



## Memorandum

To: Board of Education  
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent  
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications  
RE: Extra Mile Service Award  
Date: April 12, 2022

Holly Smardo is our April Extra Mile Award Recipient. Holly serves as an orchestra teacher at Washington Junior High. This is Holly's fourth year in Bentonville Schools but she has taught music for 36 years. She was nominated by Mandi O'Rourke for her work with her son Aiden, who is an eighth grader at WJHS.

Mandi noted in her nomination that Ms. Smardo makes every parent and child feel seen and acknowledged. Holly is known for pouring countless hours into her students and Mandi says that has been her family's experience. She says Holly often check in on Aiden to make sure he feels encouraged and challenged while learning the violin. "Aiden's confidence has increased because of Holly," Mandi told us.

Holly shared, "I love watching students fall in love with music."

We'd be remiss if we failed to mention Holly has an infectious sense of humor that puts parents at ease immediately. Parent teacher conferences are filled with laughter and that's music to anyone's ear.

### **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.