

Delaware

Teacher of the Year



*Department
of Education*

2022
Awards
Ceremony

Delaware Department of Education

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education



Dear Friends:

The Delaware Teacher of the Year Program, administered by the Delaware Department of Education, honors Delaware teachers who exemplify fine teaching in the state. Delaware's citizens have reason to be exceedingly proud of and grateful for the dedication and high quality professional performance of our classroom teachers. The Delaware Teacher of the Year Program proposes to select one teacher who is worthy of representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. He or she automatically becomes the state's candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Program.

The National Teacher of the Year Program is the oldest and most prestigious awards program that annually focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. Sponsored by VOYA Financial, the National Teacher of the Year Program is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers.

We wish to thank VOYA Financial for its generous donation that made tonight's celebration possible.

The Delaware Department of Education is honored to present Delaware's 2022 Teachers of the Year. Please join us in congratulating each of them.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan S. Bunting". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "S" and "B".

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D. Secretary of Education



Appoquinimink School District
Odessa High School
(engineering and computer science)

University of Delaware
Master of Education in teacher leadership

Wilmington University
Doctorate coursework
Bachelor of Science in middle-level education

Years teaching: 15

AMANDA BINKLEY

Early in life, Amanda Binkley determined that her calling was to be a source of inspiration and hope to adolescents, leading her to pursue a career in education. For Binkley, teaching is more than a job; it's a gift. School can cause anxiety for many people, but for Binkley, it spurs excitement and hope, with each year signifying new opportunities to nurture her students' need to learn. Through her experience as a multi-subject teacher, she has been fortunate to receive many opportunities to grow her teaching practice. As a result, she has developed from a teacher of content to a teacher of students.

In her classroom, Binkley creates an atmosphere that fosters the confidence students need to open up to new learning opportunities, even the possibility of productive failure. Binkley believes that students learn invaluable lessons through these opportunities. She extends learning beyond the classroom by coordinating trips, creating clubs, and scheduling guest speakers, making sure students see how the content connects to the world around them. As a result, students in Binkley's class leave with skills that bring them success in education, make them valuable assets in future careers, and help them to succeed in life.



Brandywine School District
Brandywine High School
(special education)

Wilmington University
Master of Education
in school leadership and instruction

Delaware State University
Bachelor of Science
in elementary and special education

Years teaching: 21

JAHSHA TABRON

As a co-teacher in grades nine through 12 English classes, Jahsha Tabron works to make learning relevant to her students. She maintains academic rigor while helping students make connections to themselves, the text, and the real world. Her primary focus is ninth-grade special education students who are transitioning into the high school setting. Her expertise is in working with students and families to foster community connections between home, school, and educational agencies. Additionally, Ms. Tabron works to uphold equitable educational practices; she facilitates opportunities for fellow educators to foster student-centered growth. She mentors new teachers in special education compliance requirements necessary for developing individualized education plans.

Ms. Tabron believes that the most important thing an educator can teach a student is the power of self-advocacy. She speaks for the voiceless. She helps the often-overlooked students find their voices whilst advocating for them. She connects with students and encourages them to become active participants in their learning. Ms. Tabron believes that success lies in self-reflection. She is always willing to re-examine her work and the impact that it has on her students.



Caesar Rodney School District
W.B. Simpson Elementary
(physical education)

Delaware State University
Master in sports administration

West Chester University
Bachelor of Science
in health and physical education

Years teaching: 6

KARINE SCOTT

Karine Scott, a native French-Canadian, dreamed of becoming a physical education teacher and following in her family's footsteps. Her journey began when she relocated to the United States to play NCAA Division 1 Women's Ice Hockey at Minnesota State University. She graduated from West Chester University with a Bachelor of Science in health and physical education. Upon graduation, she started teaching physical education for students in grades K-5 at W.B. Simpson Elementary.

In the past six years, Scott has developed a phenomenal physical education and comprehensive school health program that promotes health and wellness and embraces a whole-child approach. Her passion and leadership allowed her to serve as the School Health Committee chairperson implementing school-wide initiatives such as Workout Wednesday and National Child Health Day.

Scott was the recipient of several grants, including Action for Healthy Kids, Bowler's Ed, and First Tee of Delaware, addressing the challenges of a strict fiscal budget. In addition, she serves as a representative for the Caesar Rodney School District Developmental Arts Council, assisting in curriculum development.

Scott's graduate internship with the Society of Health and Physical Education (SHAPE) Delaware advanced her professional aspiration to become the current SHAPE Delaware President. As president, she collaborates with the Department of Education and the Division of Public Health to impact surrounding communities throughout the state of Delaware. Scott continues to be a role model by leading a healthy lifestyle with her husband and two sons.



Cape Henlopen School District
Shields Elementary (3rd grade)

Wilmington University
Graduate coursework

University of Delaware
Bachelor of Science in early education

Years teaching: 7

MAURA JOHNSON

As a Delaware native and Cape alumni, it was always Maura Johnson's dream to move home to the community that inspired her love of education and teach at the school she attended as a young student. Her dreams became a reality; this is now her seventh-year teaching at Richard A. Shields Elementary in Lewes, Delaware.

Johnson plays an active role in both her school and community. As a Lighthouse Coordinator, she is a champion of the Leader in Me program. Johnson focuses on the importance of school culture and coordinates school-wide work that supports Shields' goals and initiatives to ensure student success. Additionally, she currently contributes to her school through her service on the School Improvement Team and Advisory Council for the Shields' Counseling Department.

