

GOLDEN APPLE AWARD PORTFOLIO

2021-2022

Congratulations on choosing to take the next step towards the Golden Apple Recognition Program. Premier educators chosen for the Golden Apple Award have a responsibility to use their gifts for the betterment of education within our communities. Participation in Golden Apple Foundation activities is a means to do this.

Upon induction into the Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program, you become a lifelong member of the Teacher Academy. The Academy membership consists of all former recipients of the Golden Apple Award. Its purpose is to use the combined talent of this group to offer mentorship and guidance to all teachers. Teachers in the Academy use their gifts in these ways:

- Volunteer to help plan/participate in Golden Apple activities, which include, Teacher Award/Grants, Golden Apple Banquet, appeals, and other events created to benefit and educate teachers.
- Embrace & support best practices. Premier educators never stop learning new ideas and methods.
- Participate as a mentor for the next generation of educators.
- Through example, promote an awareness of educational excellence in your school district and encourage a partnership between schools and the community.

ELIGIBILITY-(Must Meet All):

- Nominated, certified **6th through 12th grade** teacher who teaches a group of students in a classroom on a regular basis
- A minimum of **five years** of full-time teaching experience
- Full-time teacher in a public or ISBE recognized non-public school in **Winnebago or Boone County**
- Employed in **good standing** within current school district

PROCESS:

- Complete portfolio packet and submit to the Golden Apple office by **5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021.**
- Type or print clearly. If using a computer, you may use your own paper, but only use the amount of space and size of paper provided on the application.
- Complete four required components of the **Portfolio Packet:**
 - A. Background Information** - Include most relevant information for this process.
 - B. Self-Reflective Essay** - Submit no more than five double spaced, typed pages with no smaller than font size 10. *Do not* state your school's name in the essay. Do not staple your portfolio materials. If using page numbers, *do not place page numbers* in the upper or lower right-hand corners of any pages. **Provide in-depth insight, including specific illustrative examples in these areas:**
 - 1) Commitment you have made as an educator and how it has affected your students.
 - 2) How you challenge, monitor and manage student learning to ensure that all students reach high standards and expectations.
 - 3) Ways you involve families in the education process.
 - 4) How you address diversity in your classroom and with your students.
 - 5) How you collaborate with other educators to increase student achievement.This essay is an opportunity for you to reflect on your career as an educator. Only a teacher can help others understand the deep commitment necessary in educating students. The essay allows our selection committee to understand the importance of the work you do as a teacher and helps the Golden Apple Foundation promote to the community the true significance of the education profession. The committee uses the above criteria when reviewing your portfolio.
 - C. Letters of Recommendation** - Submit three & only three letters of recommendation. At least one must be from an educator familiar with your teaching. Each person sending a recommendation letter must include name, address and relationship to applicant on **non-letterhead stationery**.
 - D. Authorization** - Attest to authorization and eligibility criteria with signature.

SEND COMPLETE PORTFOLIO PACKET TO:

Golden Apple Foundation, Rockford University-Scarborough Hall, Room 9
5050 E. State St. Rockford, IL 61108-2393

Email: info@goldenappleofrockford.com or Fax: 815-394-5014 (*Call 815-226-4180 to confirm receipt*)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE:

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Personal E-mail: _____ School E-mail: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone: _____ School Fax: _____

Principal's Name: _____

AUTHORIZATION:

The thoughts and information expressed in this portfolio are my own and I give my permission to Golden Apple Foundation to use the enclosed information in the selection process. I hereby confirm that I meet all the eligibility criteria as listed in this portfolio.

SIGNATURE

DATE

For questions or more information, please feel free to contact the Golden Apple Foundation office at 815/226-4180.

"Thanks, and Good Luck"!

For Office Use Only - Application # _____

Current Grade Level/Subjects: _____

Years at Present School: _____

Prior Grade Levels/Subjects Taught

Years

Total Years Teaching Experience: _____

DEGREE

MAJOR

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

DATE DEGREE AWARDED

DEGREE	MAJOR	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	DATE DEGREE AWARDED
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Professional Recognition and Honors: _____

Professional Development within the Past Five Years:

School Related Activities/Responsibilities: _____

Community Involvement:

AWARDS PROCESS:

- Complete portfolio packet, including background information, essay, and three letters of recommendation.
- Submit to the Golden Apple Foundation office by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021.
- **Selection committee reviews and evaluates portfolios (with teacher identifying information omitted) based on only the following:**
 - 1) Background Information-page 3
 - 2) In-depth insight provided into the five required areas of the essay utilizing **specific illustrative examples.**
 - 3) Well-organized, well-written, grammatically correct essays.
 - 4) Three Supporting letters of recommendation.
- 20 semi-finalists selected for classroom observations by Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021.
- Community volunteers observe and evaluate 20 finalist teachers in their classrooms between Jan.18 – Feb. 16, 2022.
- Interviews conducted of 20 finalists Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022.
- Golden Apple awards presented to five teachers in surprise classroom visits Thursday, March 10, 2022.
- **Golden Apple Recipients and Finalists** honored at the Golden Apple Excellence in Education Banquet Friday, April 29 (tentative date). All 20 finalists receive two complimentary tickets for themselves and a guest to attend the banquet. (non-transferable)

AWARDS FOR 5 GOLDEN APPLE RECIPIENTS:

- Inscribed Golden Apple
- Membership in the Golden Apple Teacher Academy
- Ticket for you and a guest to attend the Golden Apple Banquet
- Recognition at the Golden Apple Awards Banquet
- Recognition on billboards
- Cash award
- Computer
- Professional development stipend
- Rockford University scholarship

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- Golden Apple Portfolio Packet**
 - Completed Background Information Form**
 - Self-Reflective Essay**
 - Three letters of recommendation**
 - Signed Authorization**
 - Teacher Schedule***

**If your schedule varies depending on the week, please submit a copy of a calendar for the time frame we'll be doing observations so we know when it is an A-week, B-Week, etc.*

TEACHER SCHEDULE

Name: _____ School: _____ School day start and end times: _____

Provide a detailed schedule for a typical week during the observation period. Note lunch periods, break or planning time, and class beginning and ending times. *

1. Provide an explanation of any special events or conflicts that can be predicted in your schedule during the observation period. Include date, time and event(s).

2. Provide an explanation of any special situations that may exist in your classroom that would assist observers in their understanding of your teaching responsibility. This may include special students, inclusion students, team-teaching situations, or the use of parent volunteers.