





The selection of Teacher of the Year focuses public attention on excellence in teaching within the Lowndes County School System. By honoring an exemplary member of the teaching profession, we are highlighting the contributions of hundreds of dedicated educators throughout our school system. The selection of the Teacher of the Year is also an honor that carries with it great responsibilities. The public views the Teacher of the Year as the person who will work for the best interests of all students. Teachers across our system and the state view the

Teacher of the Year as a role model to emulate. We have been fortunate to have been represented in the past by many outstanding teachers.

The education profession as a whole looks to the Teacher of the Year as a spokesperson for the highest standards in education. This teacher should possess the qualities that would make him/her our most qualified candidate for the selection of Georgia Teacher of the Year. With this in mind, our school level process should more closely reflect the process used on the district, state, and national levels. All teachers will not be asked to complete the detailed application packet as a result of a nomination; however, the school level Teacher of the Year will be expected to complete the entire application process.

Here are some of the criteria that are used in the selection of TOTY:

- Must have and maintain current certification and be Highly Qualified
- Must have taught for five years and at least three years in the LCSS
- Must have signed a contract and plan to continue teaching at the current school
- Must have a current satisfactory evaluation
- Must be an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled individual, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve, including Horizon Academy.
- Must inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn
- Must have a proven track record of increasing student achievement
- Must have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues
- Must play an active and useful role in the school and the community
- Must demonstrate outstanding characteristics such as being poised, articulate, and possess the ability to communicate his/her message to a broad audience, and withstand a taxing (state) schedule.