



2022 Excellence in Education Awards

Tuesday, April 26, 2022





Excellence in Education

Program Schedule

Registration · 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Reception · 5:30 – 6:15 pm

Seating for Dinner · 6:15 pm

Student Performances · 6:20 – 6:35 pm

Program Begins · 6:35 pm

Master of Ceremonies

Ziz Abdur-Ra'oof, Author, Performance Coach, and AACPS Alumnus

Speakers

Emily Davis, Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, 2020

Jing Dai, Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, 2021

Welcome & Honoree Processional

Dinner

Please refrain from speaking during video presentations and remarks. Thank you.

Awards Ceremony

Mark Hoffmann, President, 21st Century Education Foundation

Joanna B. Tobin, Ph.D., President, Board of Education

George Arlotto, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Excellence in Education

Program Schedule

Teacher of the Year Honorees

Principal of the Year Honorees

Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists

Education Support Professional of the Year Honorees

Independent Schools Teacher of the Year Finalists

Katie Hansen, Annapolis Area Christian School
Mary Raleigh, St. Mary's High School

AACPS Teacher of the Year Finalists

Lacie Harold, Arundel Middle School
Jennifer Lowe, Crofton High School
Nafeesah Marcellus, Brock Bridge Elementary School
Molly Stavely, Glen Burnie High School
Charles Whittaker, Center of Applied Technology North

Presentation of the Teacher of the Year Awards

2022 Anne Arundel County Independent Schools Teacher of the Year
2022 Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year



Lacie Harold

Instrumental Music | Arundel Middle School

"I pay close attention to my students' experiences and backgrounds to create a classroom where they feel comfortable to express themselves musically. Every day I aim to share my love for children and music while helping to create a musically literate society of musical consumers, performers, and creators."



Professionalism and dedication are at the forefront of the beautiful work exhibited by Lacie Harold.

"Mrs. Harold creates a warm, safe, and engaging atmosphere for her students, which enables them to thrive with her support... students' function both independently and cohesively as they grow independently and unite to make music magic happen," says Arundel Middle School Principal George Lindley.

Harold's "contagious enthusiasm" has been the driving force of Arundel Middle's thriving music program. Since joining the school, the music program grew 150 percent, from two part-time teachers to nearly three full-time educators.

Her impact and leadership have also touched her school community. She has provided ample opportunities for students to have various experiences, including in and out-of-state competitions, cluster performances, and in-person or virtual community performances.

Lacie Harold is equally devoted to encouraging positive student behavior and emotional well-being as much as promoting academic achievement. "In addition to teaching content, Mrs. Harold builds her students' self-esteem, and fosters personal responsibility," says Principal Lindley. "Her highly effective instruction and growth of our music program promote an inclusive climate in the classroom and establish an example for all to follow."

Jennifer Lowe

Special Education | Crofton High School

"Students learn best when intrinsically motivated, creating a passion for learning, rather than a hunger for approval. I hope that my students feel that I always had their best interests in mind, genuinely cared for their wellbeing, and taught them skills necessary to be a contributing member of their community."



With 20 years of education experience, Jennifer Lowe brought her winning combination of passion for students and love of learning to create a lasting, positive impression in only one year of working at Crofton High School.

"While each student in her classroom has a disability, their disability does not define them, says Crofton High School Principal Kathryn Feuerherd. It has been Ms. Lowe's commitment to the work of inclusion that has created one of the most welcoming, supportive, and caring school cultures that I have seen."

Instructionally, Lowe is a marvel. "Ms. Lowe's dedication to her students is unprecedented. She individualizes instruction to support each student in reaching their highest potential," says Sharon Layman, Special Education Department Chair at Crofton High School.

Beyond her classroom walls, Lowe's dedication to inclusion has connected her students with non-disabled peers through clubs like Best Buddies, Unified Sports, and Special Olympics Maryland.

One of Lowe's student's guardians shared, "Thank you so much for everything you do with Best Buddies. Her Best Buddy called. Two-sided conversation. This makes me so happy; you will never understand how much. I have tears. She has someone her age to talk with her. I always wanted her to have a friend."

"In just a year of existence, Crofton High School has established itself as an inclusive and accepting community," says Crofton High School Health & Physical Education Department Chair Tim Stedman. "Ms. Lowe has been a true leader and a driving force in building that foundation."

Nafeesah Marcellus

Grade 3 | Brock Bridge Elementary School

My teaching philosophy is the belief that students best excel in a fun and engaging environment. My classroom is regularly filled with singing and laughter as I connect lessons to topics relevant to my students. I work to ensure that my classroom materials and instruction are inclusive and representative of the diverse cultures of my students."