Johnson impacts the lives of girls within the Cape community through her commitment to Delaware's Girls on the Run program. She's been a volunteer coach for six years and is an advocate for its mission, which strives to build confidence and teach social-emotional skills.

A lifelong learner, Johnson continues to grow while pursuing her master's degree in elementary and secondary school counseling from Wilmington University. Johnson is a passionate, dedicated teacher that believes in the power of connection and fostering a classroom environment where each child feels valued, safe, and important.



Capital School District
Hartly Elementary (kindergarten)

Wesley College
Bachelor of Science
in elementary and special education

Years teaching: 4

MORGAN JEWELL

Morgan Jewell dedicates herself to building strong relationships with her students and their families and creating a community within her classroom. Even after switching to remote learning, her dedication to maintaining relationships with her students did not waiver. She is an advocate for mental health and understands the importance of strong social emotional learning and support in all classrooms.

Ms. Jewell creates an engaging learning environment that supports a variety of learners using blended learning strategies. She has also provided professional learning for other educators to support them in their use of technology. As one colleague stated, “Ms. Jewell collaborates with her peers and is always willing to share ideas and resources as well as work together to problem solve. She reaches all learners and has a way with her students that is fun to watch. Walking into her room you can tell she has a well-established community of learners who love having her as their teacher. She is constantly wearing a smile and has a positive outlook that is inspiring.”

Ms. Jewell looks forward to furthering her own education as she pursues her master’s degree in elementary and secondary counseling.



Charter Network
Las Americas ASPIRA Academy
(3rd grade immersion)

Wilmington University
Master of Education
in applied technology in education

University of Delaware
Bachelor of Science
in elementary education

Years teaching: 5

DIANA MAGAÑA

Diana Magaña is known for making connections with students and leaving a lasting positive impact. She is actively researching and piloting new technology and academic programs. Her students leave third-grade experiencing what it is like being doctors, scientists, and entrepreneurs. Over the years she has attended La Cosecha Dual Language Conference, the International Society for Technology in Education Conference, the Colonial Technology Conference, among others. Through these conferences and other professional development opportunities, she has been able to seek innovative programs and resources to implement at her school and has brought the community into her classroom thanks to collaborations with Delmarva Power, Panda Express, and the Center for Economic Education & Entrepreneurship from the University of Delaware.

In addition to her degrees, Señorita Magaña has certifications in middle school mathematics, special education, and Spanish World Language. She has been a member of the third grade team at ASPIRA for five years and is currently serving as the team leader for the second year. She values collaboration and highlights the importance of having a dedicated and supportive grade-level team and school community.



Christina School District
John Downes Elementary (grade 4)

Walden University
Master of Education
in curriculum, instruction and assessment

University of Delaware
Bachelor of Science
in elementary education

Years teaching: 17

CARLA PROBST

Carla Probst was volunteering in her son's classroom at Downes Elementary when she realized she needed to become a teacher. While also managing the roles of mother and wife, she enrolled at the University of Delaware and graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in elementary education. Probst also earned a Master of Science in education from Walden University. Her experiences taught her the importance of persevering, exploring life's possibilities, and setting goals – regardless of your age.

Probst serves as a team leader, is the K-5 math content chair, is a member of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) team, and provides peer support with classroom management. Probst is also active within the Christina community where she serves on the Whole Child Strategic Team, and she also mentors novice teachers for the Delaware Comprehensive Induction Program.

Probst was recognized as Teacher of the Year at Stubbs Elementary (2008), Gallaher Elementary (2017), and was a finalist for Christina School District's Teacher of the Year (2017).

Probst's classroom is a place where all students feel safe and empowered to learn. She guides her students to actively own their learning by exploring new possibilities, taking pride in their work, and reflecting on their successes and failures. Probst steadfastly believes that when students master these skills, they develop an intrinsic motivation for learning and seek further knowledge throughout their lives.



Colonial School District
Southern Elementary (physical ed)

Wilmington University
Master of Education in school leadership
Master of Education in applied
technology in education

University of Delaware
Bachelor of Science
in health and physical education

Years teaching: 16

ROBERT POORE

Robert Poore began his love of teaching as an adolescent when he began coaching swim lessons as a 12-year-old, never looking back. This led him to study health and physical education at the University of Delaware. Poore began his teaching career in 2005 and has worked with all learners in Colonial. He has taught 3-year-old preschool students, 21-year-old adult education students and each age level in between. Poore continues to work with Colonial's special programs supporting the integration of students with special needs. He supports these students by helping to facilitate Special Olympics and by creating and facilitating the Shark Bike Program, which gives Southern's special program students sensory and movement opportunities with bikes, scooters and other movement equipment.

Poore also is an adjunct instructor in the Early Childhood, Elementary Education and Middle Level Education programs at Wilmington University. He strives to inspire and empower others to better serve students by leading the Southern Professional Learning Committee and the Southern Exploratory Team. Poore is also an active member of the Colonial School District Wellness Committee, the Southern Equity team, the Physical Education Leadership Council, the Professional Learning Community Workgroup and has delivered professional developments at the state, district and building level.



