, Principal Eric Johnson, the person who truly embodies the heart and spirit of Wheatmore High School. His leadership, dedication, and passion set the standard for excellence in everything we do. He is the face that welcomes our community, the voice that inspires our staff and students, and the steady hand that guides our success. Through his tireless work and unwavering commitment, Wheatmore has grown across all areas inside and outside of the school building. He is an outstanding leader who represents the very best of Wheatmore High School.

Wheatmore Middle School – Jessica Sick

Jessica Sick is Wheatmore Middle School's Star Employee for her exceptional work in leading the successful transition to the Infinite Campus platform. Moving to North Carolina last year, she quickly learned to effectively use two different educational platforms in as many years. Jessica has handled this demanding task with grace, all while remaining a dedicated team player willing to assist anywhere on campus. Her positive attitude and collaborative spirit make her a genuinely outstanding employee. She is a shining example of what makes WMS great!