2013 Teacher of the Year: GCPS names semifinalists on road to become district’s top teacher

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) recently announced the names of the semifinalists to be considered for the system’s top honor, the 2013 Teacher of the Year title. The group of 16 elementary, five middle, and five high school teachers was selected from the initial list of 131 local school Teachers of the Year who were nominated by their colleagues at their local schools. The 2013 Gwinnett County Teacher of the Year will be announced in November at the annual Teacher of the Year banquet.

This year’s Gwinnett County Teacher of the Year semifinalists by level are:

**Elementary School Level Semifinalists:**
- Amber Russell of Anderson-Livsey Elementary -- Gifted Education and Accelerated Mathematics Teacher (Grades 2-5)
- Lyndsey Klempay of Bethesda Elementary -- Mathematics Specialist (Grades K-5)
- Debbie Taylor of Brookwood Elementary -- Gifted Mathematics and Intervention Teacher (Grade 5)
- Anne-Lise Botting of Chattahoochee Elementary -- Special Education Teacher - Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (Grades K-2)
- Sarah Boyce of Chesney Elementary -- Special Education Teacher - Interrelated Resource (Grades K-5)
- Michelle Webb of Gwin Oaks Elementary -- 3rd Grade Teacher
- Sharon T. Mauney of Harbins Elementary -- 1st Grade Teacher
- Tracy Evans of Harris Elementary -- Science Teacher (Grades K-5)
- Lindsay Kyle of Head Elementary -- Speech Language Pathologist (Grades Pre-K-5)
- Katie Turner of Level Creek Elementary -- 4th Grade Teacher
- Amy B. Lazic of Lovin Elementary -- Special Education Teacher (Pre-K)
- Paul Lovett of McKendree Elementary -- 3rd Grade Teacher
- Jennifer Kim of Meadowcreek Elementary -- EIP Reading Teacher (Grade 5)
- Kym Crosby of Mulberry Elementary -- Visual Arts Teacher (Grades K-5)
- Erica Leach of Walnut Grove Elementary -- Mathematics Specialist (Grades K-5)
- Erin Hogan of Winn Holt Elementary -- 1st Grade Teacher

**Middle School Level Semifinalists:**
- Paul Lovett of McKendree Elementary -- Math Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Jennifer Kim of Meadowcreek Elementary -- English Language Arts Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Rachel Seabolt of Mill Creek Elementary -- Science Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Sarah Boyce of Chesney Elementary -- Special Education Teacher - Interrelated Resource (Grades K-5)
- Michelle Webb of Gwin Oaks Elementary -- 3rd Grade Teacher
- Katie Turner of Level Creek Elementary -- 4th Grade Teacher
- Amy B. Lazic of Lovin Elementary -- Special Education Teacher (Pre-K)
- Paul Lovett of McKendree Elementary -- 3rd Grade Teacher
- Jennifer Kim of Meadowcreek Elementary -- EIP Reading Teacher (Grade 5)
- Kym Crosby of Mulberry Elementary -- Visual Arts Teacher (Grades K-5)
- Erica Leach of Walnut Grove Elementary -- Mathematics Specialist (Grades K-5)
- Erin Hogan of Winn Holt Elementary -- 1st Grade Teacher

**High School Level Semifinalists:**
- Paul Lovett of McKendree Elementary -- Math Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Jennifer Kim of Meadowcreek Elementary -- English Language Arts Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Rachel Seabolt of Mill Creek Elementary -- Science Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Sarah Boyce of Chesney Elementary -- Special Education Teacher - Interrelated Resource (Grades K-5)
- Michelle Webb of Gwin Oaks Elementary -- 3rd Grade Teacher
- Katie Turner of Level Creek Elementary -- 4th Grade Teacher
- Amy B. Lazic of Lovin Elementary -- Special Education Teacher (Pre-K)
- Paul Lovett of McKendree Elementary -- 3rd Grade Teacher
- Jennifer Kim of Meadowcreek Elementary -- EIP Reading Teacher (Grade 5)
- Kym Crosby of Mulberry Elementary -- Visual Arts Teacher (Grades K-5)
- Erica Leach of Walnut Grove Elementary -- Mathematics Specialist (Grades K-5)
- Erin Hogan of Winn Holt Elementary -- 1st Grade Teacher

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Middle School Level Semifinalists:
- Deborah Johnson of Berkmar Middle -- Mathematics Teacher (Grade 8)
- Eleanor Ridley of Crews MS -- Social Studies Teacher (Grade 6)
- Celisa Edwards of Dacula Middle -- 7th Grade Teacher
- Kinsey Edwards of Lanier Middle -- Orchestra Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Heidi Mikulecky of Richards Middle -- Language Arts Teacher (Grade 6)

High School Level Semifinalists:
- Laura Moates Stanley of Brookwood High -- Band Teacher (Grades 9-12)
- Debbie Grant of Maxwell High School of Technology -- Culinary Arts and Food Science Teacher (Grades 11 and 12)
- Jay Nebel of Norcross High -- World History Teacher (Grades 9 and 10)
- McCall Grosso of North Gwinnett High -- Language Arts Teacher (Grade 10)
- Dean Landers of Peachtree Ridge High -- Physics Teacher (Grades 11 and 12)

A selection committee— made up of teachers, central office personnel, and administrators— will now consider the semifinalists’ applications and answers to a set of additional questions in order to determine the finalists. Committee members will then make site visits to the classrooms of the group of finalists and conduct thorough interviews with each educator.

During the classroom visit, the committee members will look for original teaching methods, study the teacher’s teaching philosophy, review special class projects the teacher has initiated, and consider the influence the teacher has had on the teaching practices of his/her colleagues. They also will review each teacher’s educational degrees and civic activities.

Based on their findings, committee members will select an elementary, middle, and a high school Teacher of the Year. They will be announced during the banquet. One of these three “level winners” will be named Gwinnett’s 2013 Teacher of the Year.

The annual Teacher of the Year banquet will be held Thursday, November 1, 2012, at the Gwinnett Center in Duluth. The celebration is possible thanks to the support of several area companies. Those sponsors include Coca Cola Refreshments; Emtec; EyeMed Vision Care; Georgia Power; Gwinnett County Public Schools Foundation, Fund Inc.; Gwinnett Federal Credit Union; Hayes Chrysler Dodge Jeep; Herff Jones; IBM; Kemper Select; Kroger; Lifetouch School Photography and Yearbooks; MedCom; MetLife; Mellon Global Securities Services; J. Smith Lanier; and VALIC.

Once named, the 2013 Gwinnett County Teacher of the Year will compete to become Georgia’s Teacher of the Year.

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