

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nashville Honors 25 New Blue Ribbon Teachers for Excellence in Equity, Instruction, and Leadership

Honorees awarded with a \$2,500 cash prize and two surprise roundtrip Southwest Airlines vouchers

NASHVILLE, TENN. – Oct. 18, 2024 – Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), the Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF), and Nashville’s Agenda Steering Committee honored [25 teachers](#) at the 10th annual Blue Ribbon Teacher ceremony on October 17 hosted by Vanderbilt University. Each Blue Ribbon teacher received a \$2,500 cash prize, a trophy, and two round-trip airline tickets, courtesy of Southwest Airlines. Since 2014, the awards have recognized and celebrated more than 450 of Nashville’s top teachers.



For the past decade, the Blue Ribbon Teacher designation has honored exemplary educators for their hard work and dedication in their classrooms and school environments. The Blue Ribbon Teacher ceremony celebrated educators in the following categories: Excellence in Equity; Excellence in Instruction; and Excellence in Leadership.



“Our 2024 Blue Ribbon teachers exemplify great teaching in our public schools and demonstrate the significant impact a single educator can have on students and the community as a whole,” said **Katie Cour, Nashville Public Education Foundation President & CEO**. “We are incredibly proud to shine a spotlight on Nashville’s top teaching talent and recognize their daily efforts as leaders and innovators in their schools and district-wide.”

Eligible Blue Ribbon Teacher [candidates](#) must be full time MNPS teachers for at least four years, have a strong Level of Effectiveness of their performance in the last three consecutive years, and be endorsed by their principals. Winners are determined by a rigorous selection process that includes a review of application materials and evidence by a community panel.

The 2024 Blue Ribbon Teacher award winners are:

- Allison Argo, Thomas Edison Elementary School
- Ramona Bryant, I.T. Creswell Middle School of the Arts
- Saul Calzadilla, John B. Whitsitt Elementary School
- Jennifer Caudle Williams, Thomas Edison Elementary School
- Saige Connor, Cameron College Prep
- Tara Coogan, Glengarry Elementary School
- Mackenzie Coveney, Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet School
- Madeline Frohrip, Valor Voyager Academy
- Christopher Hedglin, Hume-Fogg Magnet High School
- Sheila Hubbard, Ida B. Wells Elementary School
- Ian Isom, Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet School
- Benjamin Keil, Rose Park Middle School
- Jeremy Kellem, Antioch High School
- Allen Kennedy, Hume-Fogg Magnet High School
- Teneice Kirby, DuPont Tyler Middle School
- Paige La Grone Babcock, Apollo Middle School
- Becky McGee, Cole Elementary School
- Maggie Moran, LEAD Southeast High School
- Kari Myers, Cane Ridge High School
- Sarah Padgett, Smith Springs Elementary School
- Robyn Prescott, Hermitage Elementary School
- Nichole Prophater, Meigs Middle Magnet School
- Felicia Taylor, DuPont Hadley Middle School
- Alice Weber, John B. Whitsitt Elementary
- Tiffany Wilkerson, John F. Kennedy Middle School

“Congratulations to each of this year's Blue Ribbon Teachers, who represent the very best of Metro Nashville Public Schools and public education with their relentless work ethic, commitment to their students, and creativity,” said **Dr. Adrienne Battle, MNPS Director of Schools**. “We work every day to retain and recruit teachers who promote equity, high-quality instruction, and leadership to ensure that every student is known and achieving the best possible academic outcomes. Thank you to Nashville Public Education Foundation and Nashville’s Agenda for elevating our outstanding teachers and acknowledging the work that goes into excellent classroom teaching each day.”

As NPEF furthers its commitment to educator engagement and professional learning opportunities, applications are now open for the fourth annual [Teacherpreneur program](#). Teacherpreneur is open to Nashville public school certificated non-administrative educators, including teachers, school

counselors, librarians, and others working with students. The program harnesses educator innovation to design solutions to real-world challenges in public education. Cohort members will be selected in November 2024, and will engage in sessions at the start of 2025 to prepare for a pitch event awarding \$25,000 in cash prizes to the top teacher-led concepts.

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About the Nashville Public Education Foundation

The Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring every child can thrive in Nashville's public schools. NPEF works to improve student outcomes in Nashville's public schools by identifying challenges and advancing evidence-based solutions. Since 2002, NPEF's role as a catalyst for transformation has yielded tangible results in areas such as teacher professional development, teacher compensation, principal quality, and college access. Learn more at nashvillepef.org.

About Metro Nashville Public Schools

Metro Nashville Public Schools is one of the nation's top 50 largest school districts, preparing more than 80,000 students for higher education, work and life. With the goal of being the premier large urban school district in Tennessee and beyond, MNPS wants to ensure Every Student is Known by meeting focused outcomes that will help each child achieve growth from an academic and social-emotional perspective. The governing body for Metro Schools is the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Public Education, a nine-member elected body. For more information, visit MNPS.org, or follow us on Twitter [@MetroSchools](https://twitter.com/MetroSchools) or [Facebook.com/MetroSchools](https://facebook.com/MetroSchools).

About Nashville's Agenda

Founded in 1993 as a creation from Leadership Nashville, the Nashville's Agenda Steering Committee was created to keep ongoing civic attention around the forward vision of the city. It remains a powerful civic force still today, counting among its members top CEOs, heads of the city's major philanthropic organizations, key elected leaders, faith leaders, community leaders, and more.

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Access to high resolution photos: [Dropbox](#)