



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MEDIA ALERT** – Thursday, March 24, 2022  
**Fargo Public School District #1**

## **SCHULDHEISZ NAMED FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 2022 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**



Ed Clapp Elementary School Principal **Jennifer Schuldheisz** has been named the **Fargo Public Schools 2022 Administrator of the Year**. Superintendent Dr. Rupak Gandhi made the surprise announcement today during a surprise assembly at Ed Clapp.

Schuldheisz has served Fargo Public Schools (FPS) for her entire 27-year professional career. She began as a special education teacher at Lincoln Elementary School in 1995. She taught fourth and fifth grade at Lincoln from 1999-2009. She was a Title Reading Teacher at Lincoln in 2009-10 and a Student Performance Strategist in 2010-11. Schuldheisz served as principal at Lincoln from 2011-14 and at Kennedy Elementary School in 2014-15. As Ed Clapp Elementary School's first principal, she guided the school through its opening in 2015 and has remained there since.

Schuldheisz received a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary and Special Education from Moorhead State University and a Master's degree in Elementary Education from Minot State University. She received her administration credential from North Dakota State University.

Her Administrator of the Year nominators describe her as someone who makes every individual at Ed Clapp, whether staff or student, feel important, respected, and cared for. She gives members of the staff handwritten notes of praise and encouragement. She has weekly check-ins with teachers and support staff to foster communication and ensure their needs are being met. Many of her nominators described situations in which medical or family emergencies arose and Schuldheisz was understanding, compassionate and supportive. She has been a calming presence in those situations, helping to take the pressure off those individuals in whatever way she could and facilitated making the necessary arrangements to take care of the emergency.

One of her nominators said, "Students are able to see and feel how much she cares about them when she listens, smiles, and talks with them on both their good and off days." While students at many schools view the principal as a disciplinarian and a means for punishment, students at Ed Clapp are said to be excited to see Schuldheisz. She provides each student with constant recognition, praise, and encouragement.

Schuldheisz is a lifelong learner and problem solver who is described as a "research junkie." She identifies areas for improvement, researches the best methods to achieve desired outcomes, and gives her staff the support and resources they need to implement them. She saw a need to

improve literacy foundations as students reading skills were stalling around third grade. She helped to create new programming that has seen more students succeeding at a faster rate. Schuldheisz is described as a “Pied Piper” that her staff wants to follow. She makes sure the staff understands why they do the things they do. Through that foundation of trust and understanding she is said to have been able to unify the staff behind her vision for Ed Clapp going back to before its opening.

In addition to leading the staff at Ed Clapp with her research-based approach, Schuldheisz is a respected leader among principals District-wide. She is an advocate and driving force for advancement in literary practices, special education, and equity and inclusion. Working in a large and diverse school, Schuldheisz sets an example for her staff and for other administrators to create a learning atmosphere said to be, “a wonderful place to work, and an amazingly supportive school environment for all children.”

Schuldheisz follows North High School Principal Andrew Dahlen as the District’s recipient of the Administrator of the Year honor. The Fargo Public Schools Administrator of the Year award has been presented within the District for nine years. The honor is regularly bestowed as part of the District’s annual Staff Recognition Program. The District also annually recognizes a Teacher of the Year and a Support Staff of the Year.

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