

Ohio Middle Level Association

2019 Parent of the Year

Laura Jones

Our district superintendent often asks us to reflect on the legacy we'd like to have, when we look back over our careers. Laura Jones, a parent at Hudson Middle School, has created a legacy of service and care for the youth of our school and community. She is the type of person that is there to support others. As the mother of two young adolescent daughters, she has been an integral member of our district's levy committees, plans middle school socials at community locations (dances, HMS night at Skyzone, etc.), volunteers for ACT (A Children's Theater) in Hudson, works diligently on our building-level and district-level PTO boards, serves as the Lead Coordinator of our district's parent volunteer program, and serves as the co-director of our Hudson Community First organization.

As the current Lead Coordinator of the Hudson City School VIP program, Laura Jones understands that volunteers play a vital role in improving school programs. She has been an integral part of the Hudson VIP Program over the past 11 years in a way that has allowed it to grow and become one of the best and most widely recognized programs in the State of Ohio. Through the coordination of VIPs (building level volunteers), parents and community members participate in many educational activities that provide students with direct hands-on learning. Additionally, volunteers provide services and assist staff in our media centers, school offices and district offices. VIPs assist with chaperoning; conducting school tours; serve as scheduled lunch parents; and bind thousands of books written and illustrated by students in Kindergarten through third grade. VIPs provide over 40,000 volunteer hours annually!

In her role as co-director for Hudson Community First, which is a local nonprofit organization that unites our community in an effort to nurture competent, caring, and responsible children, Laura upholds its mission in all she does: "We believe that the health and wellness of our community is directly dependent on developing opportunities, skills, relationships and values that young people need to be healthy, caring and responsible." Under Laura's leadership and that of her co-director, this vibrant community-wide group promotes positive youth development. Today, working with 3 boards with over 250 members, Community First programs cover a variety of topics and support Hudson youth of all ages, through efforts such as Take a Second, Make a Difference; See Something, Say Something; Toast of Hudson; establishment of our community's Drug Safe Hudson Resource Specialist; and so much more.

Somehow, even with all of these commitments, Laura can be seen in our school building regularly, volunteering and offering to help. We are so fortunate at Hudson Middle School to have parents who are dedicated to helping their children succeed and who support our schools. Laura, through her continual hard work and care for our youth and our schools, rises to the top. Her leadership and service are truly above and beyond, and she is appreciated more than she will ever know. She has touched so many lives and leaves a legacy that is unmatched.

Respectfully submitted by: Kim Cockley (Principal), Karen Weber (Assistant Principal),
Jamie Ganz (Assistant Principal), and Beth Killeen (Teacher)