



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emily Thompson and Cassandra Baker Recognized as Exceptional Educators for 2020-2021 School Year

(Standardsville, VA) Thanks to the longtime, generous support and contributions of Marianne Shepard – Financial Advisor with Edward Jones, the Greene County School Board is pleased to announce the 2020-2021 recipients of Educator of the Year and Support Staff Member of the Year recognitions. Each school accepted input from parents, community members, and staff to nominate one individual from each school. The nominees for Educator of the Year this year were Debra Day (Ruckersville Elementary), Emily Thompson, (Nathanael Greene Elementary and Primary), Pam Collier (William Monroe Middle), and Philip Lam, (William Monroe High School). The nominees for Support Staff Member of the Year were Ruthie Scupp (Ruckersville Elementary), Erika Sharp (Nathanael Greene Elementary and Primary), Cassandra Baker (William Monroe Middle School), and Amanda Mills (William Monroe High School).

Selecting a single person to receive this recognition during a typical school year can be challenging. This year, the process required much more consideration at each stage, as *every* member of our school community worked tirelessly throughout the year.

After carefully reviewing the nominees' application materials, the committee selected Ms. Emily Thompson as the 2020-2021 Educator of the Year and Ms. Cassandra Baker as the 2020-2021 Support Staff Member of the Year. Each winner received a \$500 check courtesy of Marianne Shepard and were surprised by the "prize patrol," family, colleagues, and students. Ms. Thompson took on a completely new role this year, serving as a virtual teacher for 4th grade students at Nathanael Greene. She has been with Greene County Public Schools for 4 years. Ms. Baker has been a functional skills instructional assistant for Greene County Schools for 26 years. The Greene County School system is grateful that these dedicated educators are members of our school community. Their level of commitment to our students' life-long success is an inspiring example for anyone involved in education.



(Left to right) Regina Hissong (Assistant Principal NGES), Emily Thompson, and Adam Midock (principal NGES)

(Left to Right) Brenda Walton (Principal WMMS), Cassandra Baker, and Karin Graham (Assistant Principal WMMS)