

**Teacher  
Appreciation  
Week**

**Plainfield  
Academy**

## **From the Plainfield Academy Administration for Teacher Appreciation Week...**

### **This is the Greatest Gift We Can Ever Give YOU!**

**“Teaching is the profession that teaches all the other professions.”**

Staff at Plainfield Academy,

I continue to be impressed with the impact that PA has on the lives of students in Plainfield School District. I have been involved with students who were unable to be successful in our middle school behavior programs. They have thrived after being placed at PA.

I have personally witnessed staff redirecting students with a calm and caring voice. The interaction, although be correcting, is done in a positive manner.

PA staff needs to be commended and recognized for their hard work and dedication to the students they serve.

Thanks to all of you, PA is an asset to Plainfield School District 202.

Keep up the good work!!!!

*Jill Carlson  
Director of Student Services*

Thank you for helping me in school and for working and helping me to stay in class. With all of my teachers' help and support, I want to learn and grow more. They help and get me ready for the real world, and to know what to expect when I'm ready to be on my own.

Christopher Loving



We would like to thank all of Christopher's teachers- Ms. Newberry, Ms. Ferreira, Ms. Gurrister, Ms Beneventi, and Ms. Wordelman. We thank you for your support and getting up to meet us at 7 o'clock in the morning and also for letting Chris know that he is important, loved, and liked. You all let him know that he is somebody. With all of us working together with Chris, he can achieve his goals. We also want to thank Mr. Tod for his support and help with Chris' accomplishments; also Mr. A and Mr. Z we thank you and to the whole school. We think Plainfield Academy is a great school.

Thank You,

Joan and Bobby Loving

**“A teacher affects eternity; he/she can never tell where his/her influence stops.”**

As we approach Teacher Appreciation Week I want to recognize the amazing job that has been done by the staff at Plainfield Academy. Their dedication to students has made a difference in the lives of many young adults. Anyone who worries about the next generation can feel encouraged by the work you do every day.

Sharon Gronemeyer  
Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

Teachers,  
You make the difference in young adults everyday. You are their everyday Heroes! Our kids look to you for direction, they respect you, they trust you...even though it might not appear they even care, they do! Thank you for all you do to help our young adults everyday. Enjoy this week as we celebrate you!

Eliza McNamara  
President  
• F.O.P.A

**“Who dares to teach must never cease to learn.”**

The teachers of Plainfield Academy have shown incredible positive reinforcement with my son. This has led to a sense of self worth and accomplishment. In the short time that my son has been at the Academy I have seen my son work through emotional situations that could have ended with a suspension at his home school, but the patience and determination of the staff ALWAYS pulls him back. Therefore, he is a better child from it and also has a learning tool to use for the rest of his life. I appreciate the time and dedication that the teachers and staff put in their students, and the return is there, maybe not instant, but it's there. Every day is a building block for the next day and the team work that the staff puts behind one another only

breeds success. My son is learning life skills at Plainfield Academy that he will use in social relationships for the rest of his life. These skills I would compare to a college prep business course... It's amazing! Plainfield Academy staff is unreal, and I am privileged to be a PARENT OF PLAINFIELD ACADEMY.

Thank you.

Kathy Edwards

When Ryan completed his first semester of his freshman year at Plainfield South, he failed every one of his classes. He had absolutely no ambition to succeed or goals for his future. In the two years he has attended Plainfield Academy he has not only caught up in all of his failed credits, but he now has positive goals in mind for his future and is determined to attain his Associates Degree at JJC. I feel that the teachers and staff of Plainfield Academy are primarily the reason for Ryan's positive change in attitude, as well as his awesome and supportive mother.

Amy Ball

**“Nine-tenths of education is encouragement.”**

I would like to say Kudos to the staff at Plainfield Academy for your everyday hard work and caring hearts. Not every child fits into a regular school setting. That is why we need the academy so no child is left behind. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated very much. I do have a son that has graduated from your school. The staff worked very hard with him. He needed a lot of one-on-one support, guidance and a staff that truly cared about him. That is what you have. Please never change. Keep growing and doing a great job. Our community needs you. Thank you to all the staff at Plainfield Academy YOU ROCK.....

