

## **Communications Office**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **HCPS Announces Finalists for 2026 Celebration of Excellence in Education**

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) is proud to announce the finalists for all areas being honored at the 2026 Celebration of Excellence in Education. These areas include teacher of the year, leadership, operations, student services, transportation, and educational support professionals. Each nomination was carefully reviewed and scored by a judging panel to determine the finalists.

Here are the finalists of each award, in alphabetical order.

#### **Teacher of the Year**

- Nathan L. Armstrong, *Fifth Grade Teacher, Hickory Elementary School*
- Michael B. James, *English Teacher, North Harford High School*
- Brad D. Martin, *Trades and Industry Teacher, Harford Technical High School*
- Meredith A. Miller, *Second Grade Teacher, Ring Factory Elementary School*
- Kelli S. Parker, *Special Education Teacher, Darlington Elementary School*

#### **Principal of the Year**

*\*The HCPS Principal of the Year was announced at the Harford County Education Foundation's Excellence in Education Breakfast in October*

- Jennifer N. Gasdia, *Old Post Road Elementary School*

#### **Assistant Principal of the Year**

- Lauren M. Cody, *C. Milton Wright High School*
- Sara E. Collis, *Bel Air High School*
- Latika J. Diggs, *Meadowvale Elementary School*
- Caitlin L. Sieracki, *Bakerfield Elementary School*
- Stacey L. Zengel, *Fallston High School*

#### **Educational Support Professional of the Year**

- Cassandra "Cindy" J. Horton, *Paraeducator, Fountain Green Elementary School*
- Tara L. Koppenhaver, *Inclusion Helper, Havre de Grace Elementary School*
- Tara Y. Lloyd Laurence, *Paraeducator, Bakerfield Elementary School*

### **Student Services Professional of the Year**

*One student services winner will be chosen from the subcategory finalists named below.*

#### **School Nurse**

- Kimberly R. Bandy, *Meadowvale Elementary School*

#### **School Counselor**

- Karen J. Cunningham, *Edgewood Elementary School*

#### **Social Worker**

- Carrie L. Dalton, *Edgewood Middle School*

#### **Pupil Personnel Worker**

- Sarah Q. Lumbard, *Magnolia Elementary School*

#### **School Psychologist**

- Adriana A. Pizzadili, *Edgewood High School*

### **Operations Professional of the Year**

*One operations professional winner will be chosen from the subcategory finalists named below.*

#### **Facilities**

- Kenneth H. Earle, *Custodial Services Coordinator, Operations (Hickory Annex)*

#### **Safety and Security**

- Christopher N. McKelvey, *School Safety Liaison, C. Milton Wright High School*

#### **Food Services**

- Eric C. Rhodes, *Food and Nutrition Coordinator, Food and Nutrition Services*

#### **Custodian**

- Michael W. Serrini, *Custodian, Meadowvale Elementary School*

#### **Technology**

- Stephen M. Shaw, *Network Engineer, Office of Technology (posthumous)*

### **Transportation Professional of the Year**

*Three transportation winners will be selected, one from each of the subcategories below:*

#### **General Education Driver**

- Kimberly Bennett, *Bus 720*
- Thelma Brown, *Bus 918*

#### **Special Education Driver**

- Maranda N. Johnson, *Bus 464*
- Dawn M. Mahaley, *Bus 323*

#### **Bus Attendant**

- Elizabeth Cole, *Bus 474*
- Terry L. Lecuyer, *Bus 326*

The surprise announcement for each award will take place at the Celebration of Excellence in Education, scheduled for April 16, 2026.

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