

MISD to host Macomb County teacher recognition event

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Teachers selected from school districts throughout Macomb County converged at the Macomb Intermediate School District last year for a special recognition event. This year's teacher recognition event will be held on April 16. (Submitted Photos)

Sixty-two Macomb County teachers will be honored for excellence on April 16 at the Macomb Intermediate School District.

For 29 years, the Macomb County Association of School Administrators and the Macomb Association of Curriculum Administrators have hosted a yearly event to recognize teachers at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

"The associations want to honor the teaching profession," MISD Assistant Superintendent for Instruction/Chief Academic Officer Dr. Judith Pritchett said. "Each district can nominate up to three teachers. That is what they normally do."

Nominations from each district were due by the end of February, Pritchett said. Sometimes fellow teachers and sometimes students make the nomination, depending on the district. Teachers who are nominated generally have made a significant impact on their school and district in some way.

In the L'Anse Creuse district, Green Elementary School teacher Christopher Zoller, L'Anse Creuse High School North teacher Roberta Agnello and L'Anse Creuse Middle School South teacher Meredith Beard will be recognized.

In the Chippewa Valley School District, Mohawk Elementary School teacher Deborah Richnak and Chippewa Valley High School teacher Andrew Kohl will be recognized.

Teachers receive recognition from Macomb County Association of School Administrators President Ron Roberts, who is a superintendent in the Chippewa Valley School District, and Macomb Association of

Curriculum Administrators Ed Skiba, the Chippewa Valley School District's assistant superintendent of secondary education. The number of people who normally attend the event ranges between 350 and 400 including school board members, superintendents, curriculum administrators and family and friends of the recognized teachers, according to Pritchett.

The speaker at the event will be Michigan Supreme Court Justice David Viviano.

"We try to focus on someone here in Macomb County who can speak about not only the strength of the teaching profession, but the strength of Macomb County," Pritchett said.

The event offers many photo opportunities for families, but a professional photographer often takes photos as well, said Pritchett.

"We have dinner, we normally have student entertainment, usually a choir or band or something like that, and then the speaker. And then we present the awards individually. Each teacher gets a certificate and a token of appreciation. They are called up one by one," Pritchett said.

A choir from Fraser High School will serve as this year's entertainment, she noted.

Three teachers receive an additional acknowledgement of their impact on teaching and obtain a coupon for professional development opportunities. These teachers are selected by committee, Pritchett said. This year, Anita Somero of Westview Elementary School in Fitzgerald Public Schools, Sharon Sylvester of Chatterton Middle School in Fitzgerald Public Schools, and Michael Murphy of Richmond High School in Richmond Community Schools will receive the coupon.

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