From modifying reading instruction and creating a book club to arranging calls with book authors, as a classroom teacher, Nafeesah Marcellus will go to any length so that her students can see themselves in literature and become lifelong readers.

Marcellus also works with students as a drama club advisor, helping them to discover and cultivate new talents.

"When Mrs. Marcellus' third grade team was approached by the music teacher during the 2016-17 school year about starting a drama club for intermediate students; she immediately recognized it as an opportunity for her students to continue to learn and grow outside of the classroom," says Brock Bridge Elementary School Principal Ada Carter. "Mrs. Marcellus and her team volunteered their time after school to become advisors for this club, and it quickly became a favorite among students and families. It has now grown to include both a primary and intermediate club."

"Mrs. Marcellus' dedication and commitment to education are reflected in all she does for the Brock Bridge Students and community," says Principal Carter. "She is very in tune with her students' needs and what motivates them... they are supported, celebrated, and engaged daily. The day is a fantastic model of whole brain teaching. From the moment they walk in the door, they become part of a family of learners, and each one has an opportunity to be a leader."

Molly Stavely

English | Glen Burnie High School

"I recognize learners' stories and am open to sharing mine. I cherish each student's complex identities and biographies. My classroom is not mine, but ours. Students have the confidence to confide in me. With this connection, I can channel students to the resources they need for issues and opportunities that are beyond the English curriculum."



Simply put, Molly Stavely is “an instructional leader who helped to shift the culture of teaching and learning at Glen Burnie High School,” states Principal Scott McGuire. From teaching classes of varying levels and diverse make-ups to mentoring other teachers and serving as athletic academic advisor, she goes above and beyond to help her students, student teachers, and colleagues get acclimated to life at the school.

Stavely is also a joy to be around, and her colleagues and students think highly of her. Glen Burnie High School English Teacher Paul Keener says, “There’s an old cliché about people whose smiles can brighten a room; Molly Stavely is someone whose smile can brighten a campus. She meets and greets every student both in and out of her class with kindness, compassion, and candor. When students come to her, they know that they will feel acknowledged, heard, and understood because she really does care that much.”

“Mrs. Stavely’s classroom served as a safe space for me from the chaos of my life,” says a former student. “The only reason why her classroom served that purpose was because she was in it. She went above and beyond the duties and responsibilities of my teacher. After I graduated, she became a part of my family.”

Another student adds, “Mrs. Stavely is not only an exceptional teacher, but an incredible listener, motivator, and friend. Mrs. Stavely taught me so many life lessons that I will take with me forever.”

Charles Whittaker

HVAC | Center of Applied Technology – North

“One of the fundamental roles of an educator is to develop a student’s independence. I teach the characteristics of a good employee, which include the softs skills that help students be successful in the industry. I ensure success in my students by helping them earn the necessary industry certifications that will support them in creating their career paths.”



As a 15-year education veteran, Charles Whittaker “tirelessly gives students his time. It is clear to them, and me, that he loves teaching, students, and HVAC,” says Center of Applied Technology North Principal Joe Rose. Whittaker “uses precise instructional strategies and consistently demonstrates the ability to build connections with all of his students. If a student has learning challenges, home life obstacles, or is marginalized in any way, they are successful in Charles’ class because he shows them, he genuinely cares about the whole student.”

Whittaker constantly reflects on his teaching and improves to give students the best, most current, and most authentic education.

“He is a Brightspace Champion, Department Chair, Industry Professional, and a true leader among his colleagues,” says Principal Rose. “He not only investigates opportunities for himself but through his selfless leadership, he always looks to serve others.”

When students are in their second year of the HVAC Program, Whittaker connects with business partners to create apprenticeships, job shadowing, and field trip opportunities.

He is an innovative educator who actively seeks to infuse refreshing ideas and teaching strategies to support his students. Principal Rose continues, “His classroom is a place of collaboration, positive energy, and love, in which students are empowered to discover and nurture their potential.”

Katie Hansen

Grade 5 | Annapolis Area Christian School

"I strive to create a culture of grace in my classroom, one in which my students aren't afraid to ask questions or discuss tough topics for fear of being wrong or ignorant. I have encouraged them to be 'Super Sleuths,' where they find an error in their work and rejoice in sharing with the class how to fix it."



Katie Hansen is an advocate for children, as evidenced through her engaging and differentiated instruction, the loving culture she creatively and attentively establishes in her classroom, and the time she invests in partnering with parents. Hansen's students rave about her fun and engaging lessons, and the office staff praises her willingness to pitch in at a moment's notice.