Delmar School District
Delmar High (mathematics)

Andrews University
Graduate coursework

Salisbury University
Master of Education
in secondary mathematics
Bachelor of Science in mathematics

Years teaching: 20

SONJA WARNER

Sonja Warner has been teaching mathematics for 20 years, six in Delmar High School. She has taught geometry, Algebra II, and advanced algebra with financial applications. Mrs. Warner is the advisor for the high school math league team at Delmar. She also is the co-ordinator for the hospitality committee. She is one of the advisors for the Class of 2023 and will be focusing on planning for prom in the spring of 2022.

Mrs. Warner has been the representative for the Teachers Advisory Counsel for the past three years, meeting in Dover, Delaware with other district representatives with Dr. Bunting. Outside of school, Mrs. Warner is a committee member for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, helping to plan local walks to raise awareness. She has been a team captain for the MS walks since 2003.



Indian River School District
East Millsboro Elementary
(special education)

Walden University
Master of Science in reading and literacy

Wilmington University
Bachelor of Science in middle-level
English and social studies education

Years teaching: 12

HALEY MEARS

Haley Mears has spent the last four years teaching in a multi-grade special education intensive learning center classroom ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. For the 2021-22 school year, Mrs. Mears will be teaching a second grade that includes special needs and English learners. Graduating from Indian River High School in 2005, Mrs. Mears immediately began working as a paraprofessional at East Millsboro Elementary while taking college courses at night.

Mrs. Mears' passion for teaching comes from her love of learning and of students. While she knows that academics play an important role in school, she also understands that students need to build positive relationships with their teachers and each other in order to reach their full potential. Mrs. Mears puts a great emphasis on social emotional learning in her classroom.

Mrs. Mears is a member of the school leadership team and mentors new teachers. After school she coaches a robotics team and an Odyssey of the Mind team. Being able to connect with students on many levels both in and out of the classroom is what brings Mrs. Mears the most joy.



Lake Forest School District
Lake Forest South Elementary (kindergarten)

Wilmington University
Master of Education in instruction

Wesley College
Bachelor of Science
in elementary education

Years teaching: 21

CLARENCE (CLAY) BEAUCHAMP II

Clarence “Clay” Beauchamp is a graduate of the Lake Forest School District. After college, Mr. Beauchamp returned to his roots and began his teaching career, all at Lake Forest South Elementary. Throughout his career, he has worked in various grade levels in various settings ranging from the Team Approach to Mastery, or TAM classroom to the Accelerated classroom, pushing students to strive for excellence.

Mr. Beauchamp has worked constantly with his colleagues planning lessons, helping create curriculum, and sharing ideas. He is never afraid to ask for advice. Mr. Beauchamp works closely with students at their level by preparing engaging lessons and providing feedback. He is in constant contact with parents, advising them of positives, student strengths and weaknesses, and giving helpful advice to help their child succeed.

Being a member of the Burrsville Ruritan, he has helped establish human and capital resources to help support not only students at Lake Forest South but throughout the district. As a member of the local and state teachers association, he has helped make decisions that are in the best interest of both students and teachers alike. Mr. Beauchamp is a strong advocate for public education, and he is a proud member of the Lake Forest community.



Laurel School District
Laurel Senior High School (social studies)

University of Delaware
Master of Arts in economics
and entrepreneurship education

Eastern Michigan University
Bachelor of Science
in social studies secondary education

Years teaching: 6

JESSICA PAJDA

Jessica Pajda is a social studies teacher at Laurel High School in Laurel, currently teaching economics and personal finance to 10th graders. She enjoys teaching economics and personal finance because it empowers her students with real world knowledge to make good decisions for themselves now and as adults.

Mrs. Pajda has always had a passion for history and that is what first drew her towards a career in education. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in secondary education social studies from Eastern Michigan University. Then moved to Virginia where she taught for two years. It was during her time in Virginia that she became a top three finalist for new teacher of the year in the Chesterfield County School District. She has been teaching in Delaware at Laurel High School for the past four years and during this time decided to continue her education. Mrs. Pajda received her Masters of Arts in economics and entrepreneurship from the University of Delaware this past May. It was through this masters program that Mrs. Pajda worked with the Center for Economic Education & Entrepreneurship to facilitate professional development workshops to educators across the state and help integrate the recommended social studies curriculum into items for Schoology and other learning management systems.

Mrs. Pajda enjoys coaching for the Laurel High School boys and girls soccer teams. In addition to her work with her students, Mrs. Pajda holds leadership positions as the social studies department chair, a novice teacher mentor, and District Professional Learning Community member.



Milford School District
Evelyn Morris Early Childhood Center
(kindergarten)

Wilmington University
Master of Education in instruction
Bachelor of Science
in elementary education

University of Delaware
Associate in Arts

Years teaching: 9

SARAH SIMON

Sarah has taught in the Milford School District where she began her education career at E.I. Morris Early Childhood Center. Simon is a certified special education teacher and has co-taught for the past five years in a Team Approach to Mastery (TAM) classroom. This teaching model allows her to help students with exceptional needs thrive in a regular education setting. She serves an ethnically and economically diverse population of students and is passionate about celebrating diversity and connecting with the hardest to reach children. Simon utilizes a trauma-informed approach to teaching and invests in her students' holistic development. Furthermore, she advocates for helping children regulate their emotions and build positive relationships within the school community. She pursues professional development opportunities and enjoys collaborating with peers. In addition, she takes on instructional leadership roles within her school and district to promote exceptional education for all learners.

