

October 20, 2009

Newton County School System Announces 2010 Teachers of the Year

The Newton County School System and the Newton County Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce the nominees for the 2010 Newton County Teacher of the Year. Each of the 23 nominees was elected as the 2010 Teacher of the Year at his or her school.



Standing: Kristen Emerson, Ficquett Elementary; Laurie Carpenter, Fairview Theme; Renee Henderson, Oak Hill Elementary; Rebecca Sizemore, Middle Ridge Elementary; Amber St. Clair, Palmer-Stone Elementary; Rachel Wingate, Rocky Plains Elementary; George Miles, Newton High; Donna Edmiston, Live Oak Elementary; Bridgette Norris, West Newton Elementary; Judith Cloyd, Clements Theme; Jeannie Whitehead, Porterdale Elementary; Jennifer Kiesel, Veterans Memorial; and Gail Bemis, Livingston Elementary.

Seated: Alicia Lindsey, Mansfield Elementary; Teresa Broadwater, Liberty Middle; Angela Cooper, Alcovy High; Julia Sheets, Indian Creek Middle; Tomi Kiser, South Salem Elementary; Amanda Wagner, East Newton Elementary; Amber Mann, Eastside High; Melanie Sheets, Heard-Mixon Elementary; Kiisha Walker-Gibbs, Sharp Learning Center; and Rebecca Madsen, Cousins Middle.

This year's nominees were required to submit essay answers on a number of questions concerning their educational background, philosophy, and style of teaching. On Monday, October 26 and Tuesday, October 27, each teacher will sit for a 20-minute interview to be conducted by a panel of volunteer judges representing Newton County Schools, the Newton County Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses and civic organizations.

Once scores from the essays and interviews are tallied, the names of the top three finalists (the teachers with the three highest combined scores) will be announced on Friday, October 30. The following Tuesday, November 3, the Teacher of the Year selection committee will observe each of the three finalists in his or her classroom. The teacher with the highest combined score on the essay, interview,

and observation will be announced as the 2010 Teacher of the Year during a special ceremony at Newton High School on Thursday, November 12 at 4:45 p.m.

The Newton County School System would like to congratulate each of the Teachers of the Year, as they are all worthy of this special honor. As such, all 23 Teachers of the Year will be recognized at the reception at Newton High School, with the two runners-up each receiving a crystal vase. The 2010 Newton County Teacher of the Year will also receive a crystal vase, one dozen roses, and a check for \$1,000. In addition, this year's winner will also represent Newton County School System in the Georgia Teacher of the Year competition.

Newton County's Teacher of the Year program would not be possible if it were not for the support of our community. As a result, the Newton County School System and the Newton County Chamber of Commerce would like to extend special thanks to the Chamber Champions, sponsors of the 2010 Teacher of the Year program: Bank of North Georgia; The Covington News; BB&T; Georgia Directory Company; United Bank of Covington; Patillo Construction; Newton Federal Bank; Snapping Shoals EMC; at&t; Newton Citizen; Sunbelt Builders; Bizzy Bee Exterminators; Georgia Power; Tread Technologies Company; Essex Bank; Newton Medical Center; Pinnacle Bank; and Mosely Electric.

2010 Teachers of the Year

School	Teacher	Subject/Grade
East Newton	Amanda Wagner	2 nd Grade
Ficquett	Kristen Emerson	4 th Grade
Heard-Mixon	Melanie Sheets	4 th Grade
Live Oak	Donna Edmiston	Kindergarten
Livingston	Gail Bemis	3 rd Grade
Mansfield	Alicia Lindsey	1 st Grade
Middle Ridge	Rebecca Sizemore	2 nd & 3 rd EIP
Oak Hill	Renee Henderson	1 st Grade
Palmer-Stone	Amber St. Clair	1 st Grade
Porterdale	Jeanie Whitehead	4 th Grade
Rocky Plains	Rachel Wingate	1 st Grade
South Salem	Tomi Kiser	1 st Grade
West Newton	Bridgette Norris	5 th Grade
Cousins	Rebecca Madsen	Title I (6-8)
Indian Creek	Julia Sheets	Physical Education
Liberty	Teresa Broadwater	Math
Veterans Memorial	Jennifer Kiesel	Physical Education
Alcovy	Angela Cooper	Science
Eastside	Amber Mann	Literature
Newton	George Miles	9 th Literature
Fairview Theme	Laurie Carpenter	2 nd Grade
Clements Theme	Judith Cloyd	Special Education
Sharp	Kiisha Walker-Gibbs	Math

For more information on the Newton County School System Teacher of the Year program, contact Ms. Sherri Viniard, Director of Public Relations for Newton County Schools at 770-784-2908.