Sue Voitik-Area Manager

Just want to thank the teachers at Plainfield Academy for putting up with my son Jamaal for the past couple of years. You all have been so very patient with him. All of you know that Jamaal has a unique personality; he can be very difficult and stubborn at times. You were able to deal with him in ways that I was very pleased with. I think that you all are great talented teachers. I praise you for the work that you are doing at Plainfield Academy. Keep up the good work!!

Cassandra Richardson (mother of Jamaal Sanders)

**“A child miseducated is a child lost.”**

My son has attended the Plainfield Academy for the last two years. What I really appreciate from the teachers is the individual attention he receives. Every time I have contacted any of his teachers regarding a potential problem, they have been extremely willing to give extra attention and time to help Neil go forward. At the Parent-Teacher Conference I was glad to see how the teachers interacted with Neil. All the teachers are very upbeat and positive. Their attitude has helped Neil in the area of social skills. The overall effect of their efforts will help him as he continues on to college next year.

Leeann Etnyre

When our son entered the Academy, he had numerous academic and behavioral issues. He was on the verge of failing his classes and was giving up on school. Since he entered the Academy, he has put a tremendous effort in pulling his grades up and having a more positive attitude towards school. I give this credit to all of his teachers who have supported and helped him achieve his goals, especially Mr Tod for having a positive influence on "never giving up". Due to the positive atmosphere that has been created and taught at the Academy, we're confident that our son is well on his way to a bright future.

Thanks for all your support and dedication!

Mr. & Mrs. Bliznick

**“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires. ”**

Hi everyone I am Symone Earl, a loving individual and a mother of one. I attend Plainfield Academy as a Junior. I came to the Academy from Plainfield South because of my lack of credits. I am proud that I chose to come to the Academy. The Academy is a school of convenience, dedication, and hope. This school has taught me self-control, respect, and responsibility. As a young strong minded individual life tends to get a little rough but this school has taught me that for every problem there’s a gift in its hand. Throughout this whole year, my life has been a lot easier thanks to Mrs. Gwen and Mr. Cordin. These two teachers have been there for me through my difficulties. I am very glad I have teachers that care. The students as well are awesome; they really brighten up your day. The experiences I have been through here at Plainfield Academy have taught me maturity and determination. These are all the characteristics that I can take with me on my trip to success. I am very thankful for all my events at Plainfield Academy thus far!

Symone Earl

For the two years I’ve been here at the Academy, the teachers here have always been moderately cool as far as I’m concerned. I don’t think I’ve ever had a problem with any teacher here no matter how mad I might have gotten or problems I’ve had with the way I thought a teacher handled things. I will miss the teachers here when I leave.

Ted Cox

**“The best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book.”**

My husband and I are extremely grateful to the teachers and staff at Plainfield Academy for their hard work and dedication to my child, LaKiesha Pryor. Since her enrollment at the Academy, I have noticed tremendous changes in her attitude towards school and the learning process. For the first time ever, she loves going to school and participating in events. Her grades have never been as good as they are now and I have her teachers to thank for that! My daughter loves her teachers. She constantly talks about Ms. Ferreira, Ms. Holstead and Ms. Hossbach as though they’re her best

friends! The impact that Ms. Ferreira has on LaKiesha is unbelievable. At first she thought sign language would be boring and had absolutely nothing to do with completing high school, but now she's excited at the prospect of a career in sign language. Mr. Pogliano has also been a great influence on LaKiesha. He has successfully instilled great work ethics and values in LaKiesha and proactively helps her with job searches, interview techniques and college application processes. These are invaluable lifelong skills that LaKiesha appreciates and val-

ues. The time, effort and resources that each of my daughter's teachers have dedicated to her have enriched her life in a way that neither of us could have ever imagined. Many, many thanks to every teacher and staff member of Plainfield Academy!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Katrina Garrett

**“Teachers are expected to reach unattainable goals with inadequate tools. The miracle is that at times they accomplish this impossible task.”**

