

BOE APPRECIATION BANQUET HONORS OUTSTANDING LOCAL EDUCATORS



Above: Amanda Masters of Friendship Elementary -- System-Wide Teacher of the Year for Grades Pre-K through Fourth.

The five Teachers of the Year are: Amanda Masters of Friendship Elementary, the school's physical education and STEM teacher, who also was selected as the System-Wide Teacher of the Year for the Pre-K through Fourth Grade division; Laura Ann Nanney of Gadsden Elementary, a Third Grade teacher; Tiffany Nelson of Maury City, a Third Grade ELA teacher; Brandi Taylor of CCMS, a science teacher also named System-Wide Teacher of the Year for Grades 5-8; and Julie Nass of CCHS, a biology teacher also chosen as System-Wide Teacher of the Year for Grades 9-12. Christine Schwartz of Maury City was selected as Principal of the Year and Judy Hoover - Supervisor of Instruction, Curriculum, and Assessment for the Crockett system - was named Supervisor of the Year.

Teachers of the Year at all levels must: (1) Be a facilitator of learning, skilled in implementing research-based and creative teaching strategies; (2) Show evidence of positive teacher effect over time related to student achievement through formal and informal documentation; (3) Be able to explain, discuss, and defend a personal philosophy of teaching; (4) Have a broad understanding and current trends and issues in education; (5) Be poised, articulate, enthusiastic, and energetic; (6) Be exceptionally dedicated to the teaching profession; (7) Have a superior ability to instill in students a love of learning; (8) Be recognized as leaders in the community as well as in the school; (9) Show active involvement and leadership in professional development and extra-curricular activities; and (10) Have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues.

By Ron Barry

The completion of a school year affords community leaders an opportunity to express appreciation for a job well done.

For the Crockett County Board of Education, a May 7 banquet at The Old Country Store in Jackson was the venue to recognize its top educators for 2023-24 as well as extending sincere thanks to four retiring school personnel.

The event featured official recognition of the five Crockett County Teachers of the Year, Principal of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, as well as the granting of tenure to six educators and an appreciative sendoff to the quartet of retirees. Some of the award winners had been previously announced earlier in the school year, but the annual banquet is when the official recognition is delivered.

Crockett's Teachers of the Year designation is a part of the Tennessee Teacher of the Year program, with the goal of recognizing and celebrating the wealth of excellent teachers that exist across the state. According to the program's directives from the Tennessee Department of Education, "We applaud teachers who prioritize the needs of all children, who devote their professional lives to enriching the lives of Tennessee students, and who demonstrate exceptional gains in student achievement."

Additionally, the program aims to: (1) Promote effective teaching practices by recognizing and rewarding outstanding teachers; (2) Engage regional teachers of the year in education policy through the Teacher Advisory Council; (3) Encourage participation by every school in the state so that all areas across the state and all types of teachers are represented; (4) Provide a network for teachers to share effective practices; (5) Encourage a sense of professionalism in teaching; and (6) Encourage greater participation in building a strong community-school partnership.

Teachers of the Year are selected competitively through five cycles: school, district, region, grand division, and state in three grade bands: pre-k, elementary, middle and high school.

In addition to the honoring of the Teachers of the Year, the Crockett Board of Education also awarded tenure to the following six educators: Mary Kate Gourley, CCMS math teacher; Doug Wede, CCMS ISS/Alternative teacher; Rachel Conner, elementary special education teacher; Jenna Cherry, elementary Fourth Grade ELA teacher; Tammy Womack, Save the Children Reading Ambassador; and Chelsea Deaton, elementary First Grade teacher.

For a director of schools to recommend a teacher be granted tenure by the local board of education, the teacher must first meet these requirements: (1) Has completed a probationary period of five school years or not less than forty-five months within the last seven-year period, the last two years being employed in a regular teaching position rather than an interim teaching position; and (2) Has received evaluations demonstrating a level of overall effectiveness (LOE) of "above expectations" or "significantly above expectations" as provided in the evaluation guidelines and rules adopted by the state board of education, during the last two years of the probationary period.

