

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools

DATE: May 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Recognition of the 2025 Teachers of the Year



Purpose

The State Board of Education, along with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carey M. Wright, will honor the Teachers of the Year from all 24 school systems.

Background

For more than 30 years, Maryland has fully participated in the National Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers, to showcase the teaching profession and the contributions of outstanding teachers. These 24 educators were selected by their school systems for outstanding achievements. The cohort represents every grade level and a variety of subjects, including language arts, math, social studies, science, physical education, cosmetology, and culinary arts.

From this cohort, the Maryland Teacher of the Year will be selected and compete for the title of National Teacher of the Year.

The Maryland Teacher of the Year participates in numerous speaking engagements and professional development programs at state conferences, college graduations, ceremonies, and other events. Award recipients are also invited to be part of prestigious panels and education committees.

Local Education Agency	Teacher of the Year
Allegany County Public Schools	Jeannette Milburn
Anne Arundel County Public Schools	Jacqueline Sanderson
Baltimore City Public Schools	Jevons Liu
Baltimore County Public Schools	Brittany Jakubowski
Calvert County Public Schools	William Voshell
Caroline County Public Schools	Andrew Buffenmyer
Carroll County Public Schools	Amy Glascock
Cecil County Public Schools	Taylor Schafer

Local Education Agency	Teacher of the Year
Charles County Public Schools	Alison Cheney
Dorchester County Public Schools	Tanya Travis
Frederick County Public Schools	ALonna Soward
Garrett County Public Schools	Laura Witt
Harford County Public Schools	Shelby Hultquist
Howard County Public Schools	Natalie Pretzello
Kent County Public Schools	Cheryl Fracassi
Montgomery County Public Schools	Megan Campbell
Prince George's County Public Schools	Lafiya Tunstall
Queen Anne's County Public Schools	Marcie Mamas
Somerset County Public Schools	Kristen Bratcher
St. Mary's County Public Schools	Tylita Butler
Talbot County Public Schools	Lauren Rose
Washington County Public Schools	Marjorie Chapman
Wicomico County Public Schools	Emma Cohn Matthews
Worcester County Public Schools	Phillip Cropper

Action

The State Superintendent and State Board of Education will recognize each Teacher of the Year with Superintendent and State Board of Education Citations. A commemorative photo will be taken.

Attachments

Teacher of the Year bios

Local School System Teacher of the Year Bios

ALLEGANY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jeannette Milburn, Braddock Middle School, 6th Grade Math

Jeannette Milburn is a dedicated educator with 12 years of experience in Allegany County. Her accolades include the 2022 Honorary Award of Excellence in Curriculum and Instruction from Frostburg State University and the 2023 Curriculum Associates Extraordinary Educator award (Ready Math). Beyond teaching, Milburn leads Students Helping Other People (SHOP) and math professional development for ACPS educators.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jacqueline Sanderson, Belle Grove Elementary School, English Language Development

Jacqueline Sanderson has dedicated her career to empowering multilingual learners. A National Board Certified English Language Development (ELD) teacher and Maryland Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) member, Sanderson elevates English proficiency and coaches staff on scaffolding grade-level content. She has launched innovative programs that support multilingual students and strengthen school-family partnerships. Sanderson contributed to the adoption of district-wide ELD and math curriculum.

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jevons Liu, Academy for College and Career Exploration, Special Education & Math

Jevons Liu, a National Board Certified special education and mathematics teacher, founded the AP Calculus program to expand Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) access. He has also taught in the Maryland correctional institutions. Liu leads staff wellness and oversees academics for student-athletes. A Grosvenor Teacher Fellow with National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions, he mentors new teachers, serves on the Maryland Teacher Advisory Council and co-chairs the Maryland Blueprint Pillar 5 Advisory Committee.

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brittany Jakubowski, Catonsville Middle School, English Language Arts, Grades 6 & 8

Brittany Jakubowski, known as "Ms. Jak" by her students, is a graduate of Baltimore County schools and has been teaching 11 years. She is a driving force behind two growing initiatives at her school — the Ladies of Legacy mentoring club, which supports community programs, and the annual Diversity Fair, which she founded. Over the past seven years, the Diversity Fair has collaborated with more than 30 area businesses, colleges, and leadership groups.