"Year after year, Mrs. Hansen's grade level teammates share with me how much they love working with her- that she is organized, flexible, and has such creative ideas on how to make learning fun," says Annapolis Area Christian School Principal Elizabeth Williams.

Fun might be her middle name. Her gregarious personality is contagious and can be seen when she wears a banana outfit when promoting the behavior management system or celebrates after kicking a home run in a kickball game at recess.

With such a jovial nature, Hansen has made learning a seamless affair in her classroom. "Mrs. Hansen pivots with her instruction and classroom management to effectively meet the academic and emotional needs of the students in each class every year," says Principal Williams. She "is the epitome of a master teacher. The way in which she selflessly, creatively, and enthusiastically loves and supports her students, their families, and our school serves as part of the bedrock of our Kindergarten through Fifth Grade program."

Mary Raleigh

Mathematics | St. Mary's High School

"Success in math is not a grade. Success is developing the ability to think and create a lifetime love of learning. Math is the vehicle to get to the destination. My students learn and build confidence when they push themselves past the struggle. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a student grapple with a problem and then solve it."



Mary Raleigh, a 30-year education veteran, is "changing the world one student at a time," according to Saint Mary's High School Principal Mindi Imes. "Mary is beloved by students because they know she cares about them, and she inspires students to appreciate and love Mathematics."

Raleigh is a skilled educator who navigates through technology manipulatives and checks for understanding effortlessly to allow students to take risks, make mistakes, learn, and thrive.

Her commitment to education goes well beyond the classroom. She is a leader amongst her colleagues and volunteers to serve on many school committees such as the Junior Civitan Club, Sophomore Class, Backgammon Club, and the annual blood drive. She also often chaperones retreats to build deeper connections with students.

"Mary is committed to supporting our mission to educate the whole child, mind, body, and spirit," continues Principal Imes. "Her passion is contagious. St. Mary's High School is a better place because Mary is teaching here."

Excellence in Education Semi-Finalists



Jenna Borman

Grade 5, Deale Elementary School

"In my classroom, I teach mutual respect, encourage students to think about the effects of their actions and words, and cultivate ownership of any consequences of their actions. Students in my classroom are also held to high academic standards and recognize that making mistakes is part of the educational process."

Jenna Borman's enthusiasm, creativity, and passion towards all aspects of school have had a meaningful impact on the Deale Elementary School community. She is deeply loved and respected by students.

"Mrs. Borman is and will always be my favorite teacher; she is kind, caring, supportive, and always a joy to be around and be with! She makes me feel safe whenever I'm with her," are sentiments made by several recent students.

Her colleagues feel similarly, "Jenna is an absolute blessing of a co-worker. She thrives on making sure that every single student and staff member is taken care of no matter the need," says many of her teammates.

Borman has taken several leadership roles without hesitation and excelled at them all. She serves as the Science and Math Lead Teacher and drives many of the wonderful STEM initiatives that students enjoy.

By supporting the school in so many ways, Borman shows her commitment to the whole child approach towards teaching and learning. Simply put, as current Deale Elementary School Principal John Barzal asserts, "Mrs. Borman is a game-changer in a child's life."



Ada Downing

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Marley Middle School

"As an ESOL teacher, I draw from these personal experiences every day when students walk through my door. No matter where they are in their English learning journey, I strive to teach them that language connects us and enables us to share our history, traditions, and cultures with others. By honoring our diversity, I hope to encourage my students to go beyond their perceived limitations and discover their own identities."

Ada Downing is beloved by her colleagues and students alike. All who know her are quick to give her praise.

"As an exceptional English Language Acquisition teacher, Ada Downing works tirelessly to ensure all her students are supported in her classes and ALL classes," says Marley Middle School Principal Kimberly Winterbottom.

"With grace and positivity, she balances the expectations of both a core and encore teacher, ensuring that her students always come first and have what they need to be successful," says her colleague Traci Gillette, School Performance Coach.

Downing "is the epitome of a well-rounded educator as someone who strives for maintaining relationships with staff and students, which she demonstrates through non-stop communication to advocate for the interests of the students," says her colleague Matthew Holmwood, English Language Development Teacher.

Downing has found the difference-making formula that ensures student success. From knowing the needs of her students and using data to strengthen her lessons, she compassionately converses with students to yield outstanding results. She is a true partner with administrators, counseling staff, and school performance staff to support students academically and emotionally.

Excellence in Education Semi-Finalists



Andy Guzik

Instrumental Music, Chesapeake Bay Middle School

"Music is the perfect vehicle to teach many life skills to young people. It teaches them the discipline to keep practicing even when they feel like giving up. It teaches them to be accountable for learning their part, themselves, and classmates. It teaches them to be a part of a community that focuses on making itself better."

