



## MASTER POTTER EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

This is the 20th anniversary year for our award and recognition of an outstanding District 709 educator. This award, established by the Board of Education, honors an outstanding educator who exemplifies high standards, professionalism, and dedication to students. The award is given annually and is the District's highest honor for an educator, recognizing a lifetime of accomplishment.

A committee of educators and leaders has been organized to screen nominees for the award and name the recipient. Educators may be nominated by fellow educators, parents, students, or community members. **The forms are available on the district website.**

All district educators, certified staff, and administrators working with students in District Unit 709 are eligible for the award.

The criteria for the Master Potter Excellence in Education Award are:

- The nominee shall display a dedication to students "above and beyond the call of duty."
- The nominee shall uphold high standards and expectations for all students.
- The nominee shall maintain a high degree of professionalism in dealing with students, parents, and colleagues.
- The nominee shall show a dedication to his/her professional development.

**Nominations and supporting materials are due at the District office  
no later than 4:00 PM Friday, May 8, 2026.**

### **PAST MASTER POTTER AWARD WINNERS**

2006	Andie Tinnes	2021	Don Sturm
2007	Missy Garretson	2022	Laurie Zehr
2008	Dale Nannen	2023	Ashley King
2009	Rick Everetts	2024	Peter Martin
2010	Jeff Millard	2025	Michael Finck
2011	Marlynn "Mike" Gunn		
2012	Jackie Seaton		
2013	Marcia Mays		
2014	Karen Niebur		
2015	Megan Levitt		
2016	Katrina Fitzpatrick		
2017	Ben Wellenreiter		
2018	Lynn Rudin		
2019	Stephanie Brown		
2020	Therese Scifres		



## MASTER POTTER EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

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**Nomination Guidelines:** All nominations are due in the District Office by 4:00 p.m. Friday, May 8, 2026.

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### **Criteria for the Master Potter Excellence in Education Award**

All educators, certificated staff, and administrators working with students in the Morton Unit 709 School staff are eligible for the award.

1. The nominee shall display a dedication to students "above and beyond the call of duty."
  2. The nominee shall hold high standards and high expectations for all students.
  3. The nominee shall maintain a high degree of professionalism in dealing with parents, students, and colleagues.
  4. The nominee shall show a dedication to his/her professional development.
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**All nominations must be typed or computer-printed, copy-friendly, and must include the following sections:**

- I. **NOMINATOR'S LETTER** (must not exceed four double-space pages): A description of how the nominee meets the award criteria.
  - A. Dedication to students
  - B. High standards and expectations for students
  - C. Professional dealings with parents, students, and colleagues
  - D. Dedication to professional development
  - E. Other
  
- II. **ENDORSEMENTS**
  - Three letters of endorsement are required.
  - Each letter should be a maximum of two double-spaced pages.

The nomination is confidential, and the nominees must not be informed. Previous nominations are retained for two years.



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EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION  
AWARD**

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*Nominations are due in the District Office by Friday, May 8, 2026.*

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Title Page:

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Position: \_\_\_\_\_