

**TENAFLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY**

DATE: November 28, 2011

TO: Parents, Administrators and Staff

FROM: Barbara Laudicina, Assistant Superintendent

RE: 2012-2013 STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

Every year the New Jersey Department of Education invites public school districts to participate in the New Jersey State Teacher of the Year Program. The program offers an opportunity to recognize excellence and create a sense of pride within the school community by celebrating its teachers.

The State is seeking teacher leaders (PreK-12) with knowledge of the most current practices in education and teaching and learning strategies, and who are skilled practitioners that have impacted student achievement and professional learning at the school or district level. These educators must consistently demonstrate the ability to inspire a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities and have strong long-range potential for leadership opportunities beyond the district level.

To qualify as a District Teacher of the Year, a teacher must first be named a School Teacher of the Year by a confidential Selection Committee that will consist of representatives from the Board of Education, TEA, TASA, HSA, and the community. Those selected as District Teacher of the Year nominees will qualify for competition on the county level. Ultimately, 21 individuals, one from each county will compete for State Teacher of the Year. Some of Tenafly's past district recipients recommended at the county level have been Donna Lewis (HS, 2007-2008), Leigh Barker (HS, 2008-2009), Karen Potts (MK, 2009-2010), Michele Brisson (MS, 2010-2011) and Nicholas Rzonsa (MS, 2011-2012).

We encourage you to take this opportunity to nominate an outstanding teacher that you feel fills the attached criteria and has not earned this title within the past five (5) years. Retiring teachers may not be nominated as candidates must remain active in the profession during the following school year.

Please complete the attached form and mail it to **Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant**, 500 Tenafly Road, Tenafly, NJ 07670 **by Wednesday, January 11, 2012. Please mark the envelope "Confidential."**

THE CANDIDATE MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Be a licensed, highly-qualified (if applicable) classroom teacher (pre-K through grade 12) in a public or charter school;
- Have teaching as the primary responsibility rather than administrative or supervisory responsibilities;
- Be a dedicated and skilled teacher leader who is **planning to actively continue his/her teaching career**;
- Demonstrate strong ability to foster excellence in education as evidenced by ongoing contributions to the improvement of student learning and the learning environment;
- Possess strong content area expertise and be able to deliver content in a meaningful and engaging manner that is age appropriate;
- Incorporate innovative instructional materials, curriculum or strategies, such as interdisciplinary instruction, project-based learning, research-based programs, or technology to support and enhance instruction;
- **Demonstrate leadership** in educational activities at the school, district, and/or state and national level that take place both within or out of the school setting;
- Show evidence of ongoing professional learning through completion of specific training and/or advanced degrees;
- Display exemplary interpersonal skills in communicating with students, parents, administrators, community members and professional colleagues;
- Participate in peer coaching and mentoring activities;
- Utilize research techniques in the classroom to improve the teaching and learning process;
- Engage parents/families as partners in the learning process to enhance student achievement;
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to creating a climate of caring and respect conducive to effective teaching and learning; and
- Demonstrate poise, eloquence and the ability to maintain a demanding schedule.

TENAFLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW JERSEY "STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM"

NOMINATION FORM --- 2012-2013

It is permissible to nominate more than one teacher. Please use a separate form for each nominee. Each form must be typed or completed in ink. All nominations and committee processes for selection are confidential. Please complete this form and mail it to Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant, 500 Tenafly Road, Tenafly, NJ 07670 by Wednesday, January 11, 2012. Please mark the envelope "Confidential."

Please check: Administrator _____ Faculty _____ Parent _____ Student _____
NAME OF NOMINEE: _____ SCHOOL: _____

1. Please describe the circumstances by which you have become familiar with your nominee.
2. After reviewing the desired criteria on this application, please describe **specifically** how this teacher has exhibited his/her most notable qualities.
3. In conclusion, please write a **brief** summary statement that supports your nomination of this Tenafly educator. Include how this teacher meets all of the stated criteria.