

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING • 2020 • THE 19TH ANNUAL

# GOLDEN APPLE

## *awards*



*The Daily Progress*

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RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING • 2020 • THE 19TH ANNUAL

# GOLDEN APPLE

## awards

The Golden Apple Awards recognize creativity, passion and effective communication in area educators. This is the 19th year of the awards honoring exceptional educators.

One educator is chosen from each public and private school in Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

Each Golden Apple recipient will receive a \$500 grant, courtesy of Better Living. The grant may be used for classroom materials or to

support the recipient's professional development.

The Golden Apple Awards were established in 2001 by Richard and Judy Nunley, owners of Better Living Building Supply and Cabinetry.

Judy Nunley was a teacher in Charlottesville, and the couple, through their Better Living Foundation, are ardent advocates for education.

The winners will be honored Thursday, May 21st at 4 pm, during a virtual ceremony.

## The Daily Progress

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CHARLOTTESVILLE HOSPITAL ED  
**LISA JOHNSON BLACK**  
KINDERGARTEN CHARLOTTESVILLE

Ms. Lisa Black is very gentle and caring with every step she teaches and gets parents involved as well.



CROZET ELEMENTARY  
**TRACY BROWN**  
K-5TH GRADE MUSIC ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. Brown hosts three musical productions at Crozet Elementary each year, and does the same for Red Hill Elementary and directs the music club and the chorus in the drama production!



CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC  
**HEATHER BRYAN**  
K-12 SPECIALIST VAIS

In Mrs. Bryan's view each student has a constellation of gifts and talents that mark that student as unique.



LUGO-MCGINNIS ACADEMY  
**KELSEY CARY**  
9TH-12TH GRADE CHARLOTTESVILLE

Ms. Cary takes the time to really get to know her students and their needs!



CLARK ELEMENTARY  
**MARY CAITLYN CORDONE**  
SPED K-4TH GRADE CHARLOTTESVILLE

Ms. Cordone exhibits patience and care beyond what might be expected, while also maintaining high academic expectations for her students.



CENTER FOR LEARNING & GROWTH  
**HASHIM O. DAVIS**  
7TH-12TH GRADE HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES  
ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Mr. Davis encourages students to fill their gap in knowledge through research. He meets the needs of our students to define themselves and examine their culture lenses in a positive way.



CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
**MATTHEW DEEGAN**  
9TH-12TH HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE CHARLOTTESVILLE

Mr. Deegan makes history come alive for his students through critical questions about values, human character, and contingent historical moments.



JACK JOUETT MIDDLE  
**AYLA DUVE**  
7TH GRADE SCIENCE ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. Duve is the first teacher to be on his special needs team. She makes learning fun. I am so grateful to have had her in my son's life this year.





TANDEM FRIENDS

**AVIS FIELDS**

6TH-8TH GRADE PE VAIS

Avis is a great teacher because she really pushes me out of my comfort zone to do better. She is always looking out for me to make sure I'm doing the best I can and she helps me both academically and socially.



MURRAY HIGH

**JOSHUA FLAHERTY**9TH GRADE ALGEBRA II & PHYSICS  
ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Josh embodies all that is good about education: complete dedication to the students; selfless servant leadership; and an overall positive and welcoming environment where all students feel cherished.



CALE ELEMENTARY

**KAREN BELTON GARLAND**

KINDERGARTEN ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. Garland is always helping other teachers in any way that she can, whether it is a first year teacher or a veteran.



COVENANT

**HOLLY GARMON**

4TH GRADE VAIS

In Mrs. Garmon's class kids actively participate, raise their hands and present to the class. She identifies each student's gifts and builds on those traits to encourage and grow confidence.



WESTERN ALBEMARLE HIGH

**TAYLOR HOLDER**

9TH-12TH GRADE EARTH SCIENCE ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. Holder speaks with all students on a daily basis about their understanding of the content and offers individualized alternatives for furthering their comprehensions. There is always a smile and positive message as Ms. Holder greets students at the classroom door every day.



SUTHERLAND MIDDLE

**MEREDITH HOLMES**

8TH GRADE MATH ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Mx. Holmes communicates consistently with all stakeholders and demonstrates strong leadership skills as the team leader for eighth grade.



MERIWETHER LEWIS ELEMENTARY

**SARAH JACKSON**

1ST GRADE ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. Jackson has incorporated 3D printing into her curriculum, provoking thought by involving each student while role modeling enthusiasm, curiosity and resilience when challenges arise.



