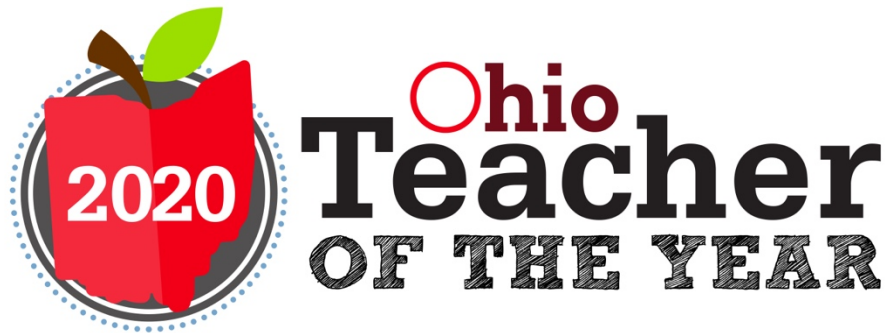


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Local Educator Announced as Teacher of the Year for District 11

Rick Wakefield of Maple Heights City Schools recently was announced as the 2020 Teacher of the Year for State Board of Education District 11. Wakefield is the Teacher Academy instructor at Maple Heights High School.

Wakefield 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 11 for the regional award. Meryl Johnson, the State Board’s District 11 representative, worked with a committee of educators, parents and business leaders to select Wakefield.

“Richard C. Wakefield IV is a breath of fresh air,” State Board Member Johnson said. “While others are lamenting the teacher shortage in our country, he is recruiting students for his Teacher Academy where the students learn what it means to be a teacher, including developing lesson plans and practicing their skills in surrounding schools. His students even compete nationally in the Educators Rising program. Mr. Wakefield’s desire to elevate a profession for which everyone should be thankful makes him the ideal choice for Ohio’s Teacher of the Year.”

Dr. Charlie Keenan, superintendent for Maple Heights City Schools, said in the nomination form that “Rick Wakefield is simply an outstanding teacher and is making a difference in the lives of his students and in our profession. Rick has been a teacher in the Maple Heights City Schools for the past 13 years and over that time has served as an inspiration to many students. He is dedicated to ensuring that his students are successful, but he also challenges them to be the best that they can be.”

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 Wakefield and the 2020 Teacher of the Year program.