

Lynn Kocinski

Golden Apple Award

Jan. 14, 2008

Lynn Kocinski has worked in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District since 1995, and is currently a special education aide at Kenai Middle School. She provides collaborative support in the general education classroom for sixth- through eighth-graders, and is known for her ability to tutor numerous students while holding them accountable for quality work. As part of the special services team she is familiar with student individualized education plans and is adept at identifying a student's strengths and weaknesses so she can use the available resources to meet their instructional needs.

Mrs. Kocinski is known at KMS for meeting more than just instructional needs. She makes sure students have clothes, food, school supplies and other necessities that affect performance. She is a driving force behind the school's "Sunshine Committee," which makes positive contributions to the school climate for staff, students and parents. She regularly helps with school activities and takes it upon herself to organize monthly staff luncheons and an end-of-the-year breakfast, send staff birthday cards and decorates bulletin boards around the school. She maintains a "tough love" yet caring rapport with students, and always has a willing ear and helping hand for staff members.

Principal Paul Sorenson said Mrs. Kocinski's "interpersonal relationships with students, parents and staff are intuitive, positive and proactive. Lynn understands students and is able to connect with them in an atmosphere of mutual respect."

She's also a friend, said Cheryl Schey, a special services educator at KMS. "I consider Lynn to be an asset beyond measure to Kenai Middle School. ... She has greatly enriched our lives and our school community."

We, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, are proud to recognize Lynn Kocinski for her contributions to Kenai Middle School, academically and beyond.