2015-16 Harford County

Teacher of the Year

21st Annual Banquet

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 • 6:00 p.m.
The Bayou Restaurant • Havre de Grace
Congratulations to the 2015 Harford County Public Schools Teacher of the Year Finalists

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6:00 – 6:30 p.m. .......................................................................................... Social Time

Introductions .......................................................................................... Mrs. Jillian V. Lader
Manager of Communications

Pledge of Allegiance

“Feeling Good,” as recorded by Michael Buble ............................................. Jazz Ensemble*
Havre de Grace High School
Richard Hauf, Director

Moment of Reflection ................................................................................. Mrs. Lader

Dinner ........................................................................................................... Courtesy of HAR-CO Credit Union and The Bayou Restaurant

Keynote Address ........................................................................................ Mr. Lawrence Jehnert
Third Grade Teacher, Edgewood Elementary School
2014-15 Harford County Teacher of the Year

Teacher of the Year Finalist Introductions .............................................. Dr. Susan Brown
Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Student Testimonials ................................................................................... HCPS Students

Teacher of the Year Prizes ........................................................................... Mrs. Lader

Remarks from the Board of Education ...................................................... Ms. Nancy Reynolds
President, Board of Education of Harford County

2015-16 Teacher of the Year Announcement .............................................. Mrs. Barbara P. Canavan
Superintendent of Schools

Teacher of the Year Remarks ...................................................................... 2015-16 Teacher of the Year Winner

Closing Remarks ................................................................................................ Mrs. Lader

*Featuring Josh Starkey, Alaina Reeves, Abby Lilly, Patrick Hauf, Jillian Laakso, Christian Amici, Isaiah Keith, Olivia Joseph, Dallas Walters, Elliot Scott
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for helping to shape the future.

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A Note from the 2014-15 Teacher of the Year

“Adopt the pace of nature; her secret is patience.”
-Mark Twain

During the past year, I have heard a common theme from a variety of select educators. It goes along the lines of, “I always dreamed of being a teacher.” Or perhaps, “I wanted to inspire other students like my teachers inspired me.” Even further, I heard comments such as, “I remember playing school from my earliest memory.” It is an honor to serve amongst educators that had these past aspirations, however I cannot share the same sentiment. Last year, on March 26, 2014, when I was announced the Harford County Teacher of the Year, I experienced the most rewarding feeling of my professional career. I never dreamed of that moment and honestly never had any desire to be a teacher when I was younger. However, the moment of the announcement gave validity to my educational career and signified the ultimate turnaround from an uninspired youth to a hard-working, motivated teacher.

The experiences of the past year have been, in a word, gratifying. From the school-wide assembly that Edgewood Elementary School had to celebrate my honor to the Maryland State Teachers Awards Gala, I have never felt so important and appreciated by so many. I have had the opportunity to meet and build professional relationships with administrators from Central Office, as well as members from the Board of Education. Through this entire process, one thought rings true from every last individual. We are ALL in the business of what is best for the students of Harford County Public Schools. I have come to the realization that each and every decision that is made has student interest and well-being as the main focus.

I wish the Top 5 finalists my most heartfelt congratulations! It is truly an honor bestowed upon the elite. Harford County Public Schools produces an immense amount of talented and highly-educated students year after year from extraordinary schools, and it is a reflection of those who have dedicated themselves to the teaching profession. To be a member of the Top 5 is an astounding and impressive accolade. It is my honor to be a part of your most memorable evening.
Former Teachers of the Year

Lawrence Jehnert, 2014-15
Kristin Schaub, 2013-14
Christina O’Neill, 2012-13
Christian Slattery+, 2011-12
Lisa Mullen+, 2010-11
Kimberly Schmidt+, 2009-10
Ronald Wooden, 2008-09
Christine Roland+, 2007-08
Susan Summerfield, 2006-07
Lori Frendak, 2005-06
Joan Hayden, 2004-05
Donna Clem, 2003-04
Howard Eakes, 2002-03
Alberta Porter+, 2001-02
Donna Zavacky+, 2000-01
Craig Harvey+, 1999-2000
Kurt Bittle+, 1998-99
James Mason+, 1997-98
Cathy Cerveny*, 1996-97
James (Pat) Whitehurst+, 1995-96
Marybeth Ford, 1994-95
Victor Petrosino, 1993-94
Martha Banghart, 1992-93
Gemma Hoskins*, 1991-92
Donald Osman+, 1990-91
Anthony Sarcone+, 1989-90
Robert Handy, 1988-89
Paul Schatz*, 1987-88
Laurie Neeper*, 1977

* Maryland Teacher of the Year
+ Maryland Teacher of the Year Finalist

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Congratulations to the 2015 HCPS Teacher of the Year, and thank you to all the outstanding teachers of Harford County!