Simon's heart genuinely belongs in the classroom. Her teaching philosophy is grounded in empowering young learners to grow in perseverance, self-esteem, and empathy for others. She builds a strong community of learners who celebrate successes and embrace challenges together. Her students know they are safe, they are loved, and they are capable of greatness.



*New Castle County Vocational
Technical School District*
St. Georges Technical High School
(physical science)

University of Delaware
Bachelor of Science
in science education

Years teaching: 14

DUSTIN CRAIGHTON

For Dustin Craighton, it was always about the people. At William Penn High school, Craighton succeeded not from an inherent love of learning but because of the bonds he formed with loving teachers who motivated and guided him. The relationships Craighton formed as a high school student propelled him to college where he found that leaning towards following his brother's footsteps to study finance didn't quite satisfy.

At a crossroads of uncertainty, he remembered those relationships he formed in high school with attentive and helpful teachers, so he forged a new path. Knowing he had a knack for simplifying difficult concepts and reaching kids who struggled, Craighton decided that he wanted to reciprocate the gifts of mentorship and guidance that were bestowed on him. He wanted to mentor and form the relationships that can alter the course of young people's lives for the better. He wanted to teach.

And for the past thirteen years, that is the teacher Craighton has been. One who values learning but knows that relationships come first. For thousands of school days, Craighton has embodied the idea that children who feel safe and feel listened to, learn more. Now, in a leadership role, Craighton builds relationships with other teachers to magnify his impact on students by being a mentor and a leader while continuing to build strong bonds.



POLYTECH School District
POLYTECH High School (English)

Delaware State University
Doctorate coursework
Master of Arts in curriculum
and instruction
Bachelor of Arts in English

Wilmington University
Master of Arts in teacher of reading

Years teaching: 30

DEBRA CASTILLE-HALL

Debra Castille-Hall has had the honor of nurturing and educating over 6,000 students over the course of her 30-year career, and thereby has the esteemed privilege of being called a teacher. In 1994, she began a career at POLYTECH High School, where she supported POLYTECH's vision of smaller learning communities, community partnerships, work-based learning experiences and alternative assessments.

To facilitate these goals, she has headed the "Write until We Get it Right" initiative to address the low achievement scores in writing until they "got it right" and POLYTECH's scores soared. In addition, she has served as a class advisor, academy manager, after school tutor, and climate committee member. In recent years, she has served as co-chair, after school tutor, scholarship committee member, and a member of equity and diversity committee.

In all the aforementioned positions, her essential role has been one who is an advocate for all students, their social-emotional well-being and their academic achievement and success. To ensure the best education for all her students, she remains committed to learning. She has a Master of Education in curriculum and instruction and her passion to address deficits in reading and writing across content areas motivated her to achieve a Masters of Education in the teaching of reading. Still, her commitment to best practices has encouraged further studies as she has begun her third year of her doctoral program in educational leadership with a focus on equity for all students and closing the achievement gap amongst them.



Red Clay Consolidated School District
Linden Hill Elementary (music)

Wilmington University
Master of Education in school leadership

University of Delaware
Bachelor of Music in music education

Years teaching: 9

MATTHEW MARION

With a lifelong passion for music, Matthew Marion enjoys bringing that love for music to his school community. In addition to teaching music classes to students in kindergarten through fifth grade, Marion also teaches chorus, directs the musical theater program, and organizes frequent performances throughout the community.

Marion is always looking for ways to foster a love for music in his students. Upon entering the music room, you can expect to be greeted with the sound of ukuleles, drums, pianos, and various other instruments. In 2015, Marion launched Linden Hill's first ever musical theater program. Through this program, countless students have flourished with this new opportunity to be creative, take on leadership roles, and step out of their comfort zones.

Seeking ways to increase his involvement within the school community, Marion graduated from Wilmington University with a Master of Education in School Leadership in 2018. He can be found putting these skills to use as a member of the School Leadership Team, coordinating the student-run morning announcement TV program, serving as the school's technology liaison, and sitting on several school committees. He also supports district-level music initiatives by serving on the Red Clay Music Curriculum Council and coordinating the Red Clay Elementary Choral Festival.



Seaford School District
Seaford Senior High (English)

Salisbury University
Master of Education in reading specialist
Bachelor of Arts
in secondary English education

Years teaching: 14

MELISSA PINKERTON

Mrs. Melissa Pinkerton earned her degrees after years of knowing that teaching was her purpose in life. Mrs. Pinkerton believes that treating students with kindness and humanity is the most important step in fostering strong learners. Putting the mental health and safety of students first makes her classroom a nurturing learning space where students feel comfortable taking risks for the sake of learning. Rather than insisting on perfection, Mrs. Pinkerton works to establish strong relationships with her students that remove the barriers that hold many students back from reaching their truest potential. All students in her classroom know that she cares about their individual needs and that she believes each one of them is destined for greatness. While holding students to the expectation that she has set for them, she also keeps the classroom a fair and equitable learning environment where students thrive because they have been empowered to be their very best.

Mrs. Pinkerton's most important goal as an educator is to ensure that each child that passes through her classroom feels and knows that they have an adult who sees them as the perfect creation that they are and that she has instilled in them the desire to be lifelong learners.



