



## October Non-Instructional Winner – Brenasia Polk

At the beginning of this school year, I had to take a leave of absence in order to help provide care for my father who is recovering from open heart surgery. Ms. Brenasia Polk, the highly specialized education assistant assigned to my class, has really stepped up to help my students and me!

Ms. Polk most definitely has the heart of a servant leader, facilitating professional practice that continually improves student learning in grade 4 literacy. On a daily basis, she collaborates with teachers on our grade level, other teachers within our school, and our school administrators, and she always does what is best for children. She is a champion of individual learner potential, whole-heartedly believing that ALL students can learn and achieve at high levels when provided with effective instruction. She does all that she can to sustain an inclusive, respectful, and safe environment that is conducive to student learning, growth, and achievement for all students.

Ms. Polk helped establish effective classroom routines and procedures. She assisted in collecting and grading homework and assessments and providing useful feedback to students regarding their school work. Ms. Polk has helped to train students on the integration of technology in the classroom through the use of instructional websites such as iReady reading and IXL. She has done a superb job assisting the substitute teacher with classroom instruction – whole group and small group. She has maintained the class gradebook and stood in for me in our professional learning community meetings.

I highly recommend Ms. Polk as a Superhero with our school and district! She is a much needed stable and consistent presence for my students in my absence, and my students are making tremendous progress under her guidance and leadership! I could not do this work without her!

## October Instructional Winner – Helena Ortiz-Loaiza

Ms. Ortiz is an amazing teacher and is always doing something to make our school beautiful. She allows scholars to freely express themselves through art but she also uses positive affirmations to encourage scholars. She is a part of every committee that we have and spends any free time decorating the entire school. Her compassion expands to all students and she is amazing.