Cindy, thanks for all that you and your team has done for Trevor. We appreciate the time and effort that you all have put into his success. We are very confident that he will be successful with his transition and that he will continue to grow. Well, we came into the program optimistic and your team has shown us that it can be a success. Thank you for always taking the time to talk to us and for helping us to feel that our concerns

are important. You have provided a safe and positive environment for him to grow in. We as parents are extremely proud of him. Most importantly, he is proud of himself and likes to attend school. We have accomplished the goal of him attending school and to be able to learn. It is not often that you have the opportunity to work with a group of teachers that really do care as much as their parents. You all are angels and have an-

swered our prayers. We can see our son smile and hear him laughing again. He is able to do this because we ALL worked together. To add to these thoughts, we can't thank you enough. His mainstreaming has been such a great journey. He is building such a sense of confidence. Collaboration and teamwork do prove to work.

The Hetzer Family

**"Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand."**

As a parent of two students that have attended Plainfield Academy, I would like to sincerely send an enormous appreciation to the entire teaching staff, as well as the administration of the Plainfield Academy. Two years ago, I thought that I was at the end of my rope with my son. He was on the verge of being a high school dropout and I refused to believe that; however, I believe that he wasn't being encouraged to believe in himself from the high school teaching staff and administration. (Just my belief) My final step was for him to join the program at Plainfield Academy and he adamantly REFUSED. I made him go to the meeting and the introduction to Mr. Tod was unbelievable. The first impression of Mr. Tod Schnowske was that he loved his job and looked forward to helping each and every child that walked through that door. After he felt so comfortable with Mr. Tod, we moved further into the schooling process, which was very simple

because the entire staff at the Academy had that same sincere urge to help each and every child. Don't get me wrong, my son is not the easiest child to deal with AT ALL. He has a huge heart, but a huge attitude to come with it. The teacher commitment at the ACADEMY is unbelievable!!! My son's teachers and the staff sincerely cared about his academic achievement as well as his behavior, which both would play a huge part in his adult life. To reinforce this, I felt so strongly about these statements on the teaching staff, that when my younger son became a freshman, I requested he start high school at the Academy. Yes, I was voluntarily looking to register my son at the Academy before high school. I know it sounds strange; however, I knew with their commitment and sincerity that my son would start high school on the right path both academically and behaviorally. The district would not allow me to register my son at the Academy unless there was a reason for it. Due to unfortunate circumstances, or should I say fortunate, my

freshman did end in the hands of the Plainfield Academy staff, and I am thankful for it every day. I know that I am rambling on; however, I have one more very important statement. The first son that I spoke of above is on an unbelievably great path now! He will be completing the Lincoln's Challenge program in June and has been accepted to college at the young age of 17. This could have never happened without the commitment and sincerity from the staff at Plainfield Academy, and I would like to say ONE MORE TIME, THANK YOU, I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!

Kim Perry

**"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."**

I am truly grateful for Plainfield Academy's teachers and administration. Their professionalism coupled with true concern for the overall success of the student is beyond average. The teachers and staff at Plainfield Academy have made a tremendous change in my family and most importantly in my child's education. There are teachers, and then there

are teachers that go beyond the call of duty to ensure a child's interest in school. Plainfield Academy teachers are the latter. I am grateful that you in your own unique way are raising the value of young men and women's education each and everyday. I am grateful that you have taken the worry out of whether my

child will succeed and allowed him to focus on his future in a positive way. You are appreciated this week and each and everyday. Continue to do the outstanding job that you have done for me over the last two years. Thank you!

Delta Hardman  
Plainfield Academy Parent

**"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."**

I would like to thank the teachers at Plainfield Academy for their hard work. It takes a special person to teach. However, teachers at Plainfield Academy go beyond what is required. My daughter looks forward to going to school and I know the teachers played an important role. This year my daughter will graduate and I have your teaching staff to thank.

Mr. and Mrs Sanchez

I can't thank you enough... Your dedication and passion has not only helped my son but other students as well. It's like teachers at the Plainfield Academy that don't let the children of the future give up on hope and most important on education. A thank you a day couldn't express the appreciation I (we) have for you. Just want you to know that your hard work does not go unnoticed. I will always be thankful and remember what you helped my son achieve.