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Lisamarie Bermudez

*Edgewood Middle School*
*Mathematics Teacher*

16 Years of Service with HCPS

*Nominated by Patrice Brown*
*Introduced by George E. Nickels*

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Lisamarie Bermudez earned her Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies Pre-K–8 in 2008 and Master of Arts in Mathematics Education in 2011 and received an Endorsement in Educational Leadership from Western Governors University in 2014. Ms. Bermudez teaches mathematics at Edgewood Middle School and is a member of the School Improvement Team and is the coordinator of the Annual Family Bazaar where she fosters community relationships through her contact with business partners. She is also the coordinator for the EDMS University afterschool intervention program. She serves her community as a Sunday school teacher, church secretary, and pastor’s assistant.
Tonya Chandler teaches second grade at Youth’s Benefit Elementary School. During her nine years at YBES, she has served in multiple roles that have enhanced teacher professional growth and student achievement. In addition, Ms. Chandler worked for 10 years as a Center Director/Team Leader with early childcare centers achieving National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation. Ms. Chandler holds a Bachelor of Arts from Eastern College, a Master of Arts from Cabrini College, and an Educational Leadership Certificate from Loyola University. She is a member of Fallston United Methodist Church, serving on the Worship Team and actively working with mission programs.

Laura Potter received her bachelor’s degree in mathematics from University of Notre Dame of Maryland in 2001 and her Master of Arts in teaching from Towson University in 2005. Ms. Potter has been teaching for 11 years, currently serving as a mathematics teacher at C. Milton Wright High School. Ms. Potter serves as Acting Mathematics Department Chairperson and member of the School Improvement Team. At the county level, Ms. Potter has facilitated professional development to strengthen mathematics instruction. In the fall of 2014, she was nominated for the William J. Sacco Mathematics Teacher Award.
Katie Scharpf

Forest Hill Elementary School
Third Grade Teacher

Nine Years of Service with HCPS

Nominated by Tammy Bosley
Introduced by Tara Kovatana

About Katie

Katie Scharpf has been a teacher for HCPS since December of 2005. She attended Towson University, where she received her bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education and the ‘Towson’s Elite’ title due to her exemplary performance as a student, intern and educational leader. Ms. Scharpf attended the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, where she received her master’s in Administration and Supervision. Upon graduation, she was inducted into the National Honor Society. Over the last ten years, Ms. Scharpf has taught kindergarten through third grade. Her consistent professional goal has focused on supporting the success of all students.

Sarah Scholl

Havre de Grace Middle School
Media Specialist

Nine Years of Service with HCPS

Nominated by Rachel Coutts
Introduced by Chyna C. Young

About Sarah

Sarah Scholl is in her 10th year of teaching at Havre de Grace Middle School, where she serves as the Media Specialist. She is a 2005 graduate of Elizabethtown College with a degree in English Education and earned her master’s degree in Instructional Technology from Towson University in 2011. She is the Ben Carson Reading Room Coordinator, a School Improvement Team and Professional Development Committee member, and instructor for the after school intervention program, Warriors Working Well. Ms. Scholl has presented sessions on technology integration for HCPS and state conferences, writes library curriculum and manages the after school student book club.
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Dr. Susan Brown
Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
Laurie Namey
Supervisor of Equity & Cultural Proficiency
Jillian Lader
Manager of Communications

FORMER TEACHERS OF THE YEAR
Lawrence Jehnert
Edgewood Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher
Christian Slattery
Jarrettsville Elementary Assistant Principal

ADMINISTRATORS
Ronald Wooden
Havre de Grace Elementary Principal
Toni Sawyer
Magnolia Middle Assistant Principal
Edward Herbold
North Harford High Principal

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Mark Waddell, Lifetouch (photographer)

Dennis Cassidy, HCN (silent video editor)

Nunzio Fiorentino, HCPS (audio)

Jay Berends, HCPS (audio)

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Independent Stylist

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HCPS Teacher of the Year doesn’t end here...

The Teacher of the Year blog can be found at www.hcps.org/teacheroftheyear. Subscribe for updates and words of wisdom directly from our Teacher of the Year.

You’ll also be able to access video and photos of the banquet, view our sponsors, and learn about previous winners on this site.

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Like HCPS on Facebook and follow us on Twitter — we’ll keep you posted about our Teacher of the Year’s exciting journey.

Know a teacher who would be deserving of the award? Make sure to visit www.hcps.org/teacheroftheyear in November to nominate the extraordinary teacher in your life!
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