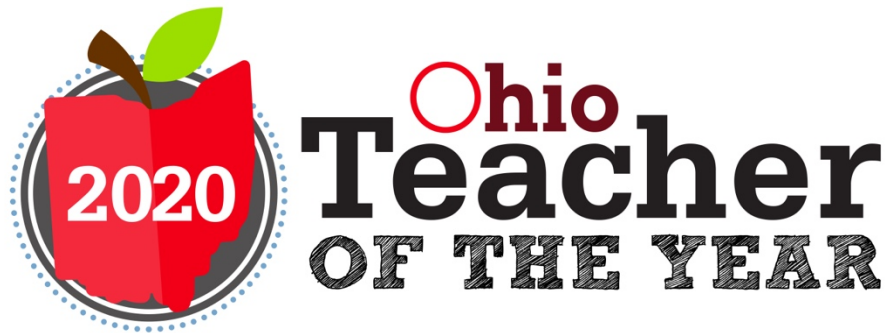


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Local Educator Announced as Teacher of the Year for District 1

Tonya Thorbahn of Findlay City Schools recently was announced as the 2020 Teacher of the Year for State Board of Education District 1. Thorbahn, an Intervention Specialist at Bigelow Hill Intermediate School, has 12 years of experience in educating students with special needs in the third, fourth and fifth grade and is considered a leader amongst her peers.

Thorbahn 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 1 for the regional award. Linda Haycock, the State Board's District 1 representative, worked with a committee of educators, parents and business leaders to select Thorbahn.

"As an Intervention Specialist for grades 4-5 at Findlay Bigelow Hill Intermediate, Ms. Thorbahn has three guiding principles: first, to treat each student as she would treat her own children; second, to focus on what each student can do not what they can't; and third, to engage each student so they can guide their own learning," State Board Member Haycock said. "With Ms. Thorbahn's expertise and community support, she creates an educational environment that masterfully leverages technology to offer personalized teaching, providing each student with maximum learning opportunities.

Jessee Hankins, a fellow teacher in the district, said in the nomination form that "Tonya is a leader within her school and across the district in creating community partnerships, cross-curricular collaborations, and implementing technology in helping students with exceptionalities achieve remarkable success."

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 Thorbahn and the 2020 Teacher of the Year program.