CALVERT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

William Voshell, Calvert High School, Social Studies

Bill Voshell initially transitioned to teaching from the National Archives. He teaches courses in criminal justice, civics, and world history, and earned a “Who’s Who in Teaching” recognition in 1999. Voshell left teaching for corporate America, where he designed a successful mentoring program. Since returning to education in 2014, he has participated in various teaching and service roles at Calvert High.

CAROLINE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Andrew Buffenmyer, North Caroline High School, U.S. History

Andrew Buffenmyer, an AP U.S. History and U.S. History teacher, is a 9th Grade Academy Team Lead and Mentor Teacher, and a longtime member of the School System Improvement Council. He earned National Board Certification in 2024 and holds an Advanced Professional Certificate. Known as “Buff,” he also coaches a student team for National History Day and received History Day Teacher of the Year honors in 2018, 2022, and 2023.

CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Amy Glascock, Winfield Elementary School, Humanities, Grade 5

Amy Glascock, a fifth grade Humanities teacher, is a National Board Certified Teacher and an adjunct instructor at McDaniel College. She is a member of the Teacher Advisory Council with the National Constitution Center, serves as chair of her school’s Kindness Club, and co-chairs the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) Committee. Glascock is active in providing professional development, mentoring new teachers, and supervising student teachers and interns.

CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Taylor Schafer, North East Middle School, Social Studies, Grade 8

Taylor Schafer currently teaches eighth grade U.S. History at North East Middle School in Cecil County, where she has been since 2016. She coaches the middle school volleyball team, chairs the Staff Social Committee, moderates the Volleyball Club, and leads fundraising for and coordinates the annual eighth grade Washington, DC field trip. She writes curriculum, mentors new teachers, and recently served as a clinical educator for a student-teacher from the University of Delaware.

CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Alison Cheney, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, Physical Education

Alison Cheney has worked with pre-K through 12th grade students over her 17-year career and currently teaches adapted physical education. She facilitates therapy pool sessions, organizes community engagement activities, and serves on multiple leadership teams. Her career highlights include the Society of Health and Physical Educators Maryland (SHAPE MD) 2023 Simon A. McNeely Award and serving as the district representative for Special Olympics Maryland Unified Track and Field.

DORCHESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Tanya Travis, Choptank Elementary School, Grade 5

Tanya Travis is actively involved in school leadership. She has contributed to the School Improvement Team, Choptank School Leadership Team for the Maryland Coalition for Inclusion, Faculty Council, Equity Task Force, and the district Textbook Selection Committee. Travis has facilitated professional development sessions, mentored new teachers and interns, and was honored with the Maryland Society for Educational Technology 2009 Maryland Outstanding Educator Using Technology Award. She has dedicated 15 years to teaching fourth and fifth grades.

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ALonna Soward, Monocacy Elementary School, Grade 4

ALonna Soward mentors novice teachers, fostering instructional excellence, and promotes a community of academic growth through initiatives like the Ready for Pre-K/K and the Elevate Academy summer programs. She actively contributes to school improvement through the School Improvement Team, System Improvement Team for Blueprint Implementation, and the Student Engagement Team.

GARRETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Laura Witt, Broad Ford Elementary School, Grade 2

Laura Witt began her teaching career with the Garrett County Board of Education in 2008. She has held a variety of positions, which include teaching all elementary grade levels (PreK-5), Title I Coordinator, and English language arts Lead Teacher. Witt is also the Broad Ford Elementary yearbook advisor, serves on the School Improvement Plan Committee, and as a volunteer volleyball coach at Southern High School.

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Shelby Hultquist, Havre de Grace Elementary School, Special Education

Shelby Hultquist, an eight-year veteran educator, serves as a chair for the special education team, a member of the School's Performance and Achievement (SPA) team, and a coach of eight years for a nonprofit lacrosse team. Hultquist has been a mentor teacher, model classroom for new special educators, and enjoys providing professional development.

HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Natalie Pretzello, Hammond Middle School, Band Director

Natalie Pretzello is a passionate educator, advocate, and leader who empowers students through music from elementary to college. As Hammond Middle School's band director, she increased enrollment by over 30% in one year. A National Board Certified Teacher, she leads professional development, mentors new teachers, sponsors extracurricular activities, and serves statewide as an adjudicator, director, and coordinator.

KENT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Cheryl Fracassi, Kent County Middle School, Kent Alternative Program

Cheryl Fracassi teaches the Pathways Academy, supporting students identified with significant behavioral challenges in general education settings. In the summer, she serves as site director for Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties at Washington College, helping local students maintain academic skills. She also coaches Girls on the Run and has received several awards of excellence for her impactful work in education.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Megan Campbell, Parkland Middle School, Instrumental Music

Megan Campbell teaches Instrumental Music to more than 200 students at Parkland Magnet Middle School, where she has grown the program by 75%. Prior to teaching at Parkland, Campbell taught at John F. Kennedy High School. A 20-year veteran educator, she helped launch the MCPS Marching Band Showcase and contributes to numerous countywide programs.

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Lafiya Tunstall, Non-Traditional Program South, Science, Grades 11-12

Lafiya Tunstall teaches environmental science and earth & space science electives to 11th and 12th graders at Non-Traditional Program South where she also serves as Senior Class Sponsor. Tunstall is a New Teacher Leader, mentoring one new teacher weekly, and assisting with professional development to a group of Novice Educators monthly. She also serves as an instructor for the PGCPS Climate Change En-ROADS Professional Development sponsored by the William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center.

QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marcie Mamas, Kent Island High School, Business

Marcie Mamas, a past Maryland Business Teacher of the Year, holds 29 years of experience teaching marketing, management, and yearbook design & publishing. Known for project-based learning and real-world relevance, Mamas empowers students through entrepreneurial thinking and service-driven initiatives. A passionate mentor, DECA advisor, and school leader, she has chaired key committees and shaped school improvement efforts.

SOMERSET COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kristen Bratcher, Somerset Intermediate School, Science, Grade 6

Kristen Bratcher is passionate about fostering curiosity and is dedicated to creating a supportive learning environment for all students. Bratcher served on the committee that helped select the middle school science curriculum and she continues to offer resources and collaboration to support implementation. She is also a member of the Parent/Family Engagement Committee.

ST. MARY’S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Tylita Butler, Esperanza Middle School, Science, Grade 8

Tylita Butler, a dedicated eighth grade science educator at Esperanza Middle School, drives positive change as an Instructional Leader, the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) lead, and Equity & Diversity Leader. Butler leads after-school intramurals and coaches basketball at Leonardtown High School, earning conference Coach of the Year in 2024 and 2025. She serves as a Summer Camp Therapeutics Leader and a Focus Elite flag-football coach. Butler’s unwavering commitment to education, equity, and athletics establishes her as a formidable leader and mentor.

TALBOT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Lauren Rose, Easton High School, Music Teacher & Band Director

Lauren Rose has taught at Easton High School for 17 years, holding a variety of professional titles including: department chair, committee chair, coach, and class/club advisor. Rose currently serves as director of instrumental music, including the marching, concert, jazz, beginning and advanced steel drum bands. She has fostered student engagement through organizational partnerships striving to better the Easton community.

WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marjorie Chapman, Boyd J. Michael III Technical High School, Cosmetology

Marjorie Chapman, a National Board Certified Teacher in Career and Technical Education, has led the cosmetology program at Boyd J. Michael III Technical High School for 13 years. Passionate about preparing students for future success in college or career, Chapman leads a Professional Advisory Council, connecting education with industry leaders. Her expertise extends to teacher mentoring, supporting educators working toward National Board Certification.

WICOMICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Emma Cohn Matthews, Wicomico High School, English

Emma Cohn Matthews teaches English at Wicomico High School where she also serves as Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) chair, English and World Language departments chair, Gender and Sexuality Alliance advisor, and as an after-school tutor and mentor to pre-service teacher candidates. She is completing National Board Certification. Her research in curriculum reform supports her continued advocacy for equity, inclusion, and student-centered learning environments.

WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Phillip Cropper, Worcester Technical High School, Culinary Arts

Phillip Cropper has led the Worcester Technical High School Culinary Arts program since 2012, emphasizing real-world learning through his “Education Without Walls” philosophy. A decorated educator, he was recently named the 2025 James H. Maynard National Teacher of the Year and holds the 2024 SkillsUSA Maryland Advisor of the Year title. Cropper serves on multiple industry boards and brings extensive experience as an Executive Chef and Pastry Chef to shape the future of culinary education.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

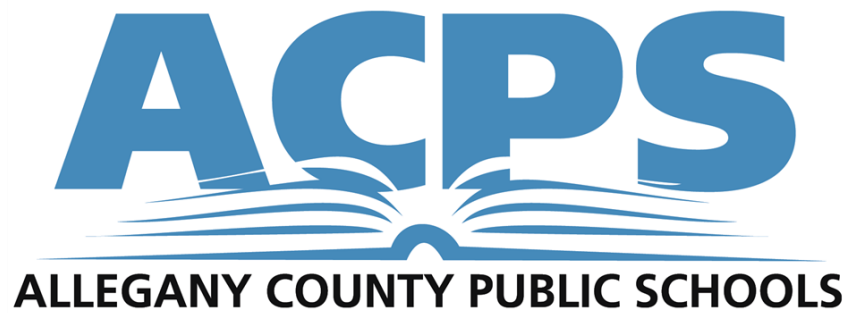
2025–2026 Local School System Teachers of the Year