In six years of teaching at Chesapeake Bay Middle School, Andy Guzik has wholly revamped and exponentially grown the music program, making it the largest band and orchestra on the Chesapeake peninsula. Guzik has managed to bring together an eager group of supportive parents to help whenever needed.

According to Chesapeake Bay Middle School Principal Michael Dunn, he frequently gets messages of praise about Guzik. One parent's email says, "Mr. Guzik's percussion ensemble class is the only reason my son gets up and goes to school."

Friendly, extroverted, caring, connection, fun, and unison are just a few words that describe Andy Guzik and his classes. His students may be drawn to his class for fun, but they stay because of "his joy of helping students discover the mathematical and aesthetic wonder of music," says Principal Dunn.

The AACPS Music Office has also noted his hard work, entrusting Guzik as the lead teacher to organize, rehearse, and conduct the All-County Middle School Band auditions and performances for the past ten years.



Eric Hare

Triple-E, Quarterfield Elementary School

"Much of my teaching philosophy has evolved over the eighteen years of my teaching career, but two constant educational beliefs include progressivism and culturally responsive instruction. I believe that students learn best with a hands-on approach to learning. If students are interested and connect the content to their own needs, then they will be more likely to transfer and apply their learning in the future."

Eric Hare has been an asset to AACPS for about 19 years. For the last six years, Hare has been a valuable member of the Quarterfield Elementary School community.

"The learning environment in Mr. Hare's classroom is welcoming, collaborative, and student-centered," says Quarterfield Elementary School Principal Quinn Swain. He "challenges his students in creative and innovative ways every day through highly engaging lessons, rich in content."

Hare has transitioned from teaching third- and fourth-graders to teaching STEM in Society in the Triple E program. This role allows him to affect more students, serving students from Kindergarten to fifth grades. His contribution to the STEM program goes beyond regular classroom time. Hare connects with students and families as the facilitator of four collaborative STEM-related after-school clubs along with STEM and STEAM activity nights where the community comes together to work on solving real-world problems.

"Through these clubs and activities, he helps students to develop necessary skills such as leadership and risk taking while encouraging students to think critically and appreciate the talents and abilities of their peers," says Principal Swain.

Excellence in Education Semi-Finalists



Patricia Kerner

Grade 5, Crofton Woods Elementary School

"There's a natural synergy that happens when teachers are facilitators who empower students and put them at the center of their learning. This produces self-determined learners who see the value of a productive struggle, who see mistakes as part of the learning process, and who feel confident knowing their voices and opinions matter and are valued."

More than a gifted educator, Patricia Kerner, a 19-year education veteran, is a leader. She "helps shape the culture at Crofton Woods as she exemplifies the school's mission and vision: Discover, Integrate, and Grow," shares Crofton Woods Elementary School Principal R. Lynn Birus.

True to that theme, she helps her students "discover" not only new concepts and knowledge, but also themselves. A student shared, "she makes me feel cheerful and like I'm ok to be myself."

Through a keen lens of equity, she "integrates" strategies to "ensure that all students are given the full expectation for high intellectual performance," says Principal Birus. "Students engage in meaningful and courageous conversations that directly teach anti-racism and anti-bias. Every child is valued and feels it."

Kerner not only creates a space for her students to "grow," but also for her school community. Her impact is recognized by parents, students, and colleagues.

As one parent states, "Mrs. Kerner seems to know exactly what each of her students need to inspire a love of learning. Her students feel good about themselves and the role they can play in making a difference in the world."



Excellence in Education Honorees



Michele Agnes

George T. Cromwell Elementary School

Grades: K-5

Subject: Literacy

Years of Teaching Experience: 30

"I want to instill a lifelong love of reading and to help children understand the importance of reading. I am also mindful of helping to foster students who are empathetic and have a passion for learning. I want students to see themselves as an important part of our school community and understand how valuable they are to our community."



Julie Beckwith

Solley Elementary School

Grades: K-5

Subject: Special Education

Years of Teaching Experience: 10

"The connections I make allow me to recognize and build upon students' strengths and interests. My students feel just as much a part of our team as all the adults who support them. It is important to me that my students trust me. They know I care about them and believe they are capable of learning and growing."



Heather Bosanko

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School

Grade: 2

Subject: Elementary

Years of Teaching Experience: 10

"My goal is to inspire my students to think and ask questions in addition to achieving the set academic standards and goals. I want to help them grow with confidence, compassion, and character. At the end of the day, a positive attitude towards learning will guide them towards success in school which leads to a productive life."



