



PRESS RELEASE

Delmar School District Names its 2013 "Teacher of the Year"

Congratulations to Thomas Slavens, Eighth Grade Social Studies teacher at Delmar Middle School!

Delmar, DE, Thursday, May 3rd: The time has come to once again announce Delmar's "Teacher of the Year." Each year, the Delmar School District recognizes two teachers for the following three awards; the Delmar Senior High School, Delmar Middle School, and the Delmar School District "Teacher of the Year."

Nominees must go through a vigorous nomination process with strict guidelines for involvement. The program, which is state-wide, "seeks to direct the public's attention to the contributions made by all Delaware teachers." The nominees are evaluated on their dedication to their students along with the success in their teaching methods. Other factors include the admiration and respect that other teachers, administrators, students, and parents have for the nominee as well as professional development and service to the community.



Thomas Slavens,
2013 "Teacher of the Year",
Middle School & District

We are proud to announce Delmar School District's 2013 "Teacher of the Year," Thomas Slavens. Mr. Slavens is also awarded Delmar Middle School's "Teacher of the Year" Award. He is a first time TOY winner and has been teaching for 26 years; 24 of those years have been with Delmar Middle School. Slavens teaches 8th grade Social Studies and has been actively involved in many government related projects that benefit teachers and students.

When asked about his teaching philosophy, Mr. Slavens states, "The goals of my teaching have been two-fold; to ensure that the students develop the knowledge and skills in order to become successful citizens and to get students to develop a self-discipline approach to their education. If along the way I can help the students become compassionate givers who learn to be content with themselves I will feel some measure of success." Thomas also goes on to state that to equip students with the skills to make them into successful citizens; teachers must be committed to becoming a life-long student themselves and enlist a craving for knowledge in their particular content area. He says, "Continued education in professional courses and personal enrichment are necessary for one to be aware of changes in methodology, technological innovations, and the growth of the discipline. Knowledge of change alone is insufficient as it must be adapted for use in the classroom."

Many students were vocal about their admiration for Thomas Slavens. One common theme they all share is his ability to relate history content that he teaches to a student's everyday life. One student says, "I see Mr. Slavens as a man who can create balance between fun time and serious time. He can teach us something and we could understand it because he would put it in our generations' way of speaking." Another states, "He is a great teacher who manages to teach the information in a way that entertains students."

Slavens will go on to be nominated for the 2013 Delaware State "Teacher of the Year" honor. The state recipient will be announced on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 in Dover, DE.

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Delmar School District also honored Sean Jackson with Delmar Senior High School's 2013 "Teacher of the Year" award. Mr. Jackson serves as the High School's Lifeskills teacher. As an educator he strives to influence his students by being a positive role model and providing an interactive learning environment which encourages respect from the students for not only themselves but others as well. "It is my goal to meet the needs of each individual child by presenting material and concepts in a variety of ways. I also seek to empower my students with the necessary skills to take control of their own learning through encouragement and high expectations, both academically and ethically," he says. Jackson provides quality education for his students, "...by building on their strengths, devising productive plans for weaknesses, promoting self-esteem, and challenging them to achieve new heights." Jackson truly believes that without a strong connection between the home, school and community; students will not thrive.



Dan Devine, 2013
"Teacher of the Year," Delmar
Senior High School

To set up appointments to interview or photograph Mr. Slavens or Mr. Jackson, please contact Kristen Vernon at the Delmar School District Office at 302-846-9544 ext. 109.