



Cecil County Teacher of the Year 2025

Representing ALL Excellent CCPS Teachers

Nomination Packet Deadline: February 7, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.

Nominations are now being accepted for Cecil County's Teacher of the Year award. This program recognizes those teachers who deliver high quality daily instruction to their students and set high expectations for themselves, their students, and their schools. Students, colleagues, parents, administrators, community leaders, and others are encouraged to submit the name of a quality educator who represents the best of the teaching profession.

Eligibility: Nominees must be full-time classroom, resource, or media teachers who spend the majority of their time teaching. School counselors are ineligible to participate. Nominees must plan to continue to teach in CCPS through the 2025-26 school year. Nominees must have completed a minimum of six years of successful teaching experience. Nominees must be available to attend all county and state TOY events.

Criteria: It is essential to describe the qualities that make the individual an outstanding educator. When completing the nomination form, include specific examples of the nominee's impact on students, other teachers, and the community. Nominees must participate in the completion of this application.

Deadline: Nomination packets are due by 4:00 p.m. on February 7, 2025. Applications may be uploaded to the Teacher of the Year 2025 file in Google Drive or emailed to Cathy Thomas at cthomas@ccps.org. Paper copies are also welcomed!



Brittany Rigdon

2024 CCPS Teacher of the Year

"The Teacher of the Year program has given me a platform to advocate for Career and Technical Education (CTE) not only within Cecil County but also through statewide networking and educational opportunities. Being selected for this honor has allowed me to extend my impact beyond the classroom, shining a spotlight on the importance of College and Career Readiness for our students. To those who may hesitate and think, "it's too hard," I encourage you to go for it anyway. This is a unique opportunity to showcase who you are as an educator, share what education means to you, and demonstrate how you can make a difference for Cecil County Public Schools and our communities."

Event Dates

February 7, 2025 - Nomination packets due

February 11, 2025 - Nominees information meeting

March 3, 2025 - Reception to meet nominees & selection team members

March 31, April 2, 2025 - Nominee interviews with selection committee

April 3, 2025 - CCPS TOY Gala Event - The Wellwood

May 2025 - State TOY luncheon at MSDE

September 2025 - State TOY finalist interviews at MSDE

October 2025 - State TOY Gala

Awards & Honors:

- \$3,000 cash award
- iPad with cover
- BEPAC Classroom Partnership Grant
- Deluxe overnight stay at the Inn on the Canal—Chesapeake City, MD
- All expenses paid attendance at a regional professional conference
- State gala dinner
- Special reserved parking place at school

CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



2025 TEACHER OF THE YEAR - APPLICATION PROCESS

Nominations are now being accepted for Cecil County's 2025 Teacher of the Year (TOY) award. This program recognizes those teachers who deliver high-quality daily instruction to their students and set high expectations for themselves, their students, and their schools.

Students, colleagues, parents, administrators, community leaders, and others are encouraged to submit the name of a quality educator who represents the best of the teaching profession.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must be full-time classroom, resource, or media teachers who spend the majority of their time teaching. School counselors are ineligible to participate.

Candidates must plan to teach in Cecil County Public Schools through the 2025-26 school year.

Candidates must have completed a minimum of six years of successful teaching experience.

Candidates must be available to attend all county and state TOY events.

CRITERIA

It is essential to describe the qualities that make the candidate an outstanding educator. When completing this nomination packet, include specific examples of the candidate's impact on students, other teachers, and the community (see attached scoring indicators). Candidates must participate in the completion of this application.

DEADLINE

Nomination packets must be received by February 7, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. **The nomination packet must include: Part 1 nomination form completed with original signatures; part 2 candidate and nominator responses; and letters of support as required.** Applications may be e-mailed to Cathy Thomas (cthomas@ccps.org) or uploaded to the *Teacher of the Year 2025* file on Google Drive. Paper copies are still accepted! You may send or deliver the nomination packet to CCPS, Division of Education Services, 201 Booth Street, Elkton, MD 21921.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions or want clarification regarding any part of the nomination process, please call the Division of Education Services at 410-996-5401 ext. 50309.

CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



PART 1

TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

Please return this completed form along with the required support documentation as described on the next page by 4:00 p.m. on February 7, 2025. You may upload to the *Teacher of the Year 2025* file in the Google Drive. Paper copies may be sent to: CCPS, Division of Education Services, 201 Booth Street, Elkton, MD 21921

THE NOMINATION PACKET MUST BE COMPLETE WHEN SUBMITTED.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE INITIAL

LAST NAME

NAME OF HOME SCHOOL

GRADE / SUBJECT AREA

PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE

NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING

I have been contacted by the nominator. I agree to accept this nomination and will participate in all required events.

