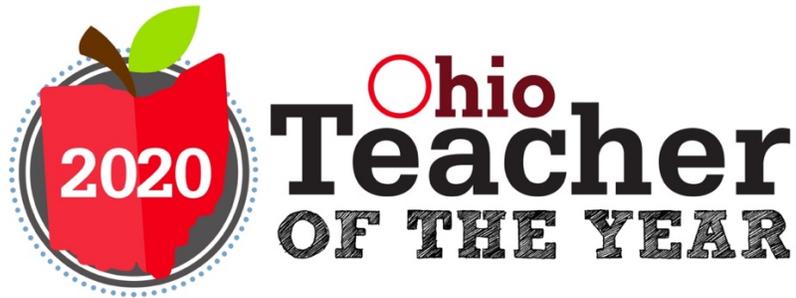


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Local Educator Announced as Teacher of the Year for District 7

David Murduck of Champion Local Schools recently was announced as the 2020 Teacher of the Year for State Board of Education District 7. Murduck is a fifth-grade science teacher at Champion Middle School.

Murduck and 10 other regional Teacher of the Year honorees each have the chance to be named the 2020 Ohio Teacher of the Year this fall.

“Ohio has so many amazing teachers who commit themselves each and every day to the success of our students,” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria said. “I’m proud to recognize these teachers for their accomplishments and for the excellence they represent. Teachers are the biggest contributor to the success of a student, and it’s important that we continually find ways to support our educators by recognizing and valuing great teaching across the state.”

School administrators, fellow educators, parents, students and community members nominated teachers in State Board of Education District 7 for the regional award. Sarah Fowler, the State Board’s District 7 representative, worked with a committee of educators, parents and business leaders to select Murduck.

“Mr. Murduck demonstrates a passion for creatively sharing his subject area of science with his fifth-grade students and their families,” State Board Member Fowler said. “He goes above and beyond to make science materials, content and experiences available not only to his students but to the entire school and to the students’ families. Many of the experiences and lessons he teaches would lead you to believe he is teaching a gifted class, however, our team was impressed by the fact that in reality he is opening up worlds of opportunity and interest to the everyday student, ensuring accessibility and inclusion for students with disabilities and challenging even the most advanced students in his class. David Murduck demonstrates all of the best qualities of Ohio teachers by striving to engage ALL of his students in creative lessons, including the students’ families in the learning experience when possible, and making educational opportunities available to the community. We are pleased to recommend David Murduck as our 2020 Teacher of the Year finalist for State Board of Education District 7.”

Pamela Hood, superintendent for Champion Local Schools, said in her nomination form that “David Murduck engages students by providing opportunities for them to experience science in impactful ways that transform their perceptions of the environment and everything taking place around them. David carries a constant energy and excitement – igniting enthusiasm, curiosity and anticipation. The means by which he engages his students is extraordinary. The number of students involved in our after-school Science Club and STEM Club, both of which David coordinates and advises, has grown tremendously.”

A panel of education and community stakeholders will select the 2020 Ohio Teacher of the Year early this upcoming school year. That educator will represent the state in the national Teacher of the Year competition sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers. [Click here](#) to learn more about Murduck and the 2020 Teacher of the Year program.