Mandi Brew

Tracey's Elementary School

Grades: K-5

Subject: Behavioral Specialist

Years of Teaching Experience: 18

"As an educator, I believe that all children can, and will, learn in a safe and loving environment and that students' social and emotional needs must be met prior to their curricular needs. I also truly believe that 'it takes a village,' and that relationships with families and the community are paramount."

Excellence in Education Honorees



Tracy Burke

Brooklyn Park Elementary School

Grades: Pre-K-5

Subject: Physical Education

Years of Teaching Experience: 17

"Students deserve the right to a quality and well-rounded education where they can be challenged at their own level. My hope for my students is to find at least one sport or activity that they really enjoy so they can take what they have learned in class and apply it to the real world to promote a lifelong love of learning and fitness."



Shannon Ellis

South River High School

Grades: 9-12

Subject: Special Education/Science

Years of Teaching Experience: 9

"Students should trust their teachers. To create that trust, teachers must relate to their students' experiences, show genuine interest in their lives so that students believe they are safe and know that their teacher is there for them. My most humbling work has been connecting to my English Language Learners, learning from them about their struggles, wanting them to feel safe and understood so that they can learn science. This should be every teacher's work."



Erica Frank

Wiley H. Bates Middle School

Grade: 7

Subject: Social Studies

Years of Teaching Experience: 6

"I live by the philosophy of 'kids before content.' I work closely with each student, providing the individualized support and praise they require. I also make sure to stay connected with family members to encourage the success of each student, both in and outside of the classroom. I've truly appreciated and learned from every child and every family I have worked with throughout my AACPS career."



Molly Fullerton

Broadneck High School

Grades: 9-12

Subject: Music

Years of Teaching Experience: 24

"I believe in giving students an opportunity to grow and learn while finding and defining their own inner song in the space of the arts...Music is a universal language and whether my students want to be a professional or hobbyist, I am giving them a safe, welcoming space to create, explore, and connect with their peers, families, and the community."

Excellence in Education Honorees



Becky Guzman

Meade Middle School

Grades: 6-8

Subjects: ESOL

Years of Teaching Experience: 11

"My hope is that I can be that lighthouse that provides steady guidance and direction as they [students] navigate the sometimes choppy and unpredictable waters that flow with the process of learning a new language, a new culture, and often a new system of schooling."



Desiree Hartman

Linthicum Elementary School

Grades: K-5

Subject: Literacy

Teaching Experience: 28

"I believe in building authentic relationships with students, teachers, and families through consistent communication and the use of supportive strategies. With relationships as the foundation, all good teaching and learning takes place when the whole child and whole teacher are being considered."



Catherine Hoffmann

Nantucket Elementary School

Grades: K-5

Subject: Special Educator

Years of Teaching Experience: 8

"When I work with students, I want them to trust that I am there to help them take new steps and move forward. When we step back to listen to what we are seeing, we can open our hearts to understand what our students truly need. These are the moments when children trust us, and this is where learning begins."



Robert King

Central Middle School

Grades: 6-8

Subject: Technology Education

Years of Teaching Experience: 8

"I create a classroom culture where everyone has a role in the class. I recognize that all students have different strengths and weaknesses, and I want to create a classroom culture where all of the students come together and help each other to build a better, complete class experience. I have told many that, 'If you ain't failing, you ain't trying.'"

Excellence in Education Honorees



Kelly LaBrutte

Southern Middle School

Grade: 8

Subject: Language Arts

Years of Teaching Experience: 16

"In a world where so many pressures are placed on the shoulders of our children, taking time to laugh and smile is crucial. A classroom is a place where they should work hard, but it is important to have fun while doing so. If they can't enjoy being in class, they won't open themselves up to learning something new."



Kate Lepovsky

Folger McKinsey Elementary School

Grade: 5

Subject: Elementary

Years of Teaching Experience: 18

"A key ingredient to my philosophy is: MATH—Mistakes Allow Thinking to Happen. I work to de-stigmatize mistakes and inspire my students to see them as opportunities, in math and beyond. I believe strongly that the rapport I establish with my students allows them to feel comfortable so they can push the boundaries of their own capabilities."



Carey Madden

Ruth Parker Eason School

Grades: Various

Subject: Special Education

Years of Teaching Experience: 6

"As a special educator, I must deliver engaging and specialized instruction, so that my students achieve personal goals, no matter what individual challenges they face. I must first find out who my students are beyond a disability label. The process is 'different,' but different is not hard; different should be celebrated."



David Mallek

Old Mill Middle South

Grades: 6–8

Subject: ESOL

Years of Teaching Experience: 20

"Teaching is the guidance that brings students through the process of learning. We seek more than to merely grow productive members of society, but rather to prepare students for a fulfilling human experience. Connecting and expanding their experiences through collaborative, communicative learning in an authentic context will ignite their desire to learn and bring them to success."

