

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
RECOGNITION**

**2016 HCPS TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS**

**March 7, 2016**

**Background Information:**

Each year since 1987, the Maryland State Department of Education conducts a Maryland Public School Teacher of the Year program in which each of the 24 state sub-divisions is invited to submit the name and nomination packet of a candidate. Each of the counties and Baltimore City is responsible for determining an appropriate way to select its candidate. In the Harford County Public Schools, each year beginning in November, nominations are sought from the public for candidates to be named the HCPS Teacher of the Year for the following school year. Nomination packets are collected by the HCPS Communications Office, which organizes a judging team composed of members of the school system's leadership team, members of the business community, parents, former Teachers of the Year, students and principals. Since 1995, the school system conducts a gala celebration at The Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace, courtesy of The Bayou and HAR-CO Credit Union, during which the five finalists are honored. The Teacher of the Year is announced at the conclusion of the program.

**Discussion:**

On March 16 2016, the school system will hold its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Teacher of the Year banquet/program. The finalists honored will include: Amy Beighley, special education teacher at Darlington Elementary School; Sharalyn Heinly, mathematics teacher at North Harford Middle School; Kristine Jurgs, special education teacher at Southampton Middle School; Deborah Mateer, mathematics teacher at Havre de Grace High School; and Kimberly Wheeler, fourth grade teacher at Magnolia Elementary School. At the conclusion of the program, the HCPS 2016 Teacher of the Year will be revealed and will enter the competition for the Maryland Teacher of the Year, the winner to be announced in October 2016.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County commend the 2016 HCPS Teacher of the Year Finalists. The Superintendent further recommends the Board wish the winning teacher good luck as she enters the Maryland Teacher of the Year competition.