



Board of Education


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Dr. B. Heston Carnemolla
Superintendent of Schools
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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL DISTRICT STAFF

FROM: Dr. B. Heston Carnemolla
Superintendent of Schools 

DATE: May 11, 2016

RE: **2016-2017 TEACHER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dear colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I announce Ms. Rebecca Borbas as the Watertown Public Schools 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Borbas has worked as a Music teacher in our district for eighteen years, and is currently the Band and General Music teacher at Polk School, Judson School, and Swift Middle School.

As is the case every year, the committee had a difficult time choosing just one teacher from a pool of very well-qualified nominees; ultimately, Ms. Borbas was selected because of her extraordinary dedication to the success of our students across our schools. She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut, with a double Bachelor's degree in Music and Music Education, and she has earned a Master's degree from Central Connecticut State University in Music Education. Along with her daily classroom instruction, Ms. Borbas participates with her students in the Watertown Memorial Day parade, where they have been asked to march with the Watertown Fire Department, and she has organized a myriad of musical opportunities for students: the Swift basketball tournament pep bands; Band Day with eighth graders as they visit Watertown High School; performances for the evening Swift Coffee House; pep band for Friday night football games at Watertown High School; and numerous small ensembles for her students so that they are afforded additional time for practice and performance. Her students have auditioned for and were selected for the Northern Regional Musical festival this year. Additionally, she serves as a mentor for TEAM, where she has worked with both student teachers and teachers new to our profession. Importantly, Ms. Borbas approaches each day with enthusiasm, joy, and deep care for students' achievement.

I would also like to congratulate the other five nominees in this year's pool: Kirstin Geer, Special Education teacher at Polk School; Scott McQueeney, Physical Education teacher at John Trumbull Primary School; Danielle Muir, Language Arts teacher at Swift Middle School; Kelly Raimo, English teacher at Watertown High School; and Molly Stepka, Reading teacher at Judson School.

The teacher of the year process serves as a celebration of the efforts of all of our faculty members, whose work is represented by the nominees and the eventual district winner. Please join me in honoring all of our nominees and Ms. Borbas. She now moves forward to compete for the prestigious Connecticut Teacher of the Year title: I truly believe she has an excellent chance in bringing that honor home to Watertown Public Schools.