

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – September 2014

Chuck Kippenhan – Lincoln Hill High School/Lincoln Academy Custodian

Nominated by: Maurene Stanton

Ask any principal and they will tell you that the custodian plays a key role in the building. They help keep the building clean, safe, and in working order. They can be an extra set of eyes, ears and hands. I'm nominating Chuck Kippenhan for classified employee of the month because he does all of these things and more.

While a custodian may be expected to do routine maintenance like fix holes in the wall, no one expects him to cover them with artwork like a Lynx Paw (school mascot). In fact, if you look around Church Creek Campus, much of the artwork can be traced back to Chuck. When the walls were getting full due to Shining Star awards and staff recognition, he completely re-decorated the office so that all of the recognitions could be seen.

He cleans up spills without rolling his eyes, opens parking lot gates without a grumble, plus communicates with administration when he finds vandalism and things need to be repaired.

Sometimes, it's the little things that truly matter. Chuck is always the first person to greet most of us in the morning. He doesn't make fun of us when we forget our keys or have locked them in our offices or classrooms the previous day. When I arrive to work, if he sees that my hands are full, he unlocks and opens the door for me so that I don't break anything, including myself.

When he knows we are having special events, he makes sure everything is set up before I even know it needs to be set up. He thinks of the big things like tables and chairs, but also the small things like microphones, screens, extension cords, etc.

He supports the students' and staffs' needs. When the students were having their first student led Veteran's Day assembly, he brought in various military clothing that he had MADE which were exact replicas of actual clothing worn in the Concentration Camps during WWII.

He recognizes students' gifts and interests. When the Seahawks were in the playoffs, he found our most artistic students and helped them create a Seahawks banner that they could display in the main office. Speaking of artistic talent, he made tablecloths embroidered with LHHS logos and painted murals in the halls to make the building more inviting.

He thinks about safety, for everyone. He is an integral part of our emergency drills and continually helps evaluate our procedures. He is on a constant lookout for anything that might cause injury. He also makes sure he is there for back up if I'm heading out to meet with a potentially angry student or individuals who are not supposed to be on our campus.

Chuck understands what LHHS and the LA are about. He is there to support the kids. He keeps an eye on them and knows not only the mischief they might be up to, but also the things they are doing well. He has a sense of humor that is appreciated by all of us in the office.

Chuck has been at Church Creek for years. He takes pride in the building AND the people in it. It is my honor to nominate him for this award.