

DALE FOOR CORNERSTONE AWARD HONOREE
Carol McPeek

Carol McPeek, a 40-year resident of Gahanna, has dedicated more than two decades of her life to being an outstanding substitute teacher for Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools. She exemplifies what it means to be a builder of excellence as she is trusted to instruct and to care for our students in a teacher's absence because for that day (or days) the students are McPeek's students. She knows the GJPS curriculum and works hard to ensure there is never a lost day of instruction.

While some substitute teachers directly follow the students out of the door at the end of a school day, McPeek does not. She can be found working in the classroom long after the students have left; cleaning up the classroom, organizing materials and writing a thorough report of the day. She

works hard to make sure a teacher knows the good and bad of the days missed. If a child struggled academically, she lets the teacher know what she did in an effort to support the learner. When a child experiences behavioral or emotional challenges, McPeek always shows compassion in her words and actions to help her students.

McPeek is not just a substitute. She is a highly respected colleague and member of the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools family and knows the students and staff. She is committed to the community, with her three children, Michelle (Kramer) Koesler, Matt Kramer and Mark Kramer, all graduating from Gahanna Lincoln High School. She is also a faithful member of Gahanna's Peace Lutheran Church where she volunteers on a regular basis in their gardens.



As a testament to the adoration shown to McPeek from GJPS, she was injured in an accident a few years ago and received an outpouring of support from students and staff throughout the District. Despite the accident and required recovery, McPeek still returned to the classroom when she was able.

This year, Royal Manor Elementary has the fortune of McPeek's presence every day as she holds the position of building substitute. This is a position assumed by the most highly qualified and dependable of substitute teachers. When Alissa Lopez, the building's principal, asked her to consider the additional responsibility of a long-term classroom teaching position in a second-grade classroom, McPeek graciously accepted. She offers her grace to the most challenging of students

and offers it to teachers needing her during the most unexpected of absences. Last year, McPeek celebrated her 80th birthday and she still continues to be a master teacher, doing so with grace, energy and finesse.

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