

# CASS Fourth Grade Teacher Mrs. Nickerson Wins Teacher Of The Year For Waldo County

By Eliot Fowler

Fourth grade teacher at CASS, Mrs. Nickerson has won the Maine Teacher Of The Year honor for our county, Waldo County, for her exceptional work as a teacher, friend, and mentor. “The way the Maine Teacher Of The Year works is that one really great teacher from each county is selected to represent their county as the teacher of the year for that year.” Says Pender Makin, the Commissioner of Education at the Maine Department of Education. Commissioner Makin explained to me at the Hall of Flags ceremony on May 20, “366 out of 60,000 total educators in our state were nominated for the Teacher Of The Year award, but only 16 out of those 366 teachers rose to the level of Teacher Of The Year. A team of people review the nominations based on their impact.” This means that out of the 366 teachers nominated, Mrs. Nickerson was such an awesome, creative teacher that she was chosen to be the teacher of the year for Waldo County.

This year’s batch of Teachers Of The Year is also super amazing because the teachers are nominated the year before they are chosen to be one of the 16 teachers of the year (for each of Maine’s 16 counties), so that means that all of the teachers chosen this year were starting up their classrooms again after having to do most of their work remotely last year when they were nominated. Every single one of Maine’s 60,000 teachers rose to the challenge, and we are so grateful for the extremely important work they do of educating the next generation of leaders and thinkers in Maine.

“Students, parents, and fellow educators nominate teachers for the Teacher of The Year award. To nominate a teacher, you enter the teacher’s name, what subject they teach, what grade they teach, the school they teach in, and what makes them a great teacher,” says Commissioner Makin. The program has been going since 1953, and the first state of Maine teacher of the year was Elizabeth Ray.

After the 16 county teachers are selected and celebrated in a ceremony at the Maine State House, which includes speeches from the Governor, Janet Mills, the Maine Education Commissioner, Pender Makin, the chairperson of the Maine State Board of Education, Fern Desjardins, the 2022

Maine teacher of the year, Kelsey Stoyanova, as well as leaders of organizations such as Educate Maine or Maine County And State Teachers Of The Year Association, one out of the 16 is chosen to represent the state as the official Maine State Teacher Of The Year. That teacher's term starts in January of the next year and extends to December of that year.

We applaud all the amazing 60,000 teachers in Maine, all 366 teachers who were nominated, and especially all of the 16 teachers that were selected to represent their counties as the Maine Teacher of the Year for their county.