Smyrna School District
Sunnyside Elementary (music)

Wilmington University
Graduate coursework

West Chester University
Bachelor of Music in music education

Years teaching: 6

LAUREN MOHAMED

Lauren Mohamed is a caring and creative music educator. She believes that music education is essential for every child and it has the unique ability to bring out the confidence children often need help discovering within themselves. She works fervently to get to know each of her students and lift them up because the cornerstone of being an accomplished educator is building relationships.

Mrs. Mohamed graduated Cum Laude from West Chester University with a Bachelor of Music degree and is certified to teach K-12 general, choral and instrumental music but her true passion is igniting the love of music in our youngest learners. Mrs. Mohamed prides herself on her ability to collaborate with other music teachers through in person and online trainings and knows that a good teacher never stops learning.

She is a member of the Social Emotional Learning and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committees and works hard every day to do better when it comes to presenting music that represents all of her students. You can often find her with a smile on her face, a ukulele strapped to her back and one of her beloved puppet friends on her hand. Lauren is passionate about music and utilizes games, props and fun in every lesson. As one of her role models Artie Almeida says, "Where there's passion, there's retention," and she showcases that sentiment in all that she does.



Sussex Technical School District
Sussex Technical High School (English)

Wilmington University
Master of Arts in secondary teaching
Master of Education in school leadership

University of Delaware
Bachelor of Arts in economics

Years teaching: 11

STEPHANIE PEGELOW

Stephanie Pegelow's teaching career could be an allusion to the Biblical story of Jonah and the Whale. Like Jonah, she too ran from her calling. She knew the amount of work and time teachers devote to their careers. What she did not understand was the joy of being a life changer.

After graduating from the University of Delaware with an undergraduate degree in economics, she became an account executive for RBS WorldPay. Despite success, she felt an emptiness inside. She returned to college for graduate degrees in secondary education and school leadership.

After filling a temporary teaching job, Stephanie was offered a permanent position as a 7th grade teacher at Central Middle School. She coached volleyball and was the Student Government Advisor.

In 2013, she transferred to Sussex Technical High School. She advises the Student Government and can be found helping at various sporting events. She feels that planning prom, senior picnics, homecomings and attending sporting events are opportunities to connect with students.

Her teaching philosophy is quite simple. Stephanie believes teaching is an art and a science mixed with magic. When she experiences difficulties, a magical moment will catapult her forward. It comes in the form of an email from an old student, thanking her for some forgotten favor. Other times it has an "I got it!" expression on a student's face. Helping students find their secret sauce and encouraging them to share it with the world is her mission.



Woodbridge School District
Woodbridge High (English)

Wesley College
Master of Arts in teaching

Bloomfield College
Bachelor of Arts in English literature

Monroe Community College
Associate of Arts in liberal arts

Years teaching: 8

KIRA WAGAR

Kira Wagar's passion for teaching traces back to her pre-professional days. While completing her liberal arts associate degree from Monroe Community College (New York), Wagar substitute taught at a nearby elementary school and spent summers working with nonverbal students with autism.

Wagar strives to make a difference by providing engaging lessons, appealing to all students, regardless of backgrounds and abilities. While incorporating different teaching methods and building relationships, she provides high-quality instruction increasing student success and earning the respect of her students and peers.

Demonstrating that same classroom enthusiasm as an assistant varsity volleyball coach, Wagar dedicates time helping student-athletes learn leadership skills while maintaining their academic success. The climate she creates between students and student-athletes is one of mutual respect. Her goal as an educator and coach is for continual improvement in student achievement.

Being involved in school and community (Student Government Association, homebound instructor, Mentoring Program and Positive Behavior Support Team) has allowed Wagar to build strong relationships and succeed as an educator.

2022 BUILDING-LEVEL TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Appoquinimink School District

Alfred G. Waters Middle: William Barton
Appoquinimink High School: Mary Filippone
Appoquinimink Preschool Center: Kimberly Wingo
Brick Mill Elementary School: Lauren Quintana
Bunker Hill Elementary School: Maria Parks
Cesar Lane Early Childhood Center: Anne Price
Cedar Lane Elementary School: Danielle Moore
Everette Meredith Middle School: Dan Sullivan
Lorewood Grove Elementary School: Kimberly Anthony-Thompson
Louis L. Redding Middle School: Wendy Wallace
Middletown High School: Colleen Barrett

Odessa High School: Amanda Binkley*

Old State Elementary School: Susan Carpenter
Olive B. Loss Elementary School: Christine Hadfield
Silver Lake Elementary School: Molly McCommons
Spring Meadow Early Childhood Center: Ruixue Wang
Townsend Early Childhood Center: Maria Neira
Townsend Elementary School: Melodie Miller

Brandywine School District

Brandywine High School: Jahsha Tabron*

BUSH Early Education Center: Laura Roper
Carrcroft Elementary School: Tasha Moore
Claymont Elementary School: Brian Horne
Forwood Elementary School: Greta Savage
Concord High School: Lori Mcrae
Hanby Elementary School: Susan Brooks
Harlan Elementary School: Theresa Wills
Lancashire Elementary School: Stephanie Clair
Lombardy Elementary School: Vicki Ventura
Maple Lane Elementary School: Sarah Fobes
Mount Pleasant Elementary School: Maria Cobb
P.S. duPont Middle School: Sharron Wisdom
Mount Pleasant High School: Caroline Phillips
Talley Middle School: Ryan Warfel
Springer Middle School: Caitlin Gibbons

