



Outstanding Rural Support Staff - 2019

Laura Orr

Kelso C-7 School District

Laura Orr, or as the students know her "Mrs. Laura", has been employed by the Kelso C-7 school district for the past 31 years in one capacity or another. She serves as the district's bus driver and head cook. She has also served as a volunteer coach for many of the various youth league sports during her tenure there.

According to her Superintendent, Dr. Kim Burger, "Mrs. Laura Orr is a huge piece of our school family. She takes great pride and 100% ownership over the district food service program. She expects and provides nothing but the best for her students cooking delicious meals often made from scratch (USDA compliant of course!). She is one of the most resilient people that I know. Even when she may be struggling personally, her professional life is centered on the students providing them with safe transportation, delicious meals and some much needed love."

Principal, Debbie Lands shares, "She truly is a grandmother to all and she loves and respects each member of our school community. She never complains about her job or the students and she always has a smile on her face!"

Shea Dumey, 1st Grade Teacher notes, "One of the first roles that I witnessed Mrs. Laura fulfill with great pride and leadership was volunteering to serve as the middle school volleyball coach. I watched as she lovingly guided our young students in learning the skills needed to play the sport as well as grow their personal attributes in the areas of sportsmanship, dedication and perseverance. She balanced all of this with ease, tough love and personal relationships. Students respected her and learned the love of the game."

All who know her love her and appreciate her for all she has done and continues to do for the Kelso C-7 School District. Shea provides a fitting closing comment, "The world would be a much better place if we all had a Mrs. Laura to begin and end our day with!" It is most fitting that she be recognized as the 2019 MARE "Outstanding Rural Support Staff Member." Congratulations!