



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Awards announced for Team BCPS Day participants** *Students, staff, and supporters turned Baltimore County into a sea of blue!*

Towson, MD – Team BCPS Day 2024 on Thursday, January 11, was a “blue-tiful” day. Across the county, students, staff, and supporters of Baltimore County Public Schools wore blue and posted nearly 170 photos on social media using hashtag #BCPSblue.

As it does each year, BCPS selects some of the images and videos posted on Team BCPS Day to honor with award certificates for their creativity and spirit. The following awards have been announced for Team BCPS Day 2024:

### **First to Use the #BCPSblue Hashtag on January 11**

[Kevin Jennings, principal, Rossville Elementary School](#)

### **Best Alumni Pride**

[Staff from Sandy Plains Elementary School](#), including graduates of Dundalk, Eastern Technical, Hereford, Owings Mills, Parkville, Patapsco, and Perry Hall high schools

### **Best Blue Book Display**

[The Battle of the Books Club at Martin Boulevard Elementary School](#) created blue book displays throughout the school’s library media center

### **Best Blue Headpiece**

[Lakecia Hines](#), community school facilitator, Glyndon Elementary School

### **Best Blue on the Beat**

Dogwood Elementary School [Grade 1 students in Devin Mercer’s music class](#)

### **Best Blue Volunteer**

Tie: [Ms. Brewster](#) of Charlesmont Elementary School, and [Ms. Noreen](#) of Riverview Elementary School

### **Best Community Service Message**

[Gus Franklin](#), member of pupil personnel worker Howard Franklin's family, was featured in a post promoting school attendance.

**Best Furry Friend**

[Lillie](#), family member of Jill Rosenthal, school social worker, The Chatsworth School

**Best "Get in Formation"**

[Young Men of Honor at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School](#)

**Best Head-to-Toe Blue**

[Gary Braham](#), science teacher, Lansdowne High School

**Best Large Group Photo**

[West Towson Elementary School](#)

**Best Multigenerational Blue**

[Cathy Phillips Walrod and family](#), three generations of BCPS students, alumni, and staff

**Best Siblings in Blue**

[The children of Megan Gorkiewicz](#). They attend Sparks Elementary School, and Gorkiewicz is a social emotional learning teacher at Parkville High School.

**Best True-Blue Accessory**

Tie: [Alicia Fales](#), supervisor of school to career transition in Career and Technical Education and graduate of Kenwood High School, and

[Mandy Shanks](#), principal, Dumbarton Middle School and graduate of Overlea High School

**Best True-Blue Business Partner**

[First Financial Federal Credit Union](#)

**Best True-Blue Community Partner**

[Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake](#)

**Best True-Blue Friends**

[LeQuin Sumpter Jr. and Ryan Ayd](#), Grade 3 scholars, Stephanie Stefanik's class, Rossville Elementary School

**Best True-Blue Story**

[Paul Steinert, a McDaniel College student, now serving as a student teacher with Valerie Gorlin Tarbell, his former Grade 3 teacher](#) (A [Face of the Week blog post](#) further explores this story.)

**Best Use of Blue in a Classroom Lesson**

[Kindergarten students in Stephenie Henricks' class at Rossville Elementary School](#) learning the letter "B"

**Most Fun Classroom Photo**

[Rebecca Strumsky's class](#), Grade 1, Vincent Farm Elementary School

**Most Fun Office Photo**

[Kellie Price, staff development teacher, Sandalwood Elementary School and LaJuan Johnson, specialist, Office of Title I](#)

**Youngest Team BCPS Day Participants**

[The Preschool-3 class of Jodi Postol](#), The Chatsworth School

Team BCPS Day, a celebration of the schools, students, and staff of BCPS, takes place each year on the second Thursday in January. View a round-up of this year's photos in the [Team BCPS Day 2024 Flickr album](#).

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 22nd largest school system, engages and empowers its talented students, teachers, staff, and stakeholders and strives to build an innovative and collaborative learning community where all students excel and reach their highest potential.

*Engage. Empower. Excel.*