



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

Engage. Inspire. Prepare.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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PCSD Honors Top Teachers, Employees, Announces District Teacher of Year for 2018-19

The Paulding County School District has named Ms. Susan Merchant, an advanced math and science teacher at Dobbins Middle School, as its 2018-19 school district Teacher of the Year. Ms. Merchant was revealed as the district's top teacher at a luncheon ceremony at West Ridge Church that honored the Teachers of the Year from each of the school district's 33 schools, plus the Employees of the Year from each of the district's operations departments.

Casey Bethel, 2017 Teacher of the Year for the state of Georgia, was the event's keynote speaker and presented the recognitions. The annual event, dubbed the Walk of Fame Annual Star Banquet, is hosted by the Paulding Education Foundation with the help of multiple sponsors, including lead sponsor MembersFirst Credit Union. Also in attendance were elected officials including school board members, school principals, school district employees, and students from the Paulding County High School Culinary Arts program who provided the fine food.



Susan Merchant

"Each year this event is one of the hallmark occasions for our school district," said PCSD Superintendent Dr. Brian Otott. "It's a real opportunity to see what our mission statement, 'Engage, Inspire, Prepare' is all about. I happen to think that all of the teachers and employees in our district do a phenomenal job each and every day, but the group here today is the best of the best, and they deserve this recognition. I want to congratulate Susan Merchant for being named district Teacher of the Year. She is an outstanding teacher and I know she will represent us well."

Ms. Merchant has been a teacher for 11 years, all at Dobbins Middle School, and for the last three years has never missed a day of class. She teaches 8th grade math and 9th grade algebra, serves as the Math Curriculum Lead and sponsors the Academic Bowl Team. She is known for her enthusiasm and subject knowledge, and she combines those assets with a strong work ethic and integrity.

"Dedication is the word that describes Susan," said Dobbins Middle School interim principal Donna Broyles. "She is truly dedicated to our



From left, PCSD Superintendent Dr. Brian Otott, 2018 TOTY Susan Merchant, and Paulding Education Foundation Executive Director Jim McMichen.

school as a whole and being a teacher leader. You see that in her willingness to extend herself by pursuing opportunities to grow and become a better teacher. She wants to get better and better every year.”

“It’s a real honor to be recognized for what I do,” said Ms. Merchant following the event. “I know my kids are excited for me and probably are back at school cheering me on. They all wanted to come to the luncheon today! All I can say is that it’s a pleasure teaching those kids every single day.”

In the Paulding County School District, each of the district’s 33 schools names its Teacher of the Year by a March deadline. Each school-level Teacher of the Year then submits an application to the district, and those applications undergo a third-party review to recommend a district Teacher of the Year. Following review of the recommendation, the district then names its district-wide Teacher of the Year in the spring. The TOTY serves the following school year and becomes eligible to be named Georgia Teacher of the Year.

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2018 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR		2018 PCSD TEACHERS OF THE YEAR			
Christopher Bone	Maintenance, Operations & Facilities	Melissa Westmoreland	Abney Elementary	Alison Gurley	Nebo Elementary
Stefanie Bowen	School Leadership	Alicia Gray	Allgood Elementary	Latonya Glanton	New Georgia Elem.
Walter Croft	Transportation	Stephanie Shellnutt	Austin MS	Scott Tierce	North Paulding HS
Patricia Lattimore	School Support Services	Brandon Chason	Baggett Elementary	Lorie Coleman	Northside Elementary
April Mariona	School Instructional Support	Joanne Langdon	Burnt Hickory Elem.	James Chase-Wegner	P.B. Ritch MS
Michele Taylor	District Support Services	Alicia Jones	Dallas Elementary	Kristina French	Panther Elementary
Anita Thomas	School Nutrition	Susan Merchant	Dobbins MS	Sarah Robertson	Paulding County HS
		Mark Berryhill	Dugan Elementary	Bethel Ostrow	Poole Elementary
		Angela Howard	East Paulding HS	Amy Delaney	Ragsdale Elementary
		Laurie Parker	East Paulding MS	Misty Baxter	Roberts Elementary
		Wendy Bailey	Herschel Jones MS	Patti Swift	Russom Elementary
		Nikki Stewart	Hiram Elementary	Taylor Hern Eubanks	Scoggins MS
		First Sgt. Louis Dinkins	Hiram HS	Jeremy Cole	Shelton Elementary
		Shelley Smith	Hutchens Elementary	Michael Skelton	South Paulding HS
		Latrell Scott	McClure MS	Ryan Gordon	South Paulding MS
		Elisabeth Eaves	McGarity Elementary	Nicole Longshore	Union Elementary
		Kelley Townsend	Moses MS		

