



CENTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Watts Middle School

February 23rd, 2023

Centerville Noon Optimist Club

P.O. Box 750492

Centerville, OH 45475-0492

“Bringing out the Best in Kids” Award Committee:

Please strongly consider honoring Arleen Petty, the school counselor at Hadley E. Watts Middle School in Centerville City Schools, by recognizing her with the reception of the “Bringing out the Best in Kids” Award. Arleen has been the sole school counselor at Watts, serving the largest population of any single counselor in Centerville City schools, for more than a decade. Her dedication to improving the lives of the students she serves is immense.

There is no other single individual who brings out more positivity or confidence in our student population at Watts than Arleen. While the time she spends with individual students discussing their grades, counseling them regarding familial or friend issues they have, or just checking in is immensely valuable, it is the other ways she spends her time that arguably have the greatest impact. Of the utmost importance is the relationships she forms with the families of Watts: she encourages them to be involved in the community in a variety of ways, including after school activity and sports participation and nominating children for youth service awards and scholarships.

Arleen Petty is responsible for leading the building with our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program where all aspects of students’ mental, behavioral, emotional, and social health are monitored and improved upon. Arleen’s day does not end when the final bell dismisses students: she can often be found in her office after hours or supervising StudyBuddies, a program she created that matches Watts’ students with high school tutors. She uses an appointment system to assess the needs of students who want to meet with her one-on-one: this way the most urgent needs are met first, and she can prioritize accordingly. Arleen ensures each and every single 8th grader of any given graduation class has a high school schedule created specifically for them that starts them on the path to a successful high school career. Her door is always open to staff members: people not in education often do not see the heavy mental load it puts on educators. Arleen safeguards the students of our building by ensuring the staff mental wellbeing is as strong as possible. She is even currently mentoring and training an intern, in addition to all of her normal duties, to further reflect on her practices and instill them in those who will create the communities of the future that will continue to bring out the best in generations to come.

In closing, Arleen Petty truly embodies all aspects of an educator who sees the full picture of every child she encounters: no one makes the Watts Middle School community safer, more welcoming, or a better place for Centerville kids to grow and learn.

Sincerely,

Lillie Walsh

ELA Teacher, Watts Middle School

EMPOWER - CHALLENGE - SUPPORT