



## For Immediate Release

November 18, 2016

### Volusia's Teacher of the Year Finalists Named

DELAND –Five teachers have been named Teacher of the Year finalists and are now competing for the honor of being named Volusia County School District's 2018 Teacher of the Year. The finalists are:

- **Susan Dodig**, emotionally/behaviorally disabled (K-3), Sweetwater Elementary: <https://youtu.be/btE7oimU7Pk>
- **Jason Kester**, culinary arts, Mainland High: <https://youtu.be/bYfDlelGLBw>
- **Jessica L. Ruppen**, academic coach, Starke Elementary: <https://youtu.be/j6MBYc5YtSU>
- **Gina Marie Walker**, exceptional student education language arts, DeLand Middle: <https://youtu.be/HtS1jyTnbYg>
- **Robin Lynch Weiss**, speech/language, Champion Elementary: <https://youtu.be/PD8FEZG8GQE>

Volusia County School's 2018 Teacher of the Year will be announced at a gala banquet to be held Friday, January 13, at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanwalk Resort. The Teacher of the Year celebration is hosted by FUTURES Foundation for Volusia County Schools and the presenting sponsor is Halifax Health.

The winner is selected through an application process. Each of Volusia's schools nominates a teacher (see complete list of names below) who completes an application to vie for the district title. A sub-committee narrows the field from 71 nominees to 15 semi-finalists. The full committee, comprised of parents, business owners, community members, teachers and administrators, then reads each of the semi-finalist's applications, selecting the five finalists. Another sub-committee ranks each finalist after observing them in their classrooms and conducting individual

interviews. The winner's name is kept confidential until the announcement at the banquet.

The district Teacher of the Year will be nominated for the state Teacher of the Year program and will serve as Volusia's representative of quality education until 2018. The current Volusia County Teacher of the Year is Robin Diedrichs, Blue Lake Elementary (currently Citrus Grove Elementary).

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VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOLS  
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c:/finalists 2018

**2018 Teacher of the Year Nominees**

<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>School</b>
Keller	Bryan R.	Alternative Education (Volusia Juvenile Detention Center)
Ossler	Jeremy	Atlantic High
Flowers	Tehmina	Blue Lake Elementary
Seabrooks-Bivins	Twanna	Campbell Middle
Weiss	Robin Lynch	Champion Elementary
Johnson	Patricia	Chisholm Elementary
Hutchinson	Patricia	Citrus Grove Elementary
Hardock	Steven	Coronado Beach Elementary
Rinaldi	Melissa	Creekside Middle
Williams	Heather M.	Cypress Creek Elementary
Litwiniec	Sarah	DeBary Elementary
Camacho	Mendi	DeLand High
Walker	Gina Marie	DeLand Middle
Jenkins	Melanie	Deltona High
Iamesi	Teresa	Deltona Lakes Elementary
Potter-Whiting	Carey	Deltona Middle
McGahan	Lynn	Discovery Elementary
Diaz	Holly	Edgewater Public
Stiltner	Julie Houlton	Enterprise Elementary
Baldoni	Victoria	Forest Lake Elementary
Evans	Katie	Freedom Elementary

<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>School</b>
Pellegrini	Evan	Friendship Elementary
DeRosier	Chris	Galaxy Middle
Hervey	Terry	George Marks Elementary
Czajkowski	Joseph	Halifax Behavioral Services/ Hospital Homebound Programs
Sheridan	Allison	Heritage Middle
Temple	Cassandra Wilson	Hinson Middle
Simpson	Rachel Mirka	Holly Hill School
LaClaire	Julie	Horizon Elementary
Schultz	Robert	Indian River Elementary
Pickett	Anna Elizabeth	Longstreet Elementary
Kester	Jason	Mainland High
Werblo	Cija M.	Manatee Cove Elementary
Koplas	Lynette	McInnis Elementary
Croak	Deborah L.	New Smyrna Beach High
Bennett	Kristin	New Smyrna Beach Middle
Weiner	Janice	Orange City Elementary
Scardigno	Dominic J.	Ormond Beach Elementary
Furches	Carol Courtney	Ormond Beach Middle
Megge	Kelly	Ortona Elementary
Dockery	Janet M.	Osceola Elementary
Bumpus	Christine	Osteen Elementary
Halili	Sarah	Palm Terrace Elementary
Zimmerer	Julie	Pathways Elementary
Weaver	Kristen	Pierson Elementary
Zow	Dannica Ross	Pine Ridge High
Walker	Yvonne	Pine Trail Elementary
Disher	Debbie	Port Orange Elementary
Smith	Kyle	Pride Elementary
Lueck	Sue	Read-Pattillo Elementary
Sorenson	Rachel	River Springs Middle
Seeber	Lynne A.	Seabreeze High
Cornine	Tonya	Silver Sands Middle
Merrell	Sunnie	South Daytona Elementary
Heaberlin	Tambra Gill	Southwestern Middle
Falconnier	Nancy	Spirit Elementary
Richardson	Amy	Spruce Creek Elementary
Bundza	Kelli	Spruce Creek High
Ruppen	Jessica L.	Starke Elementary

<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>School</b>
Cutting	Nicole	Sugar Mill Elementary
Delp	Kathi	Sunrise Elementary
Dodig	Susan	Sweetwater Elementary
Livingston-Price	Angela I.	Taylor Middle High
Moye	Tarsha A.	Timbercrest Elementary
Williams	Kim	Tomoka Elementary
Breter	Brenda	Turie T. Small Elementary
Tills	Danell	University High
Chapple	Christa	Volusia Online Learning
Perkins	Robyn E.	Volusia Pines Elementary
Maltoni	Lisa L.	Westside Elementary