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ACTION DUE: January 11, 2013

Office of Human Resources and Development
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

November 13, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Elementary School Principals

From: Carole C. Goodman, Associate Superintendent 

Subject: ACTION—Teacher Awards

Summary

The purpose of this memorandum is to encourage you to nominate outstanding teachers on your staff for three distinguished awards available for elementary teachers this school year. The awards for consideration are as follows:

Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Awards

The Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Veteran Teacher Award recognizes three full-time teachers in kindergarten through Grade 12 who have a demonstrated record of promoting student success, such as closing the achievement gap. One of the veteran teacher award winners is chosen as the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Teacher of the Year and goes on to represent MCPS as a contender for the Maryland State Teacher of the Year award and could become the National Teacher of the Year.

The Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Rising-Star Teacher Award recognizes a **first- or second-year** full-time teacher in kindergarten through Grade 12 who has a demonstrated record of promoting student success. This teacher contributes to a professional learning community of students, staff, parents, and community.

The Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award

The Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award recognizes a full-time teacher in prekindergarten through Grade 12 who instills in students a desire to learn and achieve. Each nominee must have a minimum of five years teaching experience, three of which must be in MCPS. This teacher also must understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents, and foster their self-esteem. He or she demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the subject matter and possesses the ability to share it effectively with students. The nominee fosters cooperative relationships with his/her colleagues and the community and demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities.

Finalists and winners of *The Washington Post* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award and the Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Awards will be honored at the annual Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education (MCBRE) Champions for Children Awards Gala on April 25, 2013.

The Shirley J. Lowrie “Thank You for Teaching” Award

The Shirley J. Lowrie “Thank You for Teaching” Award honors extraordinary elementary school teachers who have a deep dedication to the teaching profession. These elementary school teachers, prekindergarten through Grade 5, must work directly with students in the classroom on a daily basis, demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the subject matter, and effectively communicate that subject matter to students. The nominee should be a teacher who goes the extra mile to ensure that students receive the support they need to succeed.

Action

- Please share this information with your staff and your Parent Teacher Association.
- Nomination materials, including specific guidelines and criteria for the Agnes Meyer and Shirley J. Lowrie awards, are attached. To access nomination information online, as well as a link to the Marian Greenblatt award nomination information, please visit the MCPS website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/personnel/awards/>.
- In order to provide all nominees with the same opportunity, nomination packet requirements must be followed and only the number of pages and the information requested will be considered.
- Nomination materials for awards must be received no later than **4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 11, 2013**.

Questions

- If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Moriah A. Martin, assistant to the associate superintendent, Office of Human Resources and Development, at 301-279-3900 or via e-mail.

CCG:mmt

Attachments

Copy to:

Executive Staff
Elementary School Administrative Secretaries

Ms. Cuttitta
Dr. Mugge

Mr. Prouty

Approved:



Larry A. Bowers, Chief Operating Officer

Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award Nominee Criteria 2012–2013

Nominees must be full-time certified regular or special education teachers of prekindergarten through Grade 12. The award is intended for those teachers who work directly with students in their classrooms on a daily basis or with their assigned caseloads. Teachers must have a minimum of five years teaching experience, three of which must be in MPCS. *The Washington Post* is requesting that the teacher selected maintain his/her teaching position throughout the 2012–2013 school year. Nominees must be teachers who—

- instill in students a desire to learn and achieve;
- understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents, and foster their self-esteem;
- demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and the ability to share it effectively with students;
- foster cooperative relationships with their colleagues and the community; and
- demonstrate outstanding leadership.

**Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award
Cover Sheet
2012-2013**

Teacher Nominated: _____

Position/Subjects Taught: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

School: _____ Cluster: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Name and position of person(s) nominating this individual:

Note: Please do not include additional information other than what is requested. Any items submitted that are not a part of the application packet will NOT be considered by the review and selection committee.

**Nomination Criteria for
The Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award and
Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Awards Nomination**

Now is the time to nominate the best and brightest Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) teachers you know for three very distinguished awards. Award submissions are due by **Friday, January 11, 2013**.

1) *The Washington Post* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award

Nomination Criteria

- Full-time teacher (including itinerants) in prekindergarten through Grade 12
- Minimum of five years teaching experience—minimum of three years in MCPS
- Nominee must be a teacher who—
 - instills in students a desire to learn and achieve;
 - understands the individual needs of students, encourages their talents, and fosters their self-esteem;
 - demonstrates a thorough knowledge of subject matter and the ability to share it effectively with students;
 - fosters cooperative relationships with their colleagues and the community; and
 - demonstrates outstanding leadership.
- Maintains current teaching assignment throughout the 2012–2013 school year

The MCPS winner: 1) receives \$3,000; 2) is recognized at a reception held at *The Washington Post* honoring Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award winners from across the Washington metropolitan area; 3) is recognized, along with other local area winners, at the Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education (MCBRE) Champions for Children Gala to be held April 25, 2013.