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE INITIAL

LAST NAME

SCHOOL/HOME ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

RELATIONSHIP WITH CANDIDATE:

Parent of student*

Student*

Colleague

Principal or Administrator

Community Member*

Other

**For non school-based nominators, please contact a school administrator to assist in completing this packet.*

I submit this nomination in the belief that the candidate is a worthy and outstanding model of teaching excellence.

NOMINATOR'S SIGNATURE

CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PART 2



CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Candidates must submit a response for the three items listed below. **All documents must be two typed, double-spaced pages in no smaller than 10-point font.** Additional pages will not be reviewed. Responses will be scored (see attached scoring indicators) by selection committee members.

A. RÉSUMÉ

Beginning with the most recent, please include educational history; employment history; professional memberships and offices held; staff development leadership activities and training of future teachers; awards and other recognitions of your teaching; and community involvement.

B. PERSONAL FEELINGS AND BELIEFS

Describe a lesson that defines you as a teacher. How did you engage all students in the learning, and how did that learning influence your students? How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in this lesson?

C. PUBLIC EDUCATION ISSUES

What do you consider to be the major public education issues today? Address **one issue** in depth, outlining possible causes, effects, and resolutions.

NOMINATOR RESPONSES

The nominator should secure no more than **three letters of support** for the candidate. Letters of support are limited to **one typed single-spaced page (no smaller than 10-point font)** and should describe the outstanding qualities that make the candidate a model educator. The letters may be from principals, administrators, colleagues, parents, community leaders, and/or students. (Letters from students may be signed by more than one student.)

Additionally, the nominator must submit a response to the following two statements. Responses are limited to **one typed, double-spaced page for each statement (no smaller than 10-point font)**. Additional pages will not be reviewed. Responses will be scored by selection committee members (see attached scoring indicators).

1. **Describe how the candidate** prepares students for success in a global society. Include examples of innovative instructional strategies, real-world connections and diverse viewpoints, involvement of parents, and ways to achieve a positive learning community.
2. **Describe how the candidate** is a leader in the school community, demonstrates leadership at the county, state, and national levels, and demonstrates professional growth.

The Teacher selected as Cecil County's Teacher of the Year will become the nominee for Maryland Teacher of the Year and will complete, with assistance from the Public Information Officer, the necessary nomination packet for submission to MSDE.

Indicators to score nominee's responses and résumé, and nominator's responses

These indicators are examples but should not be viewed as all inclusive.



1. Commitment to students and learning

- Believing all students can learn
- Maximizing potential
- Nurturing growth
- Tutoring
- Providing for diversity/inclusion
- Commitment to student achievement results
- Mentioning rewards of teaching
- Communicating with parents

2. Contribution to teaching and learning

- Curriculum development
- Staff development
- Publications
- Study group participation
- Teach college level classes
- Conferences: attendance, presentations
- Mentoring

3. Leadership in school and community

- Grade level chair/team leader
- Department head/Content Support teacher
- School improvement team member/chair
- Faculty Advisory Committee member/chair
- Instructional Cabinet member
- Building coordinator
- Student Services Team member/leader
- CERT Team member/leader
- Master Teacher
- TUST representative/leader
- Mentor
- Staff developer
- Cooperating teacher for student teacher
- Coach/adviser
- Committee chair (member) – school, county, state, national
- Community organizations/offices

4. Innovative instructional strategies

- Education That is Multicultural
- Differentiation
- Cooperative Learning
- Learning Strategies
- Multiple Intelligence/Learning Styles
- Inquiry-based
- Student-centered
- Hands-on Learning
- Use of Technology: SmartBoard, Podcasts, etc.
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Other

5. Positive learning environment

- Developing cognitive abilities
- Inclusive
- High expectations
- Cooperative strategies
- Individual responsibility
- PBIS
- Personalized
- Reflection
- Shared values

6. Relevance in instruction

- Real world connections/clusters
- Diversity
- Brings outside, real world experiences
- Integration of subject areas
- Promotes an understanding of world views and different perspectives

7. Professional Growth

- Degrees: Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate
- National Board Teaching Certification
- Memberships
- Professional journals/subscriptions
- Additional course work
- Workshops
- Seminars
- Conferences
- Self-reflection

8. Education Issues

- Knowledge of key issues
- Able to identify key issues
- Currency regarding trends in education
- Able to propose ways of addressing issues