BAKER BUTLER ELEMENTARY

**LINDSEY JEONG**

3RD GRADE ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. Lindsey Jeong established "Critter Care" teams. Through these activities, children have been able to explore their curiosity in learning about the habitats, food and other features of these creatures, as well as how to care for them.



RED HILL ELEMENTARY

**BETH KAVOUNAS**

K-1ST GRADE ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. Kavounas, among other content, is working on building peaceful problem solving with a focus on empathy and what it means to be an empathetic friends; reading emotions and checking in with others.



WALTON MIDDLE

**REBECCA KINDLER**

6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. Kindler makes math relevant and engaging, and is always mindful of never sacrificing the rigor associated with sixth grade math. She regularly creates opportunities for movement, collaboration and dialogue for students to engage with math in new and relevant ways.



GREENBRIER ELEMENTARY

**KAVITA KUMAR**

4TH GRADE CHARLOTTESVILLE

Mrs. Kumar leads the students through more complex thought pattern to stretch their learning as far as possible. The creativity within this fourth grade classroom is incredible!



HOLLYMEAD ELEMENTARY

**SARAH LAPRADE**

3RD GRADE ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. LaPrade has shown great dedication in challenging all her students to excel!



STONY POINT ELEMENTARY

**LYNN LEATHERS**

2ND GRADE ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. Leathers spends time thinking of new and effective ways to motivate and encourage students and increase their learning.



MONTICELLO HIGH

**CORINNE LINDEMANN**9TH-12TH GRADE HMSA HONORS CHEMISTRY  
ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. Lindemann is always available and willing to help her students before tests/quizzes or just to be a resource when students have questions.



SCOTTSVILLE ELEMENTARY

**JIM LOFFREDO**

4TH GRADE ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Mr. Loffredo understands the meaning of parent/teacher partnership, and the need to work together for the success of the student.



ALBEMARLE HIGH

**JENNIFER THERESE MACDONALD**

9TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. MacDonald performs farther than a teacher's standard scope of work, discovering the needs within the individual student.



GREER ELEMENTARY

**SHANNON MCLAUGHLIN**

KINDERGARTEN ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Shannon meets children where they are and designs high-quality education experiences to help them thrive.



VENABLE ELEMENTARY

**CALDER MCLELLAN**

3RD GRADE CHARLOTTESVILLE

During the first year, Calder encouraged teams to work smarter not harder. With implementations of a new mathematics curriculum, she was able to keep the mindset of a classroom teacher, modeling efficiency, to make effective recommendations about instruction.



COMMUNITY PUBLIC CHARTER

**DOMINIQUE MORSE**

6TH-8TH GRADE DESIGN ALBEMARLE COUNTY

With the help of Dom, students are soldering circuits, 3D printing prototypes, and becoming skilled woodworkers.



WOODBROOK ELEMENTARY

**BRONWYN MURRAY**

PRE K-5TH GRADE MATH ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. Murray builds mathematicians, and fosters a confidence in students who feel they have no right to be confident when looking at fractions, or even single digit numbers.



STONE-ROBINSON ELEMENTARY

**LUKE NOBLE**

K-5TH GRADE PE ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Mr. Noble gives. He does not stop when the end of the day school bell sounds. Mr. Nobel's support of his students continues when he is "off duty" into the afternoons, the weekends, months and even the summer.



AGNOR-HURT ELEMENTARY

**JACLYN PARKER**

KINDERGARTEN ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Ms. Parker is very organized and respectful. She is a great example of a great teacher.



MURRAY ELEMENTARY

**CINDY PAYNE**

K-5TH GRADE COUNSELOR ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Cindy is quick to teach acceptance, how to appropriately deal with situations and provoke dialogue between the kids. She consistently advocates for our students within the classroom and at home always makes them feel they are loved and worth it.



CATEC

**MATT RICHARDSON**9TH-12TH GRADE AUTO MOTIVE TECHNICIAN  
CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Mr. Richardson supports all students and is always willing to try new ideas and strategies to help struggling students.



MICHAEL GUTHRIE

CEO AND MANAGING BROKER AT ROY WHEELER REALTY CO.

# LOOKING BACK, FILLED WITH GRATITUDE

BY RICHARD ALBLAS

RALBLAS@DAILYPROGRESS.COM

Michael Guthrie, CEO and managing broker at Roy Wheeler Realty Co. in Charlottesville, had a “very interesting school experience,” looking back to his K-12 education. It involved going to school shoeless for several years, his experience has a link to former President Obama and he was able to cultivate friendships that endure to this day.

