

## Nominate a Teacher for AUSD's Teacher of the Year!

Do you know a teacher who goes above and beyond in (and out of) the classroom? Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) is now accepting nominations for its Teacher of the Year program.

"This is one of my favorite annual programs," says Superintendent Sean McPhetridge. "It is an excellent forum for showcasing the creativity, commitment, and professionalism of the teachers in our district."

### The Nomination Process

Nomination forms are available on the [Employee Recognition section page](#) of AUSD's website. Anyone can nominate a teacher; the deadline to submit nominations to the nominee's principal is 3 pm on February 2, 2018.

After being nominated, AUSD teachers who meet the county and state criteria are invited to participate in the next phase of the process, which requires them to submit an application packet (including a resume, an introductory letter, and letters of support) to the district office.

The AUSD Teacher of the Year Selection Committee then meets to screen applications and determine which applicants will move onto the next phase: classroom observations. During that stage, the Selection Committee members visit classrooms, interview finalists, and determine this year's Teacher of the Year. This year the members of the Selection Committee are:

- Ardella Dailey, Ed.D. (Vice President, Board of Education)
- Judith Klinger (President, Alameda Education Association)
- Drew Sarratore (Principal, Paden Elementary School)
- Page Tomblin (President, PTA Council)
- Sandy Wong (Coordinator, AUSD Human Resources)
- Kevin Gorham (2017 Teacher of the Year)
- Amanda Cline (2016 Teacher of the Year)
- John Dalton (2015 Teacher of the Year)

The winner will be honored by the Board of Education in May and by the Alameda County Office of Education in the fall. He or she also becomes eligible for the Alameda County Teacher of the Year Award, as well as potentially the State Teacher of the Year Award.

In recent years, the award has gone to a wide range of teachers, including: a kindergarten teacher who uses art lessons to help her children master academic standards and express themselves (Mandie Cline, Ruby Bridges Elementary School); a middle school teacher who started an innovative anti-bullying program (Chris Hansen, Lincoln Middle School); and a high school teacher who helps his students learn the craft of media production and storytelling (John Dalton, Alameda High School).

The 2017 Teacher of the Year is Kevin Gorham, who teaches at Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School. He was honored for his ability to engage students and his leadership on developing a broadcast media studio at his school. He was named a 2017 Alameda County Teacher of the Year last October.