2) The Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Awards

Veteran Award Nomination Criteria

- Full-time teacher in kindergarten through Grade 12
- Minimum of five years teaching experience in MCPS
- Nominee must be a teacher who—
 - has a demonstrated record of promoting student success, such as closing the achievement gap;
 - mentors new teachers by example and through outreach; and
 - contributes significantly to building and maintaining a professional learning environment of students, parents, staff, and community.

Veteran-teacher winners of The Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Award will receive \$1,000. Each of the winners will be honored at MCBRE's Champions for Children Gala to be held April 25, 2013. From among the three winners of the Veteran Award, one is chosen as the MCPS Teacher of the Year. The MCPS Teacher of the Year receives an additional \$1,000 and goes on to represent MCPS as a contender for the Maryland State Teacher of the Year award and

could become the National Teacher of the Year. The MCPS winner in 2005 became the National Teacher of the Year!

Rising-Star Teacher Award Nomination Criteria

- Full-time teacher in kindergarten through Grade 12
- First- or second-year full-time teacher
- Nominee must be a teacher who—
 - has a demonstrated record of promoting student success, such as closing the achievement gap; and
 - contributes to a professional learning environment of students, parents, staff, and community.

The Rising-Star Teacher Award winner will receive \$500 and be honored at the MCBRE Champions for Children Gala to be held April 25, 2013.

Additional information and nomination materials for these awards can be found at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/personnel/awards/>.

Shirley J. Lowrie "Thank You for Teaching" Award For Elementary School Teachers

The Shirley J. Lowrie "Thank You for Teaching" Award was created by the family of Shirley Johnston Lowrie (1935–2003). Shirley grew up with a strong desire to become a teacher. In 1957, she graduated from the University of Memphis with a degree in Elementary Education. She taught for several years as a teacher and substitute teacher in California and Connecticut before relocating with her family to Potomac, Maryland.

Well after her teaching career, Shirley remained a strong supporter of the many teachers in her life. Her family created the Shirley J. Lowrie "Thank You for Teaching" Award, through The Montgomery County Community Foundation, to honor her memory by recognizing and encouraging outstanding elementary school teachers in Montgomery County.

ELIGIBILITY

The Shirley J. Lowrie "Thank You for Teaching" Award seeks to honor extraordinary elementary school teachers who have a deep dedication to the teaching profession. Nominees must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Serves as an elementary school teacher (prekindergarten through Grade 5) who works directly with students in the classroom on a daily basis
- Demonstrates a thorough knowledge of subject matter which is communicated effectively to students
- Shares his/her enthusiasm for learning with their students
- Encourages students to set and achieve high goals
- Fosters relationships with colleagues, parents, and community members
- Goes the extra mile to ensure that their students receive the support they need to succeed

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

To nominate an elementary school teacher for the Shirley J. Lowrie "Thank You for Teaching" Award, please submit the following:

1. A copy of the Shirley J. Lowrie "Thank You for Teaching" Award cover sheet, signed by the principal of the nominee's current school
2. Three letters of nomination. Nomination letters may be from students, parents of students, teachers, administrative colleagues, and principals. Nominators are encouraged to provide specific examples of how the teacher exemplifies the eligibility requirements of the award.

All nomination materials must be submitted together by **Friday, January 11, 2013**. Please submit one hard copy of the application to:

Office of Human Resources and Development
45 W. Gude Drive, Suite 2100
Rockville, Maryland 20850
Attention: Moriah Martin

The Selection Committee will review nominations and make its announcement by April 2013. The winner will receive a \$2,500 monetary award.

QUESTIONS

Please contact Ms. Moriah A. Martin, assistant to the associate superintendant, Office of Human Resources and Development, at 301-279-3900 or via e-mail at Moriah_A_Martin@mcpsmd.org to learn more about the Shirley J. Lowrie "Thank You for Teaching" Award.

**Shirley J. Lowrie "Thank You for Teaching" Award
Nomination Cover Sheet**

Name of Teacher Nominated:

Employee ID Number:

Years of Teaching Experience:

Position/Subjects Taught:

Home Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number (Home or Cell):

School:

Cluster:

School Address:

School Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Name and position of persons nominating this individual:

Principal's Name (of the Nominee's Current School):

Principal's Signature:

Please submit the coversheet and nomination letters by Friday, January 11, 2013, to:

**Office of Human Resources and Development
45 W. Gude Drive, Suite 2100
Rockville, Maryland 20850
Attention: Moriah Martin**

Please do NOT include information other than that which is requested. Any items submitted that are not a part of the application packet will not be considered by the selection committee.