“Looking back, I’m filled with gratitude,” Guthrie said. “I had wonderful teachers and learned valuable lessons. I know many kids have struggles, or experience bullying or feel left out. I was fortunate and experienced none of these things. I’m grateful for that.”

The Annandale native went to kindergarten in his hometown, and even though he was young, there’s one thing he vividly remembers.

“The preschool and kindergarten kids at that school were able to play a part in the Thanksgiving play and I remember that being a cool experience,” Guthrie said.

Soon after, Guthrie left Annandale behind and embarked on an adventure with his family.

“My dad was in the Army and he got stationed in Hawaii,” Guthrie said.

“So we packed up everything and left for Honolulu.”

Guthrie was first enrolled in a public elementary school on the Army base, but soon after enrolled at Punahou School, a private school in the biggest city of Hawaii.

“That was a wonderful experience,” he recalled. “I remember living there and not wearing shoes at all, even in school. I was at Punahou for fourth, fifth and sixth grade and never wore any shoes. It’s pretty remarkable.”

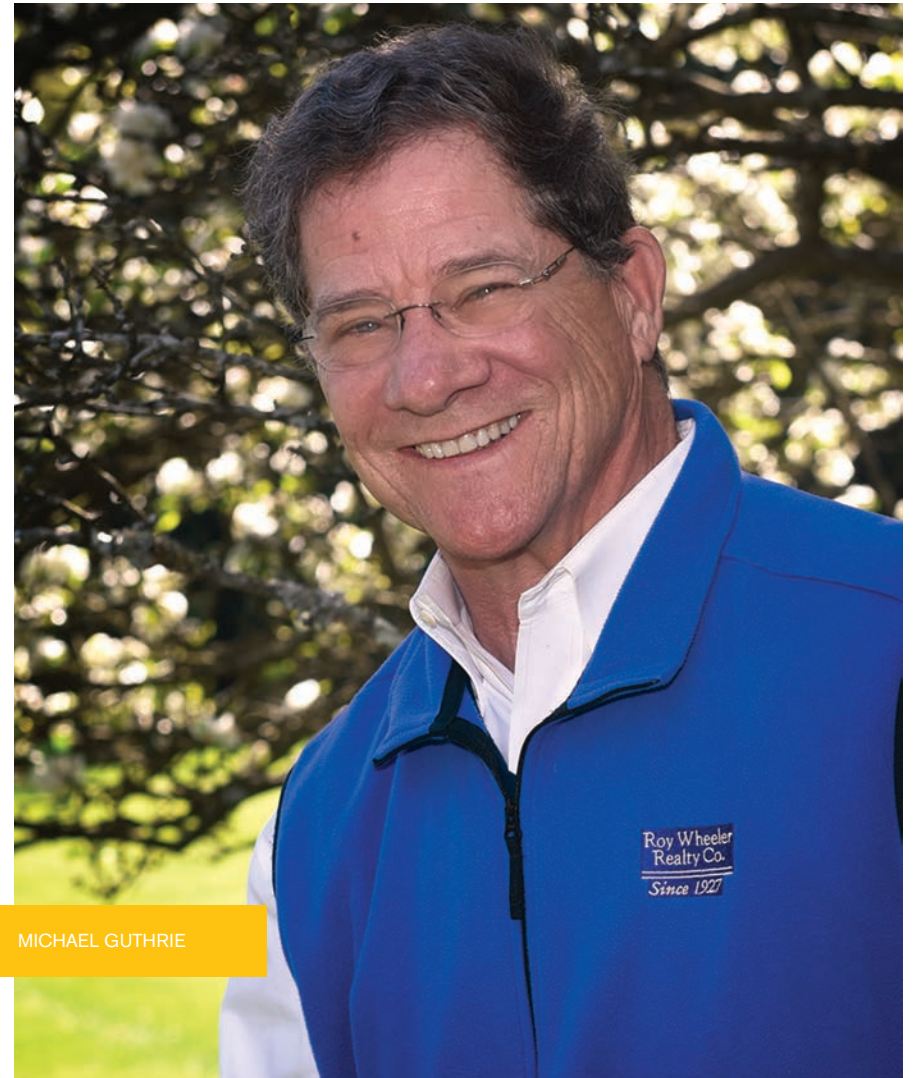
Later, Guthrie learned the school would enroll a very famous student: Barack Obama.

