

Carol Harbaugh –KINDNESS

Carol Harbaugh is the Focus Room facilitator at Prairie View Elementary, and the Character trait that best exemplifies Carol is Kindness.

As a Focus Facilitator, Carol provides the school's most spirited students with a sense of structure and security each day, but always with kindness. Carol helps students look for solutions to get through life's problems with grace. She greets her students by name each morning, and she is there during the day when they find themselves needing a quiet moment to calm their thoughts. She is there to assist with homework, emotions and laughter.

Carol has also helped develop a caring community within her classroom. On a weekly basis, Mrs. Harbaugh and her students help prepare for the "Backpack Program," a confidential program that assists students and their families by providing a backpack full of food each weekend. The students assist in collecting and checking the expiration dates of donated food. Carol also supervises the students in collecting items from different food groups and placing into sacks for distribution. This backpack program touches many families in the Prairie View Elementary Community.

She comforts, teaches and supports children from Kindergarten to 6th grade and she does it innately. Her students and colleagues all agree that her honesty is refreshing. It may not be exactly what you wanted to hear, but it's more likely what you needed to know—delivered with kindness. She is a positive role model for everyone she meets.

Carol is not formally certified as a teacher, yet she is the finest educator I have had the honor of witnessing in action. Her talents lie beyond the reading, writing and arithmetic and hold court in the heart.