

DECEMBER TEAM PROFILE: LOCKSMITHS

Making a Difference, One Door at a Time



We all know the hottest topic in education these days is safety and security, and Jeffco's robust safety and security programs and measures are second to none. For this #TeamJeffco team profile, we are going to take it down to the nitty gritty and learn about our team of locksmiths.

Jeffco's locksmith team is part of the building maintenance department run by Mike Babkiewich. The role of the locksmith is to take care of all the door hardware at a school; to make sure all closures, doors, hinges, and keys are in working order. They also oversee all new construction

in the district. Their main goal is to make sure all facilities are safe and secure. As Mike puts it, "Our overall goal is to take care of the district's facilities and to create a safe learning environment for staff and students."

This team - Mark Lavelly, Ron Patterson, Ross Putnam, Mark Rush, Blaine Stillings, and Tim Wright - has seen a significant jump in work over the last couple years with the change in safety codes requiring the ability to lock a door from the inside. This meant A LOT of locks had to be changed. Not only did they bring the district up to code, they also proactively began changing all classroom door locks to meet the new standard. It is a huge measure and enormous undertaking, but imagine the feeling of security when a school staff member does not have to step into the hall to lock the door. The team has changed over 5,000 locks so far as part of phase 4 of the overall project.

Mike shares, "The team has gone above and beyond to take ownership of the lock project and do a quality job at the sites." They have dedicated many extra hours to completing this extensive project.

This team understands the importance of their work - safety most certainly starts with having secure facilities. "Knowing that the work I do benefits all the kids, teachers, and staff," is what makes Mark Lavelly proud to work at Jeffco.

And we are proud to have you on #TeamJeffco and thank you for your caring approach to what you do!