“It’s my claim to fame,” Guthrie laughed. “I went to the same school as President Obama.”

Guthrie was there during the ‘60s, and one day, sitting in class, an announcement was made over the school’s intercom system.

“It was the day President Kennedy was assassinated. That was absolutely terrible and I remember to this day hearing that message.”

Being a left-handed writer, Guthrie needed some extra help with his writing, and credits Ms. Matthews and Ms. Bythiner with helping him with that.



MICHAEL GUTHRIE

“They were just so encouraging and loving. Thanks to them, my handwriting is probably better than most left-handed writers.”

Guthrie’s dad’s next assignment was at the Pentagon, and during middle school and high school, Guthrie found himself back in Annandale.

“I went to Edger Allan Poe Middle School,” Guthrie said. “There’s one teacher that made a big impression on me, even though I forgot his name. He was our PE teacher. I remember his brother was a professional baseball player for the Yankees. He was someone I looked up to and who inspired me as an eighth-grader. One day I came home from school and told my mom: ‘I want to be a PE teacher when I grow up.’”

Guthrie would later enroll at Annandale High School, home of the

Atoms.

“I was very involved in sports and politics,” he said. “High school for me felt as a safe place where I made lots of friends. I felt comfortable in my own skin and was able to grow as a student. To this day, our high school reunions every five years are very well attended. I was able to make friends for life there.”

His father was later stationed in Korea for a year, but the family was able to stay in Virginia. “Being the son of an Army dad, it’s pretty special that I was able to stay in the same house between seventh and 12th grade and even through my first two years of college. My dad was later stationed in Hawaii again, and I spent two holiday breaks as a college student there. You can’t ask for more. All in all, I am very grateful for the experiences I was able to have.”

HIGH SCHOOL FOR ME FELT AS A SAFE PLACE WHERE I MADE LOTS OF FRIENDS. I FELT COMFORTABLE IN MY OWN SKIN AND WAS ABLE TO GROW AS A STUDENT.



MILLER SCHOOL OF ALBEMARLE

**DAVID RIDDICK**

9TH-12TH GRADE VAIS

Mr. Riddick is the real deal in the classroom! He makes his students think, not just about history but about what matters. He has the ability to adjust content and expectations based upon the needs of the individual student while never compromising his standards.



BROWNVILLE ELEMENTARY

**BETHANY WEATHERFORD ROBINSON**

3RD GRADE ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Mrs. Robinson is what I strive to be as a teacher, someone who is willing to stand for what she believes is best for her students.



JACKSON-VIA ELEMENTARY

**KATHRYN SALEM**

SPED PRE K-4TH GRADE CHARLOTTESVILLE

Kathryn is very open to new ideas and is able to incorporate those ideas effectively into her instruction. She makes sure that all children are included in any activity she presents in her classroom, working particularly hard to design activities for all her students with special needs.



HENLEY MIDDLE

**RODRICUCUZ VAUGHN**

6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Mr. Vaughn is calm and relaxed; class isn't hyper, or fast. His lessons and projects are interesting.



ST. ANNE'S-BELFIELD

**PALOMA VISSCHER-GINGERICH**

9TH-12TH GRADE VAIS

Dr. Paloma is a model of excellence. She is committed to her own professional growth, attending several conferences in addition to participating enthusiastically in our own optional summer weeklong Learn to Learn Institute.



BURNLEY-MORAN ELEMENTARY

**LISA WALLACE**

PRE K-4TH GRADE SPANISH CHARLOTTESVILLE

After school, Ms. Wallace coaches a group of girls in the "Girls on the Run" program. This program works to improve friendships and self-esteem through running!



BUFORD MIDDLE

**BRANDY WALKER**

8TH GRADE MATH/PRE ALGEBRA CHARLOTTESVILLE

Ms. Walker's ability to analyze data, share technology and provide resources helps me to enrich their learning.



BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL

**JACK WARREN**

10TH GRADE VAIS

Mr. Warren brings endless energy and optimism to the classroom every day and, as a result, students look forward to going to science class every day.



WALKER UPPER ELEMENTARY

**CIANNA WASHBURG**

6TH GRADE READING CHARLOTTESVILLE

Cianna established from the first day of class that her room is a safe zone and they are in this educational journey together. She has a strict no-bullying expectation and candidly discusses with students the potentially devastating effects of bullying.



