

NEWSLETTER – Teachers of the Year 2024-25

Each year, the Teachers of the Year program encourages students, teachers, and parents to nominate teachers who have made a positive impact. We have been recognizing our dedicated teachers at District 16 since 2005.

We sent out nomination forms (in English and Spanish) through the parent newsletter and our website. We received 116 nominations this year (nominee list below). Once we notify these teachers of their nomination, they have the option of producing a packet very similar to the MN level teacher packets if they want to further this pursuit. A selection committee reads each one and votes on two who represent our fine teachers: one from PreK-5th grade, and one from 6th-12th grade.

All nominees received certificates, and we honored our two winners at the SLPTU Spring Social. On May 2nd, the two 2024-25 Teachers of the Year were announced. Congratulations to Amy Brockman (SLPHS) at the secondary level and Justine Tschida (Park Terrace) at the elementary level.

These two outstanding individuals will be introduced to you, below, in their own words:

Justine Tschida:

When I became a teacher, I vowed to always make room for students to make connections in any capacity. This means that I must have books in my library that truly represent those beautiful faces that I teach every day. This means that I need to find ways to know each and every one of my students personally. To me, it is not good enough to just know them as students. I commit to knowing my families and seeing them outside of school. I take time to learn about the holidays and special days that each family celebrates. All of the effort I put into making personal connections with my students, their families, and their community gives us room to make incredible connections to the content we learn inside and outside of the classroom. They start to take ownership of their learning and friendships with others.

Amy Brockman:

One of the greatest teachers I ever learned from (and also a Minnesota Teacher of Year), Tom Keating had a quote that I continue to use often with kids and it is, "You will not be remembered for the races you won, the grades you earned, or the clothes you wore, you will be remembered for how you treated others." I use this quote with students all the time. I want them to think about the bigger world beyond themselves and how they can make a difference in it. I want them to know that they are important and valued and to treat others in a way that makes others feel important and valued. Teaching students to be good humans is one of the most rewarding parts of my job.

The nominees for 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year are ...

ELEMENTARY LEVEL NOMINEES FOR TEACHER of the YEAR

Nominee	School Grade/Subject
Molly Broadbent-Mader	Centerview ECFE
Lindsay Mischke	Centerview Kindergarten
Emily Magner	Centerview Kindergarten
Jaime Catterall	Centerview Kindergarten
Jenny Zimmerman	Centerview Kindergarten
Melissa Gustafson	Centerview 1st Grade
Brooke Esselmen	Centerview 1st Grade
Alison Leighton	Centerview 1st Grade
Nicol Peterson	Centerview 2 nd Grade
Maren O'Neill	Centerview 2 nd Grade
Kenzie Wylie	Centerview 2 nd Grade
Gretchen Glewwe	Centerview 3 rd Grade
Madison Shepard	Centerview 3 rd Grade
Amanda Leitzke	Centerview 3 rd Grade
Taylor Traver	Centerview 3 rd Grade
Cassie Sandberg	Centerview 3 rd grade
Allie Schleh	Centerview 3 rd Grade
Caitlyn Russell	Centerview 4 th Grade
Claire Lively	Centerview 4 th Grade
Kristen Sorenson	CV Academic Specialist
Desirae Gillis	CV Science Specialist
Katie Kingsbury	CV Support Specialist
Ashlee Sluzewicz	CV Behavior Specialist
Katrina McCarthy	Northpoint Kindergarten
Melissa Suits	Northpoint Kindergarten
Jody Wenum	Northpoint Kindergarten
Kristen West	Northpoint Kindergarten
Teresa Phillippo	Northpoint Multiage 1-2
Annalee Kroll	Northpoint Multiage 1-2
Taylor Mues	Northpoint Multiage 3-4
Tammy Saladis	Northpoint Multiage 3-4
Candace Bunyan	Park Terrace Kindergarten
Wendy Logan	Park Terrace ECFE
Kelsey Urness	Park Terrace 2 nd grade
Justine Tschida	Park Terrace 4 th grade
Luis Estrada	Park Terrace 4 th grade
Allie Knutson	Park Terrace ELL
Megan Blakeley	PT Special Education

Lina Mraz Matthew Proulx Jenny Rodriguez Kayla Martin	Woodcrest Kindergarten Woodcrest Kindergarten Woodcrest 3 rd grade Woodcrest Science
Jessica Rodriguez Lissa Golanowski Mikayla Williams	Westwood 5 th grade Westwood 5 th grade Westwood 5 th grade

SECONDARY LEVEL NOMINEES FOR TEACHER of the YEAR

Nominee	School Grade/Subject
Jessica Linden Doug Cox Georgie Robasse Jessica Danley Christopher Clark Elizabeth Visser Alyssa Harrington Cora Becker Angela Clement Will Stewart Krista Martin Amanda West	Westwood 6 th grade Westwood 6 th grade Westwood 6 th grade Westwood 6 th grade Westwood 7 th grade Westwood 7 th grade Westwood 7 th grade Westwood 7 th grade Westwood 7 th grade Westwood AVID/S. Studies Westwood Beh. Spec. Westwood G & T
Mike Hilst Michele Gressman Matthew Meier Shaeley Martinson Scott Smith Amy Brockman Kue Vang Kelsey Rathmanner Mary Mohr-Scinocca Scott Wicklund Sarah Welken Bill Neiss Sarah Gatlin Lindsey Redmann Jessica DeGennaro	SLPHS Math SLPHS Science SLPHS Social Studies SLPHS Social Studies SLPHS Social Studies SLPHS Social Studies SLPHS ELA SLPHS Spanish SLPHS ELA SLPHS Construction Trades SLPHS Business SLPHS Health SLPHS ELL SLPHS Counselor SLPHS Math

Past Winners of District 16 Teachers of the Year (began fall of 2005)

2024-25 Justine Tschida PT and Amy Brockman HS
2023-24 Theresa Phillippo NP and Kristine Putz HS
2022-23 Maggie Lee NP and Mary Mohr-Scinoca HS
2020-21 Kim Robinson WWIS and Wendy Hatchner HS
2020 COVID
2019 Sarah Scheller WC and Nora Tycast HS
2018 Sam Howard NP and Cora Becker WMS
2017 Audrey Hendrickson NP and Angela Clement WMS
2016 Lauren Brannen, WCSI and Doug Potthoff, WMS/HS
2015 Bob Schneider and Tatiana O'Donnell
2014 Jan Burda WWIS and Brooke Magid-Hart HS
2013 Amanda Saum and Tricia Miller
2012 Laura Pena-Kennedy and Sada Ganske
2011 Barbara Saunders and Kris McCarthy
2010 Pam Dugas and Lori Thompson HS
2009 Doug Cox WMS and Joan Dauphinee HS
2008 Brenda Sandberg and Sue Kvidera LA (beginning of two awards)
2007 Lori Henry SLPHS
2005-2006 Bill Neiss SLPHS