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ACTION DUE: January 10, 2014

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

November 13, 2013

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 in the spring of 2014.

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, as directed, no later than **4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 10, 2014**.

Questions

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

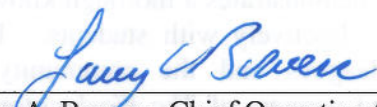
CCG:mmt

Attachments

Copy to:

Executive Staff
Elementary School Administrative Secretaries
Ms. Twillman
Ms. Cuttitta
Dr. Mugge
Mr. Prouty

Approved:


Larry A. Bowers, Chief Operating Officer

Marian Greenblatt Education Fund



HONOR AN EXCELLENT TEACHER

Does a teacher in your school deserve recognition? Nominate her/him for a Marian Greenblatt Excellence Award: **three** awards for experienced teachers and **one** for a rising star.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Teachers who excel in educating students, inspiring teachers, and improving the school.
- Experienced teachers who have taught for at least five years in MCPS.
- Rising-star teachers who have taught for at most two years.

WHAT DO THEY WIN?

- \$1,000 each to three veteran teachers and \$500 to one rising-star teacher.
- One of our three experienced winners will become County Teacher of the Year.
- The Teacher of the Year competes for Maryland Teacher of the Year. A 2005 Greenblatt Award winner, Ms. Kim Oliver, became **National Teacher of the Year**.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO?

- Send a nomination by mail/email to the address below by January 10, 2014.
- Include a nomination letter from the principal or other administrator, with supporting letters from teacher(s) and parent(s), and objective data if available.
- Questions? Email us at info@greenblatteducationfund.org, call Marshal Greenblatt at 301/983-3255, or visit www.greenblatteducationfund.org.

WHAT ELSE DOES THE GREENBLATT FUND DO?

- Awards \$100 to one junior in each high school for Social Studies excellence, each year.
- Awards \$1,000 in scholarships for Watkins Mill HS juniors for foreign language excellence, each year.
- Co-sponsors the Information Technology Foundation, which teaches computer skills.
- We have awarded \$119,500 to 83 teachers and 409 students since 1989.

The Washington Post

2014

Quality education is essential to the well-being of our society, and good teachers are the foundation of our educational system.

The Washington Post established the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards to recognize teachers who exemplify excellence in their profession. Agnes Meyer, a staunch supporter and defender of public education, was the wife of Eugene Meyer, who purchased The Post in 1933.

The goals of the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards are to recognize excellence in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area.

Recipients will be awarded \$3,000 at a ceremony in May 2014.

Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards

ELIGIBILITY

A total of 21 awards will be presented – one representing the private schools of the Washington metropolitan area (as defined below), one representing the District of Columbia Public Charter Schools and 19 representing the public schools in the following areas:

District of Columbia

Maryland:

Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties.

Virginia:

Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fauquier, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, Prince William and Stafford Counties.

Nominees must be full-time teachers (in grades pre-kindergarten through 12) in an accredited school in one of the above jurisdictions. Each nominee must have a minimum of five years teaching experience, three of which must be in the school or school system in which he or she is currently serving.

NOMINATION CRITERIA

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

Demonstrate outstanding leadership

Maintain their teaching position throughout the 2014-2015 school year

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations may be submitted by teachers, students, former students, parents, administrators or the general public. Teachers may not nominate themselves.

Nomination materials must include:

1. A minimum of four statements of support, one of which must be from a professional educator
2. A career summary
3. A description of contributions in each of the nomination criteria
4. Two color photographs. Photos must be submitted on a CD as 3x5, high-res jpegs with a minimum of 300 dpi. Laser prints of photo must accompany disk. Photos should include one head shot and one "action shot" of nominee at work.

All nominations are due
Friday, January 10, 2014.

SELECTION

Public Schools

Each participating public school system will receive and screen nominations and will make the final selection, in accordance with the criteria and nomination process listed here.

Deadline for receipt of public school nominations is **Friday, January 10, 2014**. For further information, contact your local school superintendent's office.

District of Columbia

Public Charter Schools

The District of Columbia Public Charter School Board will receive and screen nominations and make the final selection, in accordance with the criteria and nomination process listed here.

Deadline for receipt of charter school nominations is **Friday, January 10, 2014**.

Nominations should be sent to:

**Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards
District of Columbia
Public Charter School Board
3333 14th Street NW, Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20010**

Private Schools

In accordance with the criteria and nomination process listed here, an independent committee of educators and community leaders will screen nominations and make the final selection of an awardee from the private schools.

Deadline for receipt of private school nominations is **Friday, January 10, 2014**.

Private school nominations should be sent to:

**Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20071**

The Washington Post is not responsible for misdirected or delayed mail.

For further information, please contact
The Washington Post
Community Relations Department
at 202.334.7969 or visit
[washingtonpost.com/community](http://www.washingtonpost.com/community)

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 10, 2014**. 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: Mary Twillman

The Selection Committee will review nominations and make its announcement by April 2014. The winner will receive a \$2,500 monetary award.

QUESTIONS

Please contact Ms. Helen A. Nixon, assistant to the associate superintendent, Office of Human Resources and Development, at 301-279-3900 or via e-mail at Helen_A_Nixon@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 10, 2014, to:

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

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.