



2021-2022 GOLDEN APPLE TEACHER RECOGNITION AWARD SELECTION PROCESS

The Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program recognizes and honors outstanding teaching in 6th -12th grade classrooms of Winnebago and Boone County. This is an explanation of the process used to recognize nominated educators:

Eligibility-(Must Meet All):

- Nominated, certified **6th -12th grade** teacher with **five years** of full-time teaching
- Currently the primary teacher for a group of students in a classroom on a regular basis
- Teaching full-time in a public school or ISBE recognized non-public school in **Winnebago or Boone County**
- Employed in **good standing** within current school district

Portfolio Packet

Completed portfolio packets must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021. A completed packet consists of the Teacher Background Information, the Self-Reflective Essay and three Letters of Recommendation. The selection committee, comprised of community members, will read the contents of the portfolios and select 20 teachers for classroom observations. **Teachers' names, schools or other identifying information will be removed before distribution to the selection committee to ensure objectivity.**

Self-Reflective Essay

The self-reflective essay is designed to encourage teachers to outline the value they bring to the classroom and to help the community understand the amount of talent and drive it takes to be a successful teacher. The selection committee will look for well-organized, well-written essays using specific, illustrative examples in the five areas outlined under Self-Reflective Essay on the front page of the portfolio.

Letters of Recommendation

Only three letters of recommendation will be accepted. At least one of the letters must be from an educator familiar with the teacher's classroom teaching. The letters of recommendation are required and **must** be included. **DO NOT USE** letterhead stationery and do not staple.

Teacher Schedule and Additional Information

Teachers must return this information with their portfolio packets:

- 1) A detailed copy of their schedule for the **Jan. 18 – Feb. 16, 2022**, observation period.
- 2) An explanation of special events or conflicts that may take place during the observation period.
- 3) An explanation of any special situations that exist in the classroom.

Deadline

Completed portfolios and teacher schedule information **must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021**. All teachers will be notified of their status by mail after Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021.

Golden Apple Foundation
Rockford College, Scarborough Hall, room 9
5050 E. State St.
Rockford, IL 61108-2393
Phone: (815) 226-4180
FAX: (815) 394-5014

OBSERVATION PROCESS

Classroom Observations

Teams of trained observers will visit each of the 20 teacher candidates on three different occasions between Jan. 21 and Feb. 18, 2020. These teams of 4-5 people will be made up of community members. The teams will consist of different observers each time. Each observation will last one class period, but no more than 60 minutes in length. **Observed teachers should have a one page lesson overview available for the observers upon their entry into the classroom. Failure to do so will result in a lower observation score for the teacher.**

Observation Criteria

Observers will be looking for teaching excellence in the classroom. The observations will focus on these criteria, when appropriate, for each specific classroom: classroom atmosphere, rapport with students, classroom management, lesson content, teaching techniques and professionalism. The observers will focus on classroom instruction and not on any additional materials. All observers will use the same observation criteria and the same rating system to evaluate each teacher. All candidates will be notified in advance as to the specific dates and times of the three observations. It is expected that the observers will see actual teaching taking place in the classroom rather than seat work or testing. **Observers are present to observe the lesson and will not interact with the teacher or participate in the lesson.**

Interviews

Individual Interviews of the 20 Finalists will occur from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020. A team of Selection Committee members will interview each teacher. *Further information will be made available to participants before Feb. 15th.*

Selection of Golden Apple Recipients

The observations and interviews are the basis for the selection of the five Golden Apple recipients.

Golden Apple Awards

Each of the five Golden Apple recipients will receive Golden Apple awards in surprise classroom visits on **Thursday, March 12, 2020**. In addition, they will receive a Rockford University scholarship, a laptop computer, a cash award, a professional development stipend, a complimentary ticket for themselves and a guest to attend the Golden Apple Banquet, and induction into the Golden Apple Teacher Academy. All 20 Golden Apple Finalists will also receive complimentary tickets for themselves and a guest and will be recognized at the Golden Apple Awards celebration banquet Friday, April 24, 2020, at Giovanni's. Golden Apple recipients will give a three-minute prepared presentation at the banquet.

Golden Apple Teacher Academy

Once inducted into the Golden Apple Teacher Academy, members work to achieve these goals:

1. Provide professional development, training and mentoring to new and veteran teachers.
2. Increase public awareness of educational excellence in our schools and promote the profession of education.
3. Provide a positive educational outreach to the community and participate in partnerships between the schools and the community.

Additional Information

For additional information, please call the Golden Apple Foundation office at (815) 226-4180 or go to the Golden Apple website at www.goldenappleofrockford.com. The portfolio may be downloaded and printed for submission.