Excellence in Education Honorees



Chelsea McDonald

Lothian Elementary School

Grade: 4

Subject: Elementary

Years of Teaching Experience: 7

"Research proves that the more teachers build relationships with students, the more successful they are socially, emotionally, and academically. Each time I attended a field hockey, soccer, or basketball game, I noticed an immediate shift in the child the following school day. From this point forward they had fewer absences, higher participation, and fewer behavioral issues. All of this has led to an undeniable increase in student engagement. I firmly believe students need their voices empowered, and to feel truly supported by their teacher."



Aaron Parks

Center for Applied Technology—South

Grades: 9–12

Subject: Welding

Years of Teaching Experience: 6

"When I entered the construction field, I saw a need for better-trained entry-level employees. My peers did not know how to present their skills or themselves at work. I felt I could help develop the skills of future welders. Therefore, I prepare students for employment with what business professionals tell me they need—solid work habits, certifications, photos of welding projects, a strong résumé, and a professional portfolio to show an employer at an interview."



Kendra Phelix

Pershing Hill Elementary School

Grades: 1–5

Subject: Music and Chorus

Years of Teaching Experience: 8

"Although many perceive music as just a hobby or an elective course, music is powerful in many ways and is very easily connected to all core subjects. Music is an art of expression that is vital to a child's personal development. As an outlet, students learn to be expressive and develop better well-being for themselves. Students begin to develop out-of-the-box thinking, self-discipline, and dedication."



Melissa Riddle

St. Paul's Lutheran School

Grade: Kindergarten

Subject: Elementary

Years of Teaching Experience: 21

"I believe that building relationships with students and building a culture of acceptance and caring creates an environment that is most conducive to learning. We become a family that works through conflict by identifying actions and feelings, taking ownership of our own actions, finding solutions, and by seeking and offering forgiveness."

Excellence in Education Honorees



Melissa Saint Amour

Magothy River Middle School

Grades: 6–8

Subject: Dance

Years of Teaching Experience: 23

"I use dance as the catalyst to allow students to curate better relationships and view the world through the lens of humanity. Most students are brand new to dance at the middle school level, while others have several years of private training. My role is to establish an environment where students feel safe and comfortable to take risks without judgment, and show them, regardless of background, that they each have something to contribute."



Sarah Schreffler

Edgewater Elementary School

Grade: 3

Subject: Elementary

Years of Teaching Experience: 14

"As an educator, it is my privilege and responsibility to develop today's young learners into tomorrow's great leaders. I believe in the importance of developing a child's love for learning while also pushing them out of their comfort zone to recognize their full potential."



Toni Sharer

Old Mill Middle North

Grade: 8

Subject: Math

Years of Teaching Experience: 7

"Most students have an inherent fear of math, which leads them to not being successful. My classroom is designed to be a safe space for mistakes to be made, discussed, and processed, with the idea that students will ultimately learn from these mistakes."



Lisa Stahl-Wright

Shipley's Choice Elementary School

Grade: 1

Subject: Elementary

Years of Teaching Experience: 32

"I affirm that children need love, respect, and a sense of community to thrive both socially and academically in any learning environment. Culture and diversity impact student instruction and how they approach every aspect of their lives. Differences are to be celebrated, not hidden. My students learn that while they may have diverging interests, home lives, celebrations, and beliefs, they are all human beings that are worthy of being held in the highest regard by both myself and their classmates."

Excellence in Education Honorees



Brooke Syring

Monarch Global Academy Laurel

Grade: Kindergarten

Subject: Elementary

Years of Teaching Experience: 5

"My goal as an educator is to be there to encourage taking risks, give students strategies to overcome challenges and provide a safe environment to express themselves. I have a saying that my students and I approach every challenge with; 'If we never try, we will never know'."



Jessica Walker

Jacobsville Elementary School

Grades: K-5

Subject: Special Education

Years of Teaching Experience: 15

"I strive to make learning relevant and fun by creating a class store and utilizing rotating classroom jobs to foster responsibility and good citizenship in my students. Through an inquiry-based approach, I teach general education peers how to truly and meaningfully engage with and support their differently-abled peers."



Sherise Webb

MacArthur Middle School

Grades: 6-8

Subject: AVID

Years of Teaching Experience: 23

"We as teachers are among the first interactions students have with the world. We influence the pages of our students' stories, second by second, minute by minute, hour by hour. Not only are we the influencers, we are the facilitators, fostering an atmosphere where students can embrace their skills and the passion that drives their skills which makes them come alive."



