



## Memorandum

To: Board of Education  
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent  
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications  
Date: January 18, 2022  
RE: Extra Mile Service Award

Chris Rousey is our January Extra Mile Award recipient and was actually nominated twice for this recognition. Chris was nominated by Bentonville High School student Lauren Axe and Board of Education Member Jennifer Faddis. Lauren wrote in her nomination, "Mr. Rousey always comes to class with a smile on his face, hoping to make other people's days better. He stands in the hallway in between every class, making sure kids are happy and smiling. Despite his cancer battle, he's always showing up with the best mindset and never lets anything ruin his mood. He comes to school most days not feeling the best but, no matter what, he continues to lift up others."

Board Member Jennifer Faddis shared with us a time from her son's life when he was zoned for a school different from his friends. He struggled with the thought of a new school and no familiar faces until he met his math teacher, Chris Rousey. Chris changed the landscape and in no time, he knew all of Jennifer's children. Not just the ones he had in class. Jennifer wrote to us, "When my son, Luke was in 8th grade, he didn't have Rousey as a teacher, but that relationship remained strong. Luke was testing for his black belt in Tae Kwon Do and asked Chris to come to his ceremony. As part of his test, Luke had to break a couple of boards. After the ceremony was over, Luke gave one of the boards to Chris. If you were to have walked into Chris' room last week, you would have seen that board, signed by Luke and framed in a shadow box. It's been in his classroom for seven years. That's how Chris loves his kids."

Even in the midst of his cancer battle, Chris continues to teach us all. Life is precious. Live one worth celebrating, filled with love for others.

Join us in recognizing Chris Rousey, our January Extra Mile Award Recipient.

### **About the Extra Mile Award**

Any individual may nominate a Bentonville Schools employee by going to our [website](#). Nominations will be considered by administration and that employee's direct supervisor. Nomination rules and regulations will be posted on the website prior to the start of the nomination process.

