Outstanding Rural School District - 2020

 **Cole Co. R-V School District**

Eugene, Missouri

Cole County R-V School District is a rural K-12 district located in Eugene, Missouri. The district has a K-12 student population of 643 and a staff of 88. Cole Co. R-V School District was formed around 1960 encompassing schools from Eugene, Mary's Home, Honeycreek, Brazito, Spring Garden, Henley and Olean. The school district serves as the hub and heart of this area with residents of each of the small communities utilizing the school district for festivals, voting, showers, etc.

Deanna Smith, Board Treasurer, shares, "Eugene is a school district that stands above the rest. It has a character that I can best describe as giving. Everyone, from the custodians, teachers, administrators, staff, PTO, booster clubs, parents and community give all they have to make sure that every student can be successful not only in their education, but in their personal growth as well. When a child or family is going through a hardship, the Eugene School community is always there to step in and provide support. It is the extra steps that the Cole County R-V family takes that make all the difference to each child. These include Adopt-A-Family for Thanksgiving, Adopt-A-Family for Christmas, the Caring Closet which is stocked with clothes and hygiene products, fundraising efforts for students and families with hardships and making sure that every child had food delivered during the unexpected shutdown.

Casey Mason, 4th Grade Teacher, adds, "Cole Co. R-V School District went above and beyond for me last year as a first year teacher and made sure that I had everything that I needed to feel comfortable and capable of teaching my students. I watched my school work tirelessly in uncharted waters to ensure that each child had meals, the proper learning tools, and unmatched support. The district openly collaborates on everything and each person's voice is heard! This school district is the embodiment of everything a rural school district should be - supportive, community involved, dedicated and compassionate."

The Nevins Family had this to say, "When the High School Student Council found out about our newborn's diagnosis of Congenital Central Hypoventilation Syndrome (CCHS), they quickly set about organizing a fundraiser to raise awareness to this and help relieve some of the financial burdens that we were facing. We were very much appreciative that these students who did not know us wanted to help us so much. Through hat days, concessions, jean days for teachers and incentive class parties, the group set out to raise funds. They had cutouts of Ethan's face around school, fliers on the walls and posted on social media to bring awareness to CCHS. When the fundraiser was over, we thought that we would be presented with a few hundred dollars but never did we imagine that a small school would raise over $4,800. It was amazing to see that in such a hard time how the Eugene School District was willing to help! For this, we will be forever grateful!"

Mckensie Peneston, former student, shares, "Without the resources and strong connections that I made at Eugene, I would not be where I am today. I will always be thankful for the close bond that I made with staff, administrators and fellow students at Cole Co. R-V in Eugene.

The Missouri Association of Rural Education is proud to recognize Cole Co. R-V as the 2020 “Outstanding Rural School District”. Congratulations!