Stephanie Wineke

Riviera Beach Elementary School

Grades: Pre-K-5

Subject: Media

Teaching Experience: 18

"'In this classroom, everyone is a student, everyone is a teacher.' This exact quote from First Year Letters by Julie Danneberg guides my daily instruction as I provide opportunities for students to not only learn from me but also from each other. Every student has something great to offer and it is my job to shine a light on that greatness."

2021-22 Principal of the Year

Julia Walsh Tyler Heights Elementary School

Tyler Heights is a Title One school serving a diverse student population, including over 75% of English language learners. Serving this unique community for the past seven years has required innovation from a visionary leader who is committed to building positive school culture and maintaining high expectations for staff and students.

Walsh began her career in education in AACPS as a classroom teacher in 2004, and later became a literacy teacher, assistant principal, and then principal in 2013. Mrs. Walsh has found great purpose as an administrator in Annapolis for more than a decade—revitalizing three school construction projects and advancing equitable opportunities to shift the trajectory of success for the entire community.

Walsh also has implemented the district's first Community School Program, providing wrap-around student supports. She earned her master's degree from John's Hopkins University, and is currently pursuing her Doctoral Degree from Notre Dame of Maryland.

One of her students wrote, "You are not just a great principal, you are my hope," and Mrs. Walsh strives to spread hope, love, and positive change to all students and the entire community.



2021-22 Education Support Professional of the Year

Carmenlita Makell Division of Curriculum & Instruction

Carmenlita Makell believes, “there is a silver lining in every cloud, you just have to be willing to find it.” Ms. Makell is a team player who supports others with words of wisdom and hope. She will go out of her way to assist her colleagues and will personally ensure that people have what they need.

Ms. Makell is actively involved with the Secretaries and Assistants Association of Anne Arundel County. She advocates on behalf of members at the local, state, and national levels and has held several leadership positions within the organization.

Ms. Makell spends her time after work mentoring young girls in different communities and volunteering at her church. She also has served on the Board of Directors for A Tribute to Women of Color, an organization that raises funds for a scholarship program.



Principal of the Year Finalists



Rebecca Blasingame-White

Frank Hebron-Harman Elementary School

Rebbecca Blasingame-White has served as principal of Frank Hebron-Harman Elementary for thirteen years and has created a vibrant school community that fosters a positive learning environment, thriving with programs to support students such as SeaPerch, MESA, Marathon Kids, the AACPS Dance Performance, and the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. One of her students shared, “She is caring and open-minded. She is always there to help you and talk to you. Being a principal is not easy for sure, but without Mrs. Blasingame-White, this school wouldn’t be as fun and awesome as it is today!”



Gina Davenport

Arundel High School

Gina Davenport has a mantra, “To every student, a chance!” She has been an educator for 30 years and always looks for innovative ways to meet students’ needs. A veteran teacher describes Mrs. Davenport as “insightful and intuitive” and says, “she is always available to work through any and all concerns, large or small.” Mrs. Davenport is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Notre Dame of Maryland. Her research involves using student voice to increase empathy in teachers of diverse student populations. She hopes to move her school from a place of inclusion to a community of belonging.



Amanda Edmonds

Freetown Elementary School

Amanda Edmonds was raised in a family committed to service. “I believe Amanda has a strong moral compass and an integrity I have not seen in many people. She epitomizes the Rotary creed of Service Above Self,” wrote John Clark, former President of the Lake Shore-Severna Park Rotary Club. Ms. Edmonds surrounds herself with exceptional people who are equally committed to service. She believes that the school community is reflective of not only that which occurs within the walls and on the grounds of the elementary school, but encompasses the entire community.

Principal of the Year Finalists

Tara Lambden

Belvedere Elementary School



Tara Lambden skillfully brings advanced instructional strategies and approaches to Belvedere Elementary School as evidenced by the school's recent recognition as an EGATE School for their Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education.

"Through her leadership and collaboration, she inspired our faculty to seek out EGATE certification. We are proud of our reputation for meeting the diverse learning needs of ALL students," wrote a Belvedere colleague. "Mrs. Lambden is an outstanding leader who leads with poise, grace, empathy, and compassion. She seeks to make everyone feel like a valued member of our learning community."

Kimberly Winterbottom

Marley Middle School



Kimberly Winterbottom has been the principal of Marley Middle School for seven years. Despite seemingly insurmountable challenges such as high poverty and poor discipline, low academic and attendance data and 20 months of COVID implications, Mrs. Winterbottom ensures that safety and instruction are high priorities. What drives her passion for school improvement? "Education is absolutely the most important business in the world. Our commodity is people, not money like most other businesses. People are more important to me and our society than money. Growing people compels me to be the best principal I can be."