Caesar Rodney School District

Caesar Rodney High School: Elise Knable
John S. Charlton School: Georgina Voss
W.B. Simpson Elementary School: Karine Scott*

McIlvaine Early Childhood Center: Taylor Morris
Dover Air Force Base Middle: Russell Yeager
Fred Fifer III Middle School: Ophelia Craig
F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School: Emily Barth
Allen Frear Elementary School: Xiwen Li
Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary School: Nicole Pennypacker

2022 BUILDING-LEVEL TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Caesar Rodney School District (continued)

W. Reily Brown Elementary School: Cherie Bergold
Major George S. Welch Elementary School: Kimberly Weber
Star Hill Elementary School: Anne Coleman

Cape Henlopen School District

Cape Henlopen High School: Kelci Atkins
Beacon Middle School: Brian Walley
Mariner Middle School: Alison Herman
HOB Elementary School: Nina Wilkinson
Love Creek Elementary School: Donna Gibson
Milton Elementary School: Pete Stephanos
Rehoboth Elementary School: Tiffany McMahon
Shields Elementary School: Maura Johnson*
Sussex Consortium: Bob Sabolcik

Capital School District

Hartly Elementary School: Morgan Jewell*
Kent County Secondary ILC: Lisa Lewis
North Dover Elementary: Shanika Teachey
South Dover Elementary School: Chrystal Hall
Dover High School: Jeffrey May
Central Middle School: Ashley Bergold
William Henry Middle School: Vergie Benton
East Dover Elementary: Amanda Scotton
Booker T. Washington Elementary School: Emily Quiroz
Fairview Elementary School: Gina Baumgartner
Kent County Community School: Autumn England
Towne Point Elementary School: Courtney Nelson

Christina

The Bancroft School: Karen Eller
The Bayard School: Andrea James
Brader Elementary School: Christina Keyton
Brennan School: Amy Osman
Brookside Elementary: Megan Guderian
Christiana High School: Karen Baker
Christina Early Education Center: Emily Szaroleta
Delaware School for the Deaf: Courtney Hoopes
Downes Elementary School: Carla Probst*
Jones Elementary School: Dorothy Bobo
Gallaher Elementary School: Katie Wisniewski
Gauger-Cobbs Middle School: Erik Evans
Glasgow High School: April Simmons
Keene Elementary School: Erin Cameron
Kirk Middle School: Lance Love
Leasure Elementary School: Sheena Evans-Wilson
Maclary Elementary School: Kaitlin Kleiman
Marshall Elementary School: Karen Nuss

2022 BUILDING-LEVEL TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Christina (continued)

McVey Elementary School: Julie Guns
Newark High School: Adrienne Martin
Oberle Elementary School: Kyumyo Rothwell-Rowe
Sarah Pyle Academy: Jasmine Luster
Shue-Medill Middle School: Randye Harrison-Dixon
Smith Elementary School: Tiffany Stucky
Stubbs Early Education Center: Tierra Torres
West Park Place Elementary School: Victoria Brown

Colonial

Carrie Downie Elementary School: Ellen Truckley
Castle Hills Elementary School: Shelby Richard
New Castle Elementary School: Ivana Welch
Pleasantville Elementary School: Clare Carpenter
Eisenberg Elementary School: Amy Napolin
Southern Elementary School: Robert Poore*
Wilmington Manor Elementary School: Alexis Vanover
Wilbur Elementary School: David Ostheimer
George Read Middle School: Daniel Ramer
Gunning Bedford Middle School: Lauren McCool
McCullough Middle School: Natalie Ferry
William Penn High School: John Sopkanich
John G. Leach School: Kathryn Rzucidlo
Wallin School: Michaela Boykin
Colonial Early Education Program: Christina Pellegrini

Delaware Charter School Network

Las Americas ASPIRA Academy: Diana Magaña*

Delmar

Delmar High School: Sonja Warner*
Delmar Middle School: Amanda Desmond

Indian River

East Millsboro Elementary School: Haley Mears*
Georgetown Elementary School: Sarah Mae Johnston
John M. Clayton Elementary: David Grise
Long Neck Elementary School: Laura Marsh
Lord Baltimore Elementary School: Amy Absher
North Georgetown Elementary School: Bethany Chaffinch-Flood
Phillip C. Showell Elementary: Christine Hogsten
Georgetown Middle School: Karen Coty
Millsboro Middle School: Shelley J. McBride
Selbyville Middle School: Matthew V. McCowan
Indian River High School: Matthew Brian Selba
Sussex Central High School: Alina Wrench
GW Carver Educational/Tots/Project Village: Ashley Rowe
Southern Delaware School of the Arts: Erin Bullock