Thank you - Alma Esquivel/Clifford



It gives me great pleasure to share that Plainfield Academy teachers go above and beyond their duties to take care of the students. I must add they have positive impacts on the students.

I would like to thank Mr. Schnowske, Ms. Gurrister, & Ms. Wordelman for helping our son Razi. He certainly enjoys going to Plainfield Academy. We appreciate your efforts.

Thank you,

Mrs. & Mr. Basalath

**"Learning is finding out what you already know. Doing is demonstrating that you know it. Teaching is reminding others that they know it just as well as you. You are all learners, doers, teachers."**

Plainfield Academy has had such a huge impact in my son's academic advancement since we have moved to the Plainfield area in 2006. The teachers and staff have helped him learn and move forward with his placement within his grade level as where he has struggled to keep up with other students in the past. With every teacher conference and meeting I have had with the teachers and staff, I have always walked away with a sigh of relief knowing that my son is in the perfect school. Plainfield Academy fits his needs for learning and I can't thank the teachers and staff enough for everything they have done for him. I picture in years to come once my son completes the next 5 years with the school wanting to visit the staff because they have made such an enormous impact in his life.

Dawn Leong  
Brandon Fontanetta's mom

We would like to present three of Plainfield Academy Teachers to you who truly played a major role in Shanna Henson's education. They are Ms. Greenan, Ms. Kurek, and Ms. Ferreira.

Each of these ladies present to Shanna a true role model, a learning hand, and guide to Shanna in meeting the State of Illinois Requirements. Moreover, these ladies did help a young woman at some of Shanna's "lowest" personal times in her life in facing and then clearing her personal stresses and hardships.

Please, if some of you recall back when Shanna first came to Plainfield Academy, just across the street from Plainfield High School, she was facing many individual problems, like new location and making a new school from an empty shell of a building. Shanna began working through these problems with the help of each of these individuals learning along the way. Shanna is now graduating high school in the class of 2008 from Plainfield High School, once again thanks to help and assistance from what Ms. Greenan, Ms. Kurek, and Ms. Ferreira were willing to give freely to Shanna on a personal level. Shanna feels now that each of you are her friends as well as teachers in her life.

Both Monika and I truly wish to say "thank you" to each of you from the deepest parts of our hearts.

Respectfully,

William and Monika Henson

To the teachers and staff of Plainfield Academy:

My son Michael Goddard has been attending the Academy since he was a freshman. As a family that has struggled through some difficult times, Michael has grown to be a responsible more respectful and conscious young man with the help from all of you. All of the teachers and staff at the Academy have taken the time to get to know him and have helped him understand that life has its ups and downs, but each one of you have taken the time to help Michael understand that there are rules to follow no matter what the circumstance is. The approach you take with education and discipline will follow him through the turmoil of his life. Michael and I have grown as a family and it could not have happened without the support from all of you, to keep him in the district and give him a chance to grow, change, and understand that life is a challenge. We feel the staff at Plainfield Academy approaches each student with compassion and understanding to help them achieve their optimal potential and attends to each students needs as an individual person. I believe that Plainfield Academy has some very special teachers and staff that have taken extra time from their days to find the time to help each student become responsible, educated, respectful, and be able to look at life with achievable goals in their lives. We would like to THANK YOU for being everything that you are wonderful teachers and staff that are caring, compassionate, have time to attend to each students needs, and love what you do.

Ms. Margaret (Penny) Goddard

My son Zac started at Plainfield Academy for school year 2007-2008. It was off to a little bit of a bumpy start but Mr.. Tod jumped in right away and made sure that the transition went smooth. We weren't very sure what to expect. I have to say it was the best decision that was made for him academically. Mr.. Tod and his staff have helped my son in so many ways this year. To me this has been the best school year by far. Zac's grades are exceptional as well as his attitude. You have helped him and taught him so much. I tell everyone that Plainfield Academy is not what you would think. For what we thought may be a horrible experience has really turned out to be great. Mr. Tod and his staff are the best that I have had the pleasure of working. Thank you all so much!

Michelle Bopp