Crockett's Board also saluted four retirees: Kent Scott, CCHS math teacher; Sherry Ingram, elementary Fourth/Fifth Grade ELA teacher; Kim Irvin, elementary RTI teacher; and Mike Bell, CCMS principal.



Above: Tiffany Nelson -- Maury City Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Below: Doug Wade -- CCMS ISS/Alternative teacher -- was granted tenure.



Above: Rachel Conner -- elementary Special Education teacher -- was granted tenure.

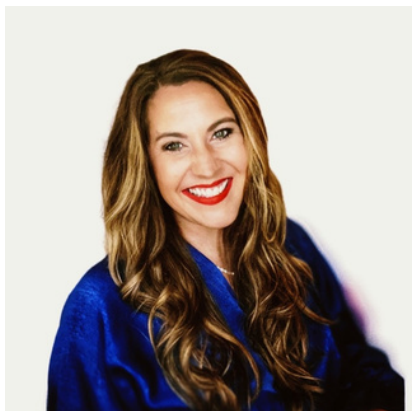


Above: Brandi Taylor of CCMS -- System-Wide Teacher of the Year for Grades Fifth through Eighth.

Below: Laura Ann Nanney -- Gadsden Elementary Teacher of the Year.



Above: Tammy Womack -- Save the Children Reading Ambassador -- was granted tenure.



Above: Jenna Cherry -- elementary Fourth/Fifth Grade ELA teacher -- was granted tenure.

Below: Mary Kate Gourley -- CCMS Mathematics teacher -- was granted tenure.



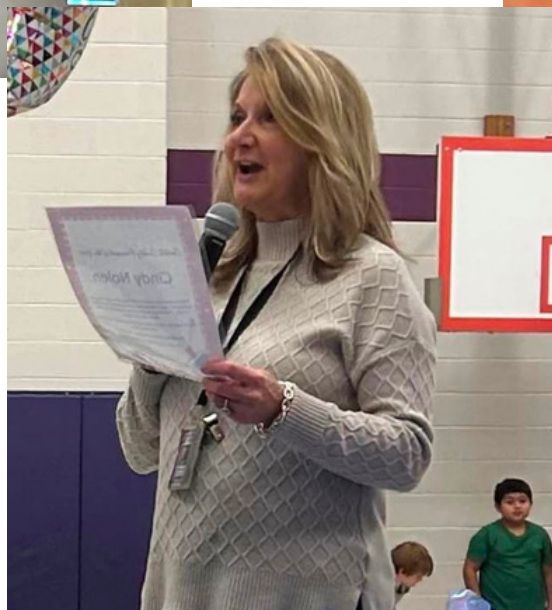
Above: Julie Nass (center) of CCHS -- System-Wide Teacher of the Year for Grades Ninth through Twelfth. Flanked here by her track and cross-country team seniors Kristin Lewis, Joy Evans, Casey Thornton, and Leyla Silva. Evans and Thornton -- along with their sisters Claire Evans and Avery Thornton -- placed eighth in the TSSAA State Track & Field Championships in the 4x800-Meter Run.



Above: Kent Scott -- 38 years of teaching Mathematics and coaching -- was honored at retirement.



Below: Sherry Ingram -- 30 years at Gadsden Elementary, teaching Fourth and Fifth Grade -- was honored at retirement.



Right: Kim Irvin -- more than 20 years at Friendship Elementary as RTI teacher -- was honored at retirement.



Above: Christine Schwartz of Maury City Elementary -- Principal of the Year for the Crockett County School District.



Above: Judy Hoover -- Supervisor of Instruction, Curriculum, and Assessment -- Supervisor of the Year for the Crockett County School District.



Left: Chelsea Deaton -- elementary First Grade teacher -- was granted tenure.