2022 BUILDING-LEVEL TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Indian River (continued)

Howard T. Ennis School: Eileen Gartman

Lake Forest

Lake Forest North Elementary School: Megan Hicks

Lake Forest East Elementary School: Jordan Mollohan

Lake Forest South Elementary School: Clay Beauchamp II*

Lake Forest Central Elementary School: April Taborda

W.T. Chipman Middle School: Brian Gilewski

Lake Forest High School: Jessica Hurst

Laurel

North Laurel Early Learning Academy: Mallory Steele

Laurel Elementary School: Stacie Mills

Laurel Middle School: Kelly Whaley

Laurel High School: Jessica Padja*

Milford

Lulu Ross Elementary School: Montessa Brooks

Benjamin Banneker Elementary School: Heather Smith

Mispillion Elementary School: Carrie Holleger

Milford Central Academy: Lara Lee

Milford High School: Caitlin Walton

Morris Early Childhood Center: Sarah Simon*

New Castle County Vocational-Technical

Delcastle Technical High School: Jessica Henry

Hodgson Vocational Technical High School: April Todd

Howard High School of Technology: Nicholas Grajewski

St. Georges Technical High School: Dustin Craighton*

POLYTECH

POLYTECH High: Debra Castille-Hall*

Red Clay Consolidated

The John Dickinson School: Kristin Zerbe

Stanton Middle School: Shayla Perkins

Skyline Elementary School: Lindsey Bulla

Linden Hill Elementary School: Matthew Marion*

Lewis Elementary School: Jill Peddrick

Cooke Elementary School: Alexis Storm

A.I. duPont Middle School: Leah Thompson

Heritage Elementary School: Jennifer O'Neill

Shortlidge Academy: Samina Miles

Early Years Program: Heather Dunbar

North Star Elementary: Erin Rivera

Baltz Elementary School: Denise Zuniga

Forest Oak Elementary School: Alexia "Lexie" Cordrey

A.I. duPont High School: Kylee Holliday

2022 BUILDING-LEVEL TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Red Clay Consolidated (con't)

Conrad Schools of Science: Beth Blohm
First State School: Mary Adam
McKean High School: Lowell Buford
Warner Elementary School: Melissa Morris
Marbrook Elementary School: Christine Paoli
H.B. duPont Middle School: Rebekah Lewandowski
Richey Elementary School: Meaghan Echeverria
Highlands Elementary School: Shayna Moon
Mote Elementary School: Bridget Wilson
Meadowood: Ashley Kellar
Brandywine Springs School: Peter Kelly
Richardson Park Elementary School: Ashley Jones

Seaford

Blades Elementary School: Jennifer Brewer
West Seaford Elementary School: Alison Tingle
Frederick Douglass Elementary School: Monika Kittell
Central Elementary School: Susan DeFord
Seaford Middle School: Jordan Crockett
Seaford High School: Melissa Pinkerton*

Smyrna

Clayton Elementary School: Lauren Kassner
North Smyrna Elementary School: Lauren Schwager
Smyrna Elementary School: Kelly Evans
Sunnyside Elementary School: Lauren Mohamed*
Clayton Intermediate School: Candace Wyre
John Bassett Moore Intermediate School: Holly Willey
Smyrna Middle School: Lauren Lucca
Smyrna High School: Daniel Semenick

Sussex Technical

Sussex Technical: Stephanie Pegelow*

Woodbridge

Woodbridge Early Childhood Education Center: Abby Whaley
Phillis Wheatley Elementary School: Daniel Barnes
Woodbridge Middle School: Carolyn Retzlaff
Woodbridge High School: Kira Wagar*

STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

The Delaware Teacher of the Year Program adheres to the requirements of the National Teacher of the Year Program regarding schedules, composition of applications, and areas in which nominees will be judged. We are proud that our program goes beyond the national guidelines by giving more attention to nominees' work in the classroom and by having persons outside the Delaware Department of Education make the final recommendation to the Secretary of Education.

In the first phase, five staff members from the department review the nominees' written applications. They rate each application based on specific criteria as outlined in a rubric provided to the nominees ahead of time. A numeric rating is applied to each application by the readers, and an average of the five scores is calculated for each nominee.

In the second phase, staff members from the Delaware Department of Education are teamed with former State Teachers of the Year to observe each nominee at work in their classroom as well as interview principals and colleagues. The observers, who work in pairs, want to see the teachers' typical work with students. The nominees' relationships with other teachers and administrators also are factors to consider, but the major factor is the classroom performance of the teacher. The observers follow a rubric that is provided to the nominees ahead of time, and a numeric rating is assigned to each observation report.

The application score and observation score are combined with the application score weighted at 70 percent and the observation score weighted at 30 percent. The three nominees with the highest scores become the finalists. The applications and observation reports of the three finalists are submitted to a panel of non-department judges, who also review a five-minute video of each candidate. The judges' recommendation is submitted to the Secretary of Education for final approval.

STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR CLASSROOM OBSERVERS

- Pam Alfaro (DDOE Academic Support)
- Theresa Bennett (DDOE Academic Support)
- Sabra Collins (DDOE Student Support)
- Sharon Crossen (2003 State Teacher of the Year)
- Jinni Forcucci (2018 State Teacher of the Year/Department of Education Academic Support)
- Sandra Hall (2016 State Teacher of the Year)
- Nicole Marshall (DDOE Academic Support)
- Jon Neubauer (DDOE Educator Support)
- Rebecca Vitelli (2020 State Teacher of the Year)
- Lea Wainwright (2014 State Teacher of the Year)

APPLICATION REVIEWERS

- Lisa Alexander (DDOE Academic Support)
- Monica Gant (DDOE Academic Support)
- Rob Grey (DDOE Educator Support)
- Chantel Janiszewski (Secretary's Office)
- Lindsay Lewis (DDOE Operations Support)

