



DATE: April 5, 2024
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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Farmington Public Schools names Sarah Kerns the 2023/2024 Support Person of the Year Award Winner

Farmington, MI – On March 20, 2024, Farmington Public Schools' (FPS) Superintendent Dr. Christopher Delgado, along with the Human Resources Department, the Farmington Early Childhood Center principal and staff, surprised Sarah Kerns, Office Clerk at the Farmington Early Childhood Center (FECC), with the award for the 2023/2024 Farmington Public Schools' Support Person of the Year.

Sarah has been at FECC for the past seven years where she has dedicated herself to their program, their students, their parents, and her fellow staff members. She is known to parents as a positive support person they know they can reach out to regarding anything. She comes to work every day with a "how can I help our families" attitude.

Sarah goes above and beyond for staff and families without hesitation. During her time at FPS, she has become extremely knowledgeable in all areas of her position, plus so much more. For example, she understands that the enrollment and tuition process can be complicated, but she ensures that more than 300 students are placed in classes correctly. Additionally, due to another staff member being out on leave, Sarah has taken over lunch orders for the FECC grant program, and supports the bus drivers by having a list of students who are on the bus prepared for them each day. These are just a few of many examples of how Sarah goes above and beyond to ensure the day goes smoothly.

"Sarah has been my partner for so many things," said Kirsten Cicchella, FECC Supervisor. She attends every night event FECC has and does it with a smile. Whether it is greeting guests as they enter for a PTA meeting, hosting parent trainings, or running around the school during events to make sure everything is running smoothly, you can always find Sarah there."

Sarah works with Kirsten to manage the budgets. She runs the budget reports every month and then reviews them for errors, a task that is not typical in this role. However, it is a necessity at FECC and Sarah doesn't mind helping wherever she can. This includes being dubbed the building's go-to IT person, as she is so knowledgeable and willing to help when technical errors occur.



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During COVID, she oversaw the ordering materials related to three different state grants and Head Start grants, which is an extensive amount of tracking.

"So many of these things are above and beyond what a traditional school secretary does and she takes them on with a positive attitude and is engaged in learning more," said Kirsten. "It's always 'how I can help, what can I do.' She takes pride in all she does being such an integral support to many."

On top of handling all that comes with being an FECC Office Clerk, Sarah often works with the District Nurses. Sarah is a certified CPR/First Aid trainer. She travels to various schools throughout the District with one of the nurses to train staff members on how to keep students safe.

Sarah not only provides exceptional work for FPS, but she also is an excellent community member and even works part time for the City of Farmington Hills, as well. Sarah is the face of teaching babysitting classes for the FPS young adult students. She also works the Daddy/Daughter dance, where students are always excited to see her out in the community.

There were many words used to describe Sarah including smart, intuitive, dependable, caring, enthusiastic, dedicated, and thoughtful. Sarah consistently demonstrates how dependable she is for her fellow staff members, and the FECC families. Her work ethic, and genuine care for her bundling, students, and families, is not something you see every day.

"Seeing day-in and day-out the number of staff and parents that seek Sarah out for knowledge and support, as well as myself, she is a true asset for FPS," said Kirsten Cicchella. She makes FECC and FPS a better place, which is why she was named the 2023/2024 Farmington Public Schools' Support Person of the Year."

Congratulations, Sarah! Thank you for all that you do for our District!

To learn more about Farmington Public Schools, visit www.farmington.k12.mi.us.