

## **Clay County Schools Teachers and Students Recognized for Excellent Attendance Rates**

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance. By providing classroom and individual attendance incentives, the teachers of Clay County Schools encourage students to be in school every day. Each month the Clay County Board of Education recognizes teachers and students across the district who achieve the highest attendance rates.

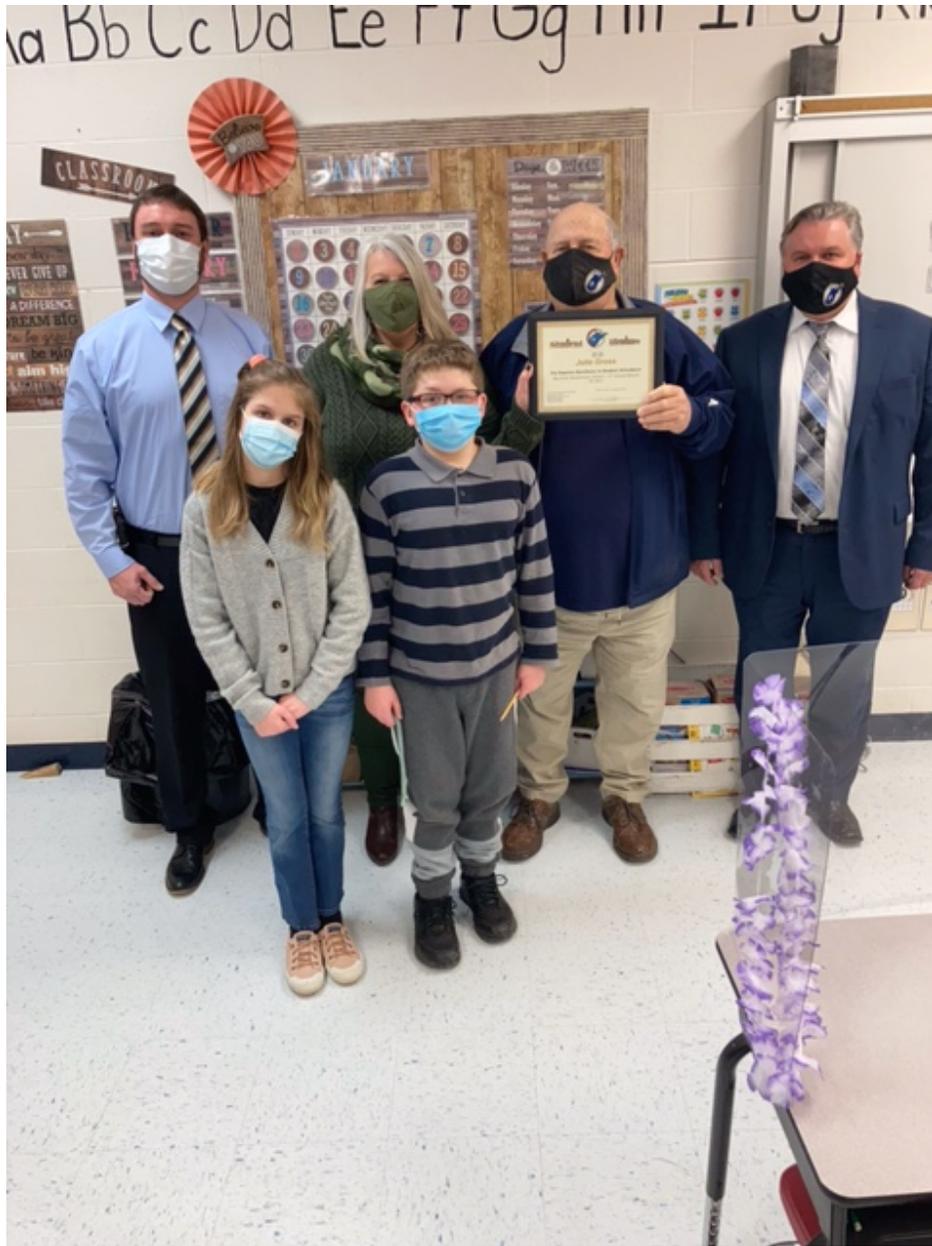
Mrs. Grithel Burns and Mr. Dustin Vaughan, fourth grade teachers at Big Otter Elementary, captured the highest attendance in the county for the second straight month with a rate of 98.80%. Also being recognized for the fourth school month for excellence in student attendance are teacher Julie Gross from Big Otter Elementary (97.06%); second grade teacher Chelsie Moore from Clay Elementary (96.89%); and preschool teacher Teresa Huffman from Lizemore Elementary (96.32%).

Julie Gross has been employed by Clay County Schools for three years as a teacher at Big Otter Elementary, where 50% of her students have perfect attendance for the fourth school month. Mrs. Gross credits developing good relationships with her students, understanding their needs, and planning engaging, hands-on activities with contributing to her students' impressive attendance rates.

Chelsie Moore, a Clay County Schools teacher for six years, teaches second graders at Clay Elementary. She utilizes class Dojo points and special incentives, such as lunch with her, to encourage perfect attendance among her students. It is no surprise that 59% of her students have maintained perfect attendance during the fourth school month.

Teresa Huffman has dedicated 37 years of her life to teaching children. She has spent 26 of those years teaching preschool, helping prepare students for kindergarten and beyond. Ms. Huffman's experience in working with children shows with an excellent attendance rate of 96.32%. Her students receive prizes for perfect weekly attendance and a special ice cream treat if they have perfect attendance for an entire month. For the fourth school month, 63% of her students had perfect attendance.

Congratulations to Mrs. Burns, Mr. Vaughan, Mrs. Gross, Mrs. Moore, Ms. Huffman, and their students for having outstanding attendance for the fourth school month!



***Big Otter Elementary Principal Anthony Boggs, teacher Mrs. Julie Gross, Clay County Board of Education President Dave Mullins, Clay County Schools Superintendent Joe Paxton, and two of Mrs. Gross's students celebrate an excellent class attendance rate of 97.06%.***



***Clay County Schools Superintendent Joe Paxton, Clay Elementary Principal Michelle Paxton, teacher Chelsie Moore, Clay County Board of Education President Dave Mullins, and Mrs. Moore's second grade students celebrate having achieved an outstanding attendance rate of 96.89%.***



***Classroom aide Randi Holcomb, teacher Teresa Huffman, Clay County Board of Education member Susan Bodkins, Lizemore Elementary principal Britni Ramsey, and members of Ms. Huffman's preschool class celebrate having an exceptional attendance rate of 96.32%.***