TEACHER OF THE YEAR JUDGES

- Khayree Bey (Professional Standards Board)
- Carey Corbin (Delaware Parent Teacher Association)
- Candice Fifer (State Board of Education)
- David Gilardi (Delaware Business Roundtable Education Committee)
- Stephanie Ingram (Delaware State Education Association)
- Alison Saborio (Educators Rising)
- Kimberly Stock (2021 State Teacher of the Year)

TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM STAFF

- Alison May, coordinator
- Jennifer Roussell, facilitator

SPECIAL THANKS

- Dover High School, event host
- Brad Whitenight, Dover High School A/V support
- Angela Moffett-Batty and Pat Zielen, Teacher of the Year Program support
- James Pernol, photography and videography
- Daniel Sato and Wade Stimeling (Government Information Center), online streaming
- Kyle Baxter, Capital School District IT support

DELAWARE STATE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

- 1965 Grace C. Moore, Marshallton-McKean District
- 1966 Nancy Lloyd Harper, Seaford School District
- 1967 Joseph J. Gilligan, Dickinson High School
- 1968 J. Richard Kendall, III, Mt. Pleasant District
- 1969 Ellen H. Harmeson, Capital School District
- 1970 Jessie C. Duncan, Newark District
- 1971 Phyllis G. Schabinger, Appoquinimink District
- 1972 Vivian Ellis, New Castle-Gunning Bedford District
- 1973 Mary Decker, Milford District
- 1974 Polly M. Bray, Newark District
- 1975 Eleanor (Forsberg) Young, Mt. Pleasant District
- 1976 Lyn V. Eggink, Division of Juvenile Corrections
- 1977 Lucy E. Samluk, De La Warr District
- 1978 William W. Barkley, Capital District
- 1979 Nina Lou Bunting, Indian River District
- 1980 Bruce Laird, New Castle County, Area 1
- 1981 June Soukup, Indian River District
- 1982 Renee O'Leary, Colonial District
- 1983 Harriett B. Donofrio, Cape Henlopen District
- 1984 Teresa G. Carey, Indian River District
- 1985 Susan Thomas Holder, New Castle County
Vo-Tech District
- 1986 Doris G. Stevenson, Brandywine District
- 1987 Paul Parets, Red Clay District
- 1988 Penny Schockley, Milford District
- 1989 Eleanor D. Schmidt, Colonial District
- 1990 Timothy P. Young, Lake Forest District
- 1991 Lisa (Best) Eline, Red Clay District
- 1992 Mercedes V. Ferrari, Milford District
- 1993 Clealyn B. Wilson, Capital District
- 1994 Patrice Buchanan, Christina District
- 1995 Candice Hopkins, Colonial District
- 1996 Darryl J. Hudson, Indian River District
- 1997 Francis J. O'Malley, Brandywine District
- 1998 Harry Kutch, Colonial District
- 1999 Lyn Newsom, Brandywine District

DELAWARE STATE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

- 2000 Ronni K. Cohen, Brandywine District
- 2001 Julia N. Harper, Delmar District
- 2002 Tonya Marcinkewicz, Brandywine District
- 2003 Sharon Crossen, POLYTECH District
- 2004 Rita Hovermale, Woodbridge District
- 2005 Kathleen H. Thomas, Caesar Rodney District
- 2006 Garrett W. Lydic, Laurel District
- 2007 Caridad Alonso, Red Clay Consolidated District
- 2008 Courtney Fox, Brandywine District
- 2009 Mark D. Teesdale, Lake Forest District
- 2010 Mary E. Pinkston, Brandywine District
- 2011 Joseph Masiello, Red Clay Consolidated District
- 2012 Amber Augustus, Smyrna District
- 2013 John Sell, Sussex Technical District
- 2014 Lea Wainwright, Appoquinimink District
- 2015 Megan D. Szabo, Caesar Rodney District
- 2016 Sandra Hall, Smyrna District
- 2017 Wendy Turner, Brandywine District
- 2018 Jinni Forcucci, Sussex Technical District
- 2019 Dana Bowe, Seaford District
- 2020 Rebecca Vitelli, Colonial School District
- 2021 Kimberly Stock, Red Clay Consolidated District

2021 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

We want to extend a sincere thank you
to 2021 Delaware Teacher of the Year Kimberly Stock
for her amazing work representing Delaware educators.



Thank you to the owners of these amazing cars for supporting tonight's event!

Vincent Alvino - 1985 El Camino

Oliver Hempel - 2021 Corvette

Rick Aydelotte - 1965 AC Cobra

Mabel Kelly - 1967 Chevy C10

Rob Burton - 1965 Daytona Coupe

Bruce Leppo - 1950 Studebaker

Bill Butler - 1939 Ford Custom

AF Lynch - 1955 Chevy Nomad

Leven Clark - 1940 Chevy

Phil Mead - 1965 AC Cobra

Tom Dempsy - 1969 Nova

Tonyea Mead - 1941 Dodge Pick up

Nick Gurnas - 1994 Viper

Rick Moore - 1994 Camaro 228

Pete Hart - 2008 Pontiac Solstice

Ken Philcox - 1982 Trans Am

Rita Hart - 2008 Pontiac Solstice

Mike Rogers - 1981 DeLorean

Joanne Hempel - 2003 Viper

Dave Shugard - 2008 Corvette

*Thank you to Voya Financial
for its continued support
of the Delaware Teacher
of the Year Program.*

*Voya's generous contributions
allow us to honor and acknowledge
the excellent teachers
in Delaware classrooms.*



