**STAR AWARDS MAY 27, 2020**

**Maria Centino Mora-Donyelle McNeal-Rebekkah Johnson-Russell Tutt :** This is my first year of teaching at MSB, and I could not have imagined a more amazing classroom team to get to work with every day. Maria, Donyelle, Rebekkah, and Russell each play such an important role in the classroom, and they work hard each day to make sure our students are happy, learning, independent, and safe. Before Corona rudely interrupted the school year, we were seeing incredible progress from each of the students in travel skills, math, braille, reading, communication, and social skills. This was a direct result of how dedicated this team is to helping every student achieve academically and grow in their independence. Even now that we are living through quarantine, I have been blown away by the amount of support I have received from my team, and they are always reaching out and finding ways to help with instruction. From creating silly math word problems starring the members of our classroom, to producing word-family raps and read-alouds, this team has created so many resources to help our students keep learning. We are the Dream Team, and I could not have gotten through this school year without them!

**Nominated by: Angelica Flowers**

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**Teresa Esemplare:** I’d like to give a STAR award recognition to my teacher, Teresa Esemplare. T has gone above and beyond for our students and parents during this horrible time. Every week I check my emails and she has offered so much support to parents as well as her staff to get the kids what they need. I have been with her for three years now and have witnessed her growth as a teacher and love for the kids. I couldn’t ask for a better team leader in our classroom. Hats off Teresa, job well done!

**Nominated by: Karen Cooper**

**Danni Long:** Another bright shining star is Danni Long. She shows so much love for the kid. Her work as a music therapist shines through all that she does! Hats off to you to Danni💕

**Nominated by: Karen Cooper**

**Paulette Hogan, Melanie Jones, Joanne Bayles:** The teamwork shown by the paraeducators in ABP 112 has been nothing less than AMAZING this school year. Melanie thank you for always stepping in to take over lessons when I had IEP meetings or needed to test students, the students love your energy. Mrs. Paulette thank you for always showing up and being here for the students. They know how much you care, the students adore you and so do I. Ms. Joanne, I cannot thank you enough for always helping out even when we say “we got it”, you are always still there supporting and doing whatever needs to get done. You are a selfless hard worker. Even during this school shut down, you all are still doing your part. Happy to share the classroom with each of you ladies. There is always lots of laughs, lots of learning, and other special moments shared by us with our students. SUPERB job ladies!

**Nominated by: Arial Johnson**

**Lauren Pappas:** Lauren has been a champion of action! She can contain information to act quickly and she gains an understanding of the ever-changing situation. She has studied and interpreted the new employment laws as well as communicated them widely to our school. We have found that in these times of uncertainty her leadership skills have helped us make sense out of chaos so that we as a team could move into action to support MSB staff.

She has kept the team highly engaged and has promoted a culture of engagement throughout this pandemic. From the last day of school on 3/13, Lauren has provided the HR team with clear expectations and frequent contact. She has led the HR team with planning in the midst of adversity and thereafter. Yes, we have all had our moments, but with Lauren’s understanding and support, we have forged through to provide supportive services and some fun activities to our MSB family.

**Nominated by: The HR Team**