



NEWS RELEASE

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25 Gwinnett teachers honored as 2012 TOTY semifinalists

In celebrating the professionals responsible for the high academic achievement of **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** students, the district has taken its next step in finding the one educator who will be named the 2012 Gwinnett County Teacher of the Year. The school system announced today the names of the 25 semifinalists to be considered for the system's top honor. The group of 14 elementary, five middle, and six high school teachers was selected from the initial list of 129 local school Teachers of the Year who were nominated by their colleagues at their local schools. The 2012 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 Level:

- **Mike Stanton** of Bethesda Elementary-- 4th Grade Teacher
- **Nicole Kidwell** of Jenkins Elementary-- English to Speakers of Other Languages, Acceleration, and Transition Teacher (Grades 4 and 5) and Instructional Coach (Grades 1, 4-5)
- **Brenda Jones** of Lawrenceville Elementary-- Literacy Coach (Grades K-5)
- **Theresa Wiist** of Level Creek Elementary-- Special Education Teacher Autism (Grades 3-5)
- **Kristen Gadd Williams** of Mountain Park Elementary-- Kindergarten Teacher
- **Brittany Palazzo** of Mulberry Elementary-- 3rd Grade Teacher
- **Allison Askew** of Patrick Elementary-- 5th Grade Teacher
- **Cathy Clements Kreimer** of Peachtree Elementary-- 5th Grade Teacher
- **Jennifer Dunn** of Pharr Elementary-- 5th Grade Teacher
- **Angie Hoffman** of Puckett's Mill Elementary-- 5th Grade Teacher - Language Arts
- **Julie Hipple** of Riverside Elementary-- Special Education Teacher - Severe and Profound Intellectual Disabilities (Grades K-5)
- **Christa Ulbrandt Webb** of Rock Springs Elementary-- 4th Grade Teacher
- **Mary Butler** of Rockbridge Elementary-- Special Education Teacher - Moderate Autism (Grades K-2)
- **Candace Swords** of Shiloh Elementary-- 1st Grade Teacher

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not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex,
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2010 Winner of



Middle School Level:

- **Dr. Jennifer Jankauskas** of Creekland Middle-- Language Arts Teacher (Grade 8)
- **Keri Beth Tidmore Jones** of Dacula Middle-- Computer Science and Yearbook Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- **Janelle Wilson** of Lanier Middle-- Science Teacher (Grade 6)
- **Lou Reynolds** of McConnell Middle-- Mathematics Teacher (Grade 8)
- **Sarah Black** of North Gwinnett Middle-- Orchestra Teacher (Grades 6-8)

High School Level:

- **Tara Termes** of Collins Hill High-- Biology and Forensic Science Teacher (Grades 9-12)
- **Jeff Burmester** of Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology-- AP Physics Teacher (Grades 11-12)
- **Aundrea Muth** of Mill Creek High-- Political Systems and AP Government Teacher (Grade 12)
- **Logan M. Flint** of Monarch School-- Special Education Teacher - Autism (ADAPT)
- **Jim Stewart** of North Gwinnett High-- Media Specialist and Local School Technology Coordinator (Grades 9-12)
- **Lindsey Cafarella** of Peachtree Ridge High-- World History Teacher (Grade 10)

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 six finalists. Committee members will then make site visits to the classrooms of the six 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 from the field of six finalists. They will be announced during the banquet. One of these three "level winners" will be named Gwinnett's 2012 Teacher of the Year.

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The annual Teacher of the Year banquet will be held Thursday, November 3, 2011, at the Gwinnett Center in Duluth. The celebration is possible thanks to the support of several area companies. Those sponsors include Atlanta Coca-Cola Bottling Company; Balfour; Emtec; Georgia Power; Gwinnett Federal Credit Union; Gwinnett County Public Schools Foundation Fund, Inc.; Hayes Chrysler Dodge Jeep; Herff Jones; IBM; Lifetouch; MedCom; Mellon Global Securities Services; J. Smith Lanier and VALIC.

Once named, the 2012 Gwinnett County Teacher of the Year will compete to become Georgia's Teacher of the Year.