



2024 TEACHER OF THE YEAR STATS

- Tonia Schmall** Starr Elementary School
- Tyler Madison** Walnut Middle School
- Jesse LaBrie** Academies of Grand Island Senior High
- Michelle Thorne** Specialist from Wasmer Elementary School
- Michelle Enck** Staff from Career Pathways Institute
- Nathaniel Balcom** Administrator from Newell Elementary School

Nominees must be current teachers, principals, administrators, specialists, counselors, or support staff members (secretaries, custodians, para-educators, food service etc.) in the Grand Island Public Schools. Six awards will be made each year. The program is sponsored by First National Bank.



442

Teachers, Staff and Administrators Nominated

1,608

Nomination Forms Submitted

442

Grand Island Public Schools Staff Recognized

6

Awards Annually

Since 2003:

115

Grand Island Public Schools Staff Awarded

20

Years Partnering with First National Bank



GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Kari Hooker-Leep, Executive Director • 308-385-5525 • khookerleep@gips.org • gipsfoundation.org

2024

Tonia Schmall
Starr Elementary

Tyler Madison
Walnut Middle

Jesse LaBrie
Senior High

Michelle Thorne
Specialist, Wasmer Elementary

Michelle Enck
Staff, Career Pathways Institute

Nathaniel Balcom
Administrator, Newell

2023

Amy Anderson
Howard Elementary

Marla Rischling
All Middle Schools

Jessica Whitmire
Senior High

Kristin Schultz
Specialist, Lincoln Elementary

Angel Rojas-Acevedo
Staff, West Lawn Elementary

Caitlin Jensen
Administrator, Engleman

2022

Asia Thoene
Newell Elementary

Andrew Schneider
Barr Middle

Christine Kier
Senior High

Jessica Schroeder
Specialist, Stolley Park

Virgie Wheeler
Staff, Lincoln Elementary

Opal Bentley
Administrator, Knickrehm

2021

All teachers, staff and administrators

2020

Sandra Meyer
Stolley Park Elementary

Kathryn Zeller
Westridge Middle

Brett Forsman
Careers Pathways

Jami Barrientos
Specialist, Walnut Middle

Jaime Wattier
Staff, Kneale Administration

Amy Richards
Administrator, ELC

2019

Jason Weseman
Howard Elementary

Jessa Yager
Barr Middle

Tracy Jakubowski
Senior High

Tammy Nance
Specialist, Starr Elementary

Jodi Fegley
Staff, Engleman Elementary

Lee Wolfe
Administrator, Shoemaker

2018

Bianca Ayala
Howard Elementary

Lori Coble
Walnut Middle

Jeff Vyhliadal
Senior High

Angie Runquist
Specialist, Skills Academy

Pat Tatro
Staff, Wasmer Elementary

Selena Wardyn
Administrator, Walnut Middle

2017

Rebecca Waind
Stolley Park Elementary

Ellie Petersen
Westridge Middle

Laura McQuinn
Senior High

Patti Bennett
Specialist, Senior High

Jasmine Rios-Alvarado
Staff, Howard Elementary

Jeanna Randall
Administrator, Jefferson

2016

Dennis Korgel
Gates Elementary

Ashley Hilger
Westridge Middle

Jeff Tomlin
Senior High

Kim McCain
Specialist, Engleman

Sheri Ingebretsen
Staff, Westridge Middle

Andrew Rinaldi,
Administrator, Newell

2015

Kevin Leiss, Skill
Academy Dodge Elementary

Zachary Hawkins

Westridge Middle

Laurie Clark
Success Academy

Camie See
Specialist, Knickrehm and Wasmer Elementary

Marta Charlton
Staff, Lincoln Elementary

Wayne Stelk
Human Resources Director, Kneale

2014

Deb Glover
Howard Elementary

Chuck DeWitt
Walnut Middle

Paula Poppe
Senior High

Penny Brown
Specialist, Gates Elementary

Doug Henry
Staff, Senior High

Betty Desaire
Administrator, Wasmer

2013

Christi Rademacher
Newell Elementary

Kay Lyons
Walnut Middle

Judy Lorenzen
Senior High

Amy Hanna
Specialist, Howard/Jefferson Elementary

Andrew Cunningham
Staff, Engleman Elementary

Renee Hunt
Administrator, Skills Academy

2012

April Patterson
Jefferson Elementary

Benjamin Hanson
Westridge Middle

Joe Wells
Senior High

Tara Retzlaff
Specialist, CNSSP

Ray Chaves
Staff, Walnut Middle

Doug Jensen
Administrator, Senior High

2011

Kelly Usrey
Engleman Elementary

Katy Kurz

Barr Middle

Karen Kropp
Senior High

Kirk Ramsey
Specialist, Barr Middle

Birdie Lopez
Staff, Dodge Elementary

Cindy Wells
Administrator Senior High

2010

Ryan Hansen
Dodge Elementary

Karen Hastings
Westridge Middle

Cheri Preister
Senior High

Kris McMullen
Specialist, Senior High

Paul Galles
Staff, Jefferson Elementary

Maureen Oman
Administrator, Engelman

2009

Joan Brown
Engleman Elementary

Jerome Dubas
Walnut Middle

Doug Whitman
Senior High

Jan Tell
Specialist, Dodge Elementary

Robert Briseno
Staff, Walnut Middle

Brad Wolfe
Administrator, Newell

2008

Janet Vavricek
Jefferson Elementary

Rhonda Riha
Walnut Middle

Michella Honas
Senior High

Larry Uhing
Specialist, Senior High

Nubia Herreno
Staff, Wasmer Elementary

Sue Burch
Administrator, Kneale

2007

Colette Sorensen
Shoemaker Elementary

Kelley Ward
Barr Middle

Sara Collinson

Senior High

Sherry Jones
Specialist, Engelman/Starr Elementary

Laurel Cohn
Staff, Barr Middle

Kerri Nazarenes
Administrator, Kneale Admin

2006

Diane Miller
Dodge Elementary

Jackie Bigley
Barr Middle

Vic Nelson
Senior High

Marcella Bogan
Specialist, TLC Indra House

Marlene Pietzyk
Staff, Howard Elementary

2005

Patty Brown
Wasmer Elementary

Traci Rezac
Walnut Middle

Joe Stecher
Senior High

Sherry Nott
Specialist, Senior High

2004

Jim Kordik
Senior High

Dr. Stanley Urwiller
Retired Teacher of the Year

2003

Larry Maupin
Senior High

Orv Qualset
Retired Teacher of the Year