

REGIONAL FINALIST FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR FROM NKC SCHOOLS

Katie Malone Teaches at Early Education Center



July 1, 2024 (Kansas City, Mo.)- Katie Malone is named a Regional Finalist for [Missouri Teacher of the Year](#). Malone teaches at NKC Schools Early Education Center in Gladstone, Mo. She is the only teacher north of the river among the six regional finalists in the Kansas City area announced last week.

Malone enters her thirteenth year of teaching for NKC Schools, three of those years at the EEC. Malone is thrilled with the recognition saying, "I am honored to be selected as a regional finalist for the Missouri Teacher of the Year award. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my students and community, and I am proud to be part of a profession that is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young people."

Malone is a proud product of the district, graduating from Oak Park High School. She is passionate about education and reaching her goal of returning to the district and teach.

The Teacher of the Year will be announced later this summer. All the regional finalists, semifinalists and the state winner will be honored at a banquet at the Lake of the Ozarks in October.

The Missouri Teacher of the Year award is presented annually by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to recognize outstanding teachers who have made significant contributions to their schools, communities, and students.

From DESE: The major purpose of the Teacher of the Year program is to recognize the contributions of the classroom teacher. Teacher quality and effectiveness is the most important school-based factor impacting student learning. No one person has a greater impact on the education of a child than does the teacher who creates the learning environment where children flourish and grow. The mission of the Missouri Teacher of the Year Program is to honor, promote and celebrate excellence in the teaching profession.

Beginning with the 2015-16 year, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education established a Regional Teacher of the Year recognition level to the Missouri Teacher of the Year Program. Through this addition, Missouri is able to recognize excellence in teaching at the school, district, regional and statewide levels.

The Teacher of the Year represents Missouri's 70,689 teachers and automatically becomes a candidate for National Teacher of the Year honors. Only 46 individuals have been named to the

select group of Missouri Teachers of the Year since the state began participating in the national awards program in 1957.