May 29, 2025



Presented By | Raven Hill





Jeannette Milburn

Braddock Middle School



ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jacqueline Sanderson

Belle Grove Elementary School

BALTIMORE CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

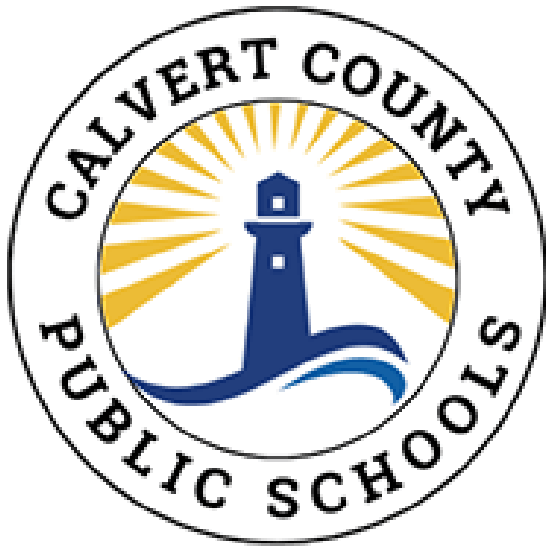
Jevons Liu

Academy for College and Career Exploration



Brittany Jakubowski

Catonsville Middle School



William Voshell

Calvert High School



Andrew Buffenmyer

North Caroline High School



Amy Glascock

Winfield Elementary School



Taylor Schafer

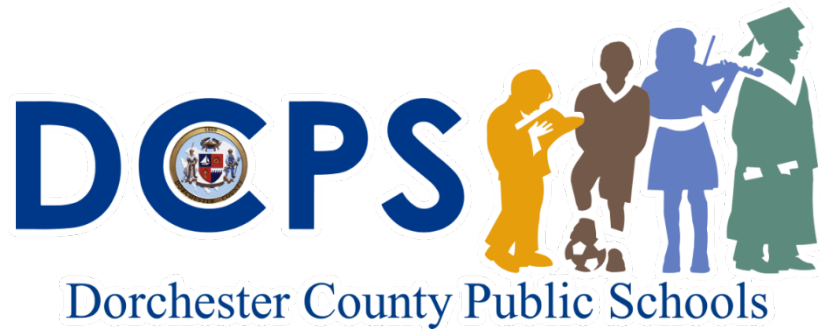
North East Middle School



Charles County Public Schools

Alison Cheney

F.B. Gwynn Educational Center



Tanya Travis

Choptank Elementary School



ALonna Soward

Monocacy Elementary School



Laura Witt

Broad Ford Elementary School



Shelby Hultquist

Havre de Grace Elementary School



Natalie Pretzello

Hammond Middle School



Cheryl Fracassi

Kent County Middle School



Megan Campbell

Parkland Middle School



Lafiya Tunstall

Non-Traditional Program South

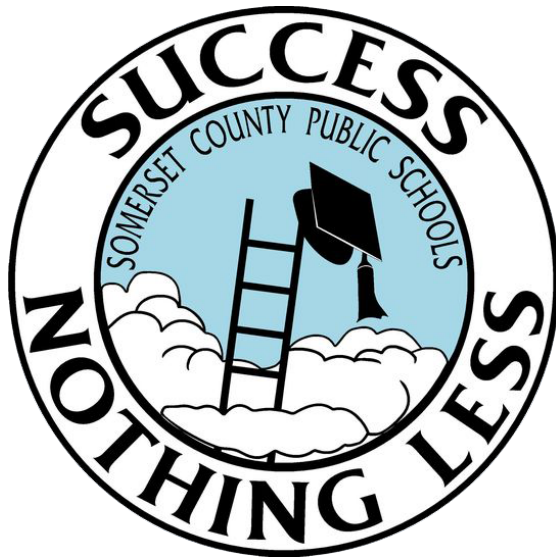


**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Where Our Future Begins

Marcie Mamas

Kent Island High School



Kristen Bratcher

Somerset Intermediate School



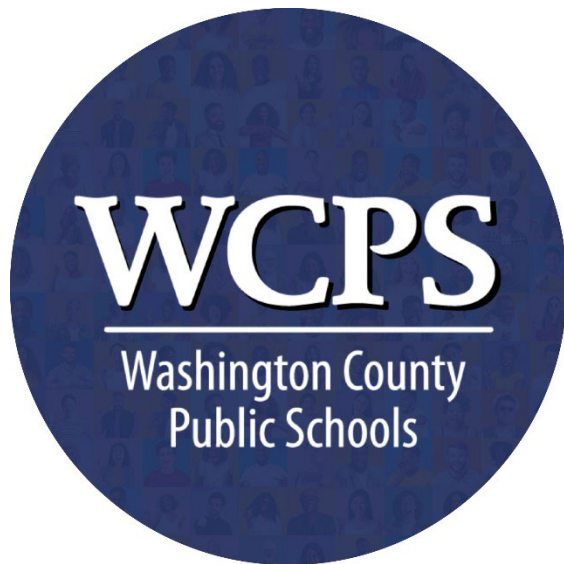
Tylita Butler

Esperanza Middle School



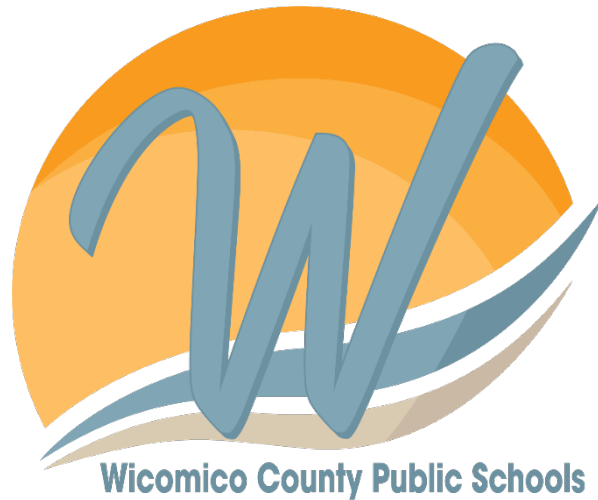
Lauren Rose

Easton High School



Marjorie Chapman

Boyd J. Michael III Technical High School



Emma Cohn Matthews

Wicomico High School



Phillip Cropper

Worcester Technical High School



Congratulations to the 2025-2026 cohort!