**2022 Outstanding Advocate Recipient**

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Challenger PTA is proud to continue the tradition of recognizing Golden Acorn and Outstanding Educator recipients, and this year has added the prestigious Outstanding Advocate Award. The Outstanding Advocate Award recognizes those who go above and beyond in their contributions to education and the school community.

We are excited to honor Maria Sandoval as an Outstanding Advocate. Maria is our Health Room Specialist. She treats the day-to-day health concerns of our students and staff. Her compassion and amazing patience give the Health Room a calming presence, especially throughout the last year as we continue to grapple with the COVID health crisis. Maria’s unfailing cheerfulness in the face of intense stress gives the students of Challenger a safe haven. Whether it’s the need for a Band-Aid or a COVID symptom check, Maria faces each situation with calm and compassion.

Maria also donates her time to the PTA, serving as the Vice President. Maria’s dedication to the PTA ranges from planning fundraisers, to organizing volunteers, to stepping into whatever role needs filling as needed. She can often be found in the hallways putting up PTA activity boards and displays. Maria serves on the Klahanie Sharks swim team committee, encouraging kids not only in the school but also on the pool deck. She is also active in local youth soccer leagues.

Maria Sandoval always has a smile and a kind word for every person at Challenger. She is a shining light in our community.