



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Schools, Thriving Students

Ceremonial Presentation Honoring OUSD's 2021- 2022 Teachers of the Year September 8, 2021



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Ask of the Board

This item is presented for the purpose of the adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2122-0052 - Collectively and Individually, for Oakland Unified School District's 2021-2022 Teachers of the Year, as follows:

- Whitney Dwyer - 9th - 12th Grade ELA/Social Science, MetWest High • Producer, MetWest Live • MetWest High Leadership Team
- Jessica Jung - 3rd Grade, Bridges Academy • National Board Certified • ELD Teacher Leader/Coach
- Chantel Parnell - 6th - 8th Grade Computers, Bret Harte Middle School • Math Teacher Leader • Teacher of the Only All-Girls Computer Science Class in OUSD - Girls Who Code

Outline

- We identify and honor three outstanding teachers, celebrating and paying special tribute to their tireless efforts
- The District's Teachers of the Year are known as particularly outstanding candidates chosen from among a competitive group of high-caliber instructors Districtwide
- OUSD's Teacher of the Year program aligns with the criteria set by the State of California's Teachers of the Year

Whitney Dwyer



Classroom Teacher and Advisor for 9-12th Grade at MetWest High School, serving for over 13 years

- “She is a teacher who really wants to see every single one of us succeed and reach our dreams. She’ll push us so that we know that we always have something to improve on and is always there to help us when we need it; whether it be educationally, or emotionally.”
Roberto, 10th Grade
- “She embodies a unique combination of love and rigor for all of her students, which she leverages to push her students toward growth and success. Whitney is a magnet for young people. She works intentionally to provide meaningful learning opportunities for our young people to be politically and socially engaged in the world.”
- “Whitney is a founding staff of our Ericka Huggins campus. Her work in the expansion of our school is revolutionary and will have lasting impacts to generations of Oakland students.”

Jessica Jung



3rd Grade Teacher at Bridges Academy, serving for 15 years

- “I thank Ms. Jung for all the teaching patience and dedication. She always encouraged us to achieve our goals, that is why I admire and respect her for being the best teacher and dedicating herself to her career as an educator.” Ferronda, 3rd Grade
- “When the pandemic hit and we heard about the loss of income and resources in our school community, Jessica was the first one to act. She created a GoFundMe page which raised over \$76,000. She single-handedly created a partnership with a local non profit and expertly managed funds from the GofundMe and StimulusPledge.org campaigns to distribute \$750 each (in cash) to almost 200 families in need who did not qualify for government assistance even though they were highly impacted by the pandemic.”
- “ She is always looking at her teaching practice through a social justice lens and developing thought-provoking lessons to engage students in discussions around race, activism, and empowerment.”

Chantel Parnell



6th-8th Grade Computer Science Teacher at Bret Harte School, serving for 10 years

- “Her way of challenging and inspiring students at the same time is one of her great strengths. ‘Let’s figure it out’ is something often heard coming from her. This simple refrain empowers students. She lets them know that she isn’t the only one who has knowledge in the room. Instead she gives them the chance to try out their thinking in a highly supportive environment.”
- “In November 2019, Ms. Parnell was recognized as an Oakland in the Middle All-Star Teacher, an award that was based on student votes. Her students know that she cares about them and their education. Ms. Parnell’s classroom is the one I visit when I need a reminder of what it looks like to see students excited about learning.”
- “In a field that is currently dominated by white men, Ms. Parnell is showing those often left out of the tech industry, girls and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) students, that they can and will succeed.”

THANK YOU to Our Teachers of the 2021-2022 School Year!





Quality Schools in Every Neighborhood!



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