JOHNSON ELEMENTARY

**LINDSAY WAYLAND**

4TH GRADE CHARLOTTESVILLE

Ms. Wayland has taught me so much! Some of the strategies that she has taught me will stay in my head forever!



BURLEY MIDDLE

**JOHN WOROZBYT**

7TH GRADE ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Mr. Worozbyt focuses on talent development of all students. He looks for ways that each student excels, and he involves himself in developing and presenting countless lessons in which students enrich their experiences.



BROADUS WOOD ELEMENTARY

**DEBRA ZEHNTER**

KINDERGARTEN ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Mrs. Zehnter shows compassion in her job every day and you can truly tell it is her calling to be a teacher.



WHITNEY THOMPSON  
HEAD OF SCHOOL AT TANDEM FRIENDS SCHOOL

# QUAKER VALUES INSTILLED AT EARLY AGE

BY RICHARD ALBLAS  
RALBLAS@DAILYPROGRESS.COM

It's safe to say that for Whitney Thompson, head of school at Tandem Friends School in Albemarle County, school experiences during her formative years shaped her into the adult she is today, and set her on her current career path.

"There's no doubt about that," Thompson said.

After attending a Jewish nursery school in St. Louis, she had a "typical suburban kindergarten experience" in that city. But around the time she was ready to enter first grade, the family moved to New York City.

That change of scenery wasn't that big of a change, remembered Thompson.

"We moved to Riverdale, a residential neighborhood of the Bronx, which had a suburban feel to it. Even though we were in New York City, people still had gardens with their houses."

She enrolled at PS 24, The Spuyten Duyvil School.

"That was an interesting and also unique experience for me," Thompson said. "There was a large group of Asian students at that school, most of them from Japan. It exposed me to a culture I wasn't familiar with and I enjoyed that."

By third grade Thompson realized that her school life with her peers was fascinating, but she didn't feel engaged with schoolwork. "My mom noticed that, and she got concerned. It was time for a change."

Although she couldn't have known it at the time, what happened next would change Thompson's life

forever; she enrolled at the Brooklyn Friends School.

"Within two weeks I was a completely different student and person," she recalled. "School was structured differently than I was used to, I was challenged and encouraged. We called teachers by their first names, and during lunch they would sit with us and we would have discussions about many different topics, like favorite books or movies. It was a great experience."

The collaborative environment during upper elementary and middle school was important for another reason, Thompson said.

"Adolescents normally have very strong feelings about a lot of different things. As a school, you can choose to contain or overpower these feelings, or you can try to channel them into something productive. The latter was the case at Brooklyn Friends School. We were all confident enough to disagree with a teacher about something, and an honest discussion in class would follow. For adolescents with strong feelings and emotions, that is a big thing."

Thompson experienced a "noticeable change" when she went to Trinity School, an Episcopal high school in Manhattan.

"It was a much more traditional experience. The school was highly regarded, but it didn't have the same Quaker values I was used to at Brooklyn Friends School.

The headmaster, for instance, was Welsh and he had a very dry sense of humor. He would say things like:



WHITNEY THOMPSON

"I don't talk to freshmen because they don't have anything good to say'. He meant it as a joke, but it was such a noticeable difference from the collaborative environment at Brooklyn Friends School."

Although she learned a lot in high school, and was often intellectually challenged, it's her time at Brooklyn Friends School that made Thompson the person she is today. So much so that after college, she returned there to teach.

"It felt like coming full circle. I looked at many other schools for a job after college, but I never felt the connection I felt with Brooklyn Friends School."

There's one teacher that was a big influence on her while in Brooklyn, Thompson said.

"Her name was Mary Doty and she taught health class," Thompson said. "That was a safe place for us to talk about the tricky stuff teenagers go through that you would feel uncomfortable discussing with your parents. She was a great teacher and an inspiration."

Her own experiences in that class made her adamant she would teach health class herself. "And I did for many years. Even when I was assistant headmaster, I would still make time to teach that class."

Thompson is now in her third year as headmaster at Tandem Friends School. "When it comes to the Friends School community, Tandem Friends is even more unique. There's a great energy to this school and I'm very excited to be here."



# CONGRATULATIONS

GOLDEN APPLE AWARD TEACHERS FOR INSPIRING OUR STUDENTS!

## AND THANK YOU SPONSORS!

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