

*Susan Nabholz
Golden Apple Award
April 4, 2011*

At Kenai Central High School, Susan Nabholz has a reputation for being a tough teacher, but it is just as well known that for every ounce of effort she expects from students, she puts in even more nurturing their skills and confidence, connecting them with real-world experiences, and helping the school function smoothly.

"There are a few teachers in every building who just seem to stand out," said Greta Cox, school counselor. "They have great energy, a genuine desire to help every single kid learn, innovative teaching techniques, and a collegial attitude. Susan Nabholz exemplifies all these things."

Mrs. Nabholz expects the best from her students and is there with continued support to help them achieve it. She volunteers as an after-school tutor for students and connects students with resources beyond the classroom. All the while she maintains timely communication with parents, students and other staff members to ensure students are receiving an effective, consistent response when there may be a problem.

"She maintains high standards for all students and utilizes other services, such as the counseling office and special education, to help students who are struggling despite her multi-modal teaching approach," Mrs. Cox said. "Susan is a demanding teacher, but kids rarely bail out of her class, because she is tough, yet caring at the same time."

One of the projects she devotes a great deal of time to is the job shadow program, in conjunction with the Kenai Chamber of Commerce. Every junior at KCHS does a career research paper, creates a polished resume and is able to learn from a professional in a field of interest to them.

"Susan has done an excellent job with the KCHS job shadow program," said Principal Alan Fields. "This is an extremely valuable program to the students of Kenai. Susan has been a significant contributor to this experience, making a difference in the future of students."

Susan's energy is shared in many other ways, including taking a leadership role in developing the school's technology plan, and coordinating monthly "First Friday" potluck lunches for the staff.

We, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, are proud to recognize Susan Nabholz for helping create the richest possible learning environment for her students, and for her entire school.