Education Support Professional of the Year Honoree

Tammy Zimmerman

South River High School



Tammy Zimmerman is always on the front line helping others with whatever task needs to be completed. She loves to collaborate with her colleagues and is known for being flexible and a good listener. She has attended many training and professional development sessions over the past six years that support her work. Ms. Zimmerman volunteers at graduation ceremonies and participates in the "Eyes Wide Open" campaign that increases parents' awareness of drug use. She also assists with the "Positive Vibe Color Run" 5K event.

Excellence in Education
Selection Committee



Dr. Nuria Williams
Director of School
Performance
Lead Judge



Katrina Griffin
2016 AACPS Teacher
of the Year



Allison Heintz
Teachers' Association of
Anne Arundel County



Dwight Jefferson
Principal



Dr. Zipporah Miller
Director of
Organizational Learning



Vanessa Rivera
Anne Arundel
County Council of PTAs



Joe Rose
Principal



Kristy Snyder
Principal



Eugene Whiting
Principal

**Please note: Any judge who has worked with a nominee in the last three years was recused from judging that nominee.*

The Excellence in Education Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following people for their time, talents, energy, and support of this event:

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We are very grateful for their dedication to the educators of Anne Arundel County.



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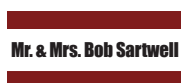
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*Each of our 2022 AACP's and Independent Schools Teachers of the Year
will receive additional prizes from:*

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Educational Systems Federal Credit Union
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The Grill @ Quarterfield Station
Jostens/Allgrads, Inc.
Maryland Cultural & Conference Center
Medieval Times
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Rams Head Group

*To enjoy the 2022 Excellence in Education
Awards Event anytime, please go to:*

www.aacps.org/EIE2022





Former Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teachers of the Year

2020-21

Jing Dai

Chinese | Meade High School
Maryland Finalist

2019-20

Emily Davis

Language Arts | Brooklyn Park MS

2018-19

Teresa Beilstein

3rd Grade | South Shore ES
Maryland Teacher of the Year—2020

2017-18

Heather Carnaghan

8th Grade | Monarch Global Academy
Maryland Finalist

2016-17

Josh Carroll

English | South River HS
Maryland Teacher of the Year—2018

2015-16

Katrina Griffin

German | North County HS
Maryland Finalist

2014-15

Jennie J.L. Merrill

5th Grade | Severna Park ES
Maryland Finalist

2013-14

Christina Houston

Social Studies | Broadneck HS

2012-13

Jodie Hogan

Spanish | South River HS
Maryland Finalist

2011-12

Martha Gardner

Elementary Teacher | Belvedere ES

2010-11

Laura Groe

Language Arts | Southern MS
Maryland Finalist

2009-10

Erin Sullivan

ESOL | Glen Burnie HS

2008-09

Donna McCallister

Language Arts | George Fox MS

2007-08

Clayton Culp

Mathematics | Broadneck HS

2006-07

Alicia Appel

English | Southern HS
Maryland Finalist

2005-06

Susan Casler

Language Arts | Crofton MS
Maryland Finalist

2004-05

Walter "Skip" Lee

Physical Education | Chesapeake HS

2003-04

Michael Bell

Art | Southern HS

2002-03

André Jones

Social Studies | Severna Park MS

2001-02

Mattie Procaccini

English | Old Mill HS

2000-01

Anthony Berard

Social Studies | Glen Burnie HS

1999-00

Denise Levitine

Art | Piney Orchard ES

1998-99

Diane Gerrior

Instrumental Music | Severn River MS
Maryland Finalist

1997-98

Bruce Villwock

Physical Education | Broadneck HS

1996-97

Priscilla Ward

Pre-K | Germantown ES
Maryland Finalist

1995-96

Kandace Chase

Special Education | Ruth Eason School

1994-95

Thomas Cordts

Physical Education | Windsor Farm ES

1993-94

Linda Adamson

Elementary | Mayo ES and Jessup ES
Maryland Teacher of the Year—1995

1992-93

Jane Daugherty

Music | Broadneck HS
Maryland Finalist

1991-92

Virginia Crespo

Social Studies | Broadneck HS
Maryland Finalist

1990-91

Olin Yoder

Art | Meade HS
Maryland Finalist

1989-90

Art Smelkinson

Drama | Old Mill HS

1988-89

Patricia Neidhardt

Science | Broadneck HS
Maryland Teacher of the Year—1990

1987-88

Penny Vahsen

Science | Magothy River MS

1986-87

Richard Wiles

Physical Education | Millersville ES
Maryland Finalist