



# Board of Education

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**Dr. B. Heston Carnemolla**  
Superintendent of Schools  
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To: All District Staff

From: Dr. B. Heston Carnemolla, Superintendent of Schools *BHC*

Re: Teacher of the Year Announcement

Date: May 11, 2017

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Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I announce Mr. Gary Pflomm as the Watertown Public Schools 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Pflomm has worked as an elementary school teacher in Watertown for the past 40 years, and he is currently a fifth-grade teacher at Polk 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, Mr. Pflomm was selected because of his extraordinary dedication to the success of the students at Polk School. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut, with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, and he has earned a Master's degree from Southern Connecticut State University in Learning Disabilities. Mr. Pflomm loves teaching children, and he strives to engage them in high-level thinking each day, while also providing them with a host of opportunities to practice the habits of contributing citizenship. Mr. Pflomm demonstrates a keen interest in utilizing technology in his classroom as a means of motivating students and as a way to develop their twenty-first century skills. He understands the crucial value of effective Mathematics instruction, and he uses a variety of tools and strategies to build students' confidence and skills as growing Mathematicians. At the same time, Mr. Pflomm strives to instill in his students a love of literature, through collaborative projects, such as his students' reading of a version of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in conjunction with high school students. Mr. Pflomm has participated in a variety of school-level and district committees, involving curriculum writing for Mathematics and Languages Arts and technology integration across the schools. Importantly, he serves as a model of effective instructional practice, as well as an individual of fine character and integrity.

I would also like to congratulate the other eight nominees in this year's pool: Jenifer Caprari, John Trumbull Primary School; Diana DeBiase, Judson School; Jody Field, Polk and Judson Schools; Elizabeth Hosking, Judson School; Beth Kulmann, John Trumbull Primary School; Annette Pietro, John Trumbull Primary School; Roseceil Rader, Swift Middle School; and Valerie Sassu, Watertown High 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 Mr. Pflomm. He now moves forward to compete for the prestigious Connecticut Teacher of the Year title: once again, we have a great contender who may be able to bring that honor home to Watertown.