



OLENTANGY SCHOOLSSM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHANAHAN MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER MAKES GRAMMY'S TOP 10

The Recording Academy and GRAMMY museum have announced 10 music teachers as finalists for the 2022 Music Educator Award, including Olentangy Shanahan Middle School's vocal music teacher, Katherine (Katie) Silcott.

Mrs. Silcott was nominated by her 6th grade students for the Music Educator Award, which recognizes current educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the music education field and demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools. More than 1,135 educators were nominated from 49 states.

Mrs. Silcott began her 20-year teaching career in Marysville Schools, where she transformed the middle school music program. She brought her talents to Olentangy Schools in 2018, teaching vocal music, directing the choir, and empowering approximately all of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at Shanahan Middle School.

Principal Josh McDaniels shared, "Katie Silcott is incredibly deserving of this recognition. She inspires students and staff with her kind spirit, positivity, and genuine love for music and teaching. Students take great pride in the music they create together and have opportunities to shine on stage and in our community - igniting a lifelong passion for music. Mrs. Silcott makes a powerful, lasting impact, and we are grateful to have her at Shanahan Middle School."

"I am so honored to be a finalist for this prestigious award," said Katie Silcott. "I have been blessed to teach choir for the past 20 years. It truly is the best job in the world and has been a heartwarming experience to reflect upon the thousands of students and families I have been lucky enough to work with. Music is one of the most accessible and inclusive subjects for people of all ages and abilities, and I love spreading that message every day."

The award winner will receive the Music Educator Award at the 63rd Annual GRAMMY week in early January, along with a \$10,000 honorarium and a matching grant for their school's music program. The nine additional finalists will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and matching grants. The matching grants are made possible by the generosity and support of the GRAMMY Museum's Education Champion Ford Motor Company Fund. In addition, the American Choral Directors Association, National Association for Music Education, NAMM Foundation, and National Education Association support this program through outreach to their constituencies.

There will be a "clap out" honoring Mrs. Silcott tomorrow, December 15 at 2:35pm at Shanahan Middle School. Contact Amanda Beeman if you would like to attend.