

# Ceremonial Presentation Honoring OUSD's 2023-2024 Teachers of the Year

**Tara Gard    September 13, 2023**



**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Community Schools, Thriving Students*

## Our Vision

All OUSD students will find joy in their academic experience while graduating with the skills to ensure they are caring, competent, fully-informed, critical thinkers who are prepared for college, career, and community success.

## Our Mission

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) will build a Full Service Community District focused on high academic achievement while serving the whole child, eliminating inequity, and providing each child with excellent teachers, every day.



# Ask of the Board

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2324-0094 Collectively and Individually, for Oakland Unified School District's 2023-2024 Teachers of the Year, as follows:

- **Niesha Johnson** - 3rd Grade Inclusion Teacher, Chabot Elementary • New Teacher Mentor • PC Hiring Committee • Equity and Leadership Team • Instructional Leadership Team Saturday School Workshop Facilitator
- **Sean Gleason** - 9th - 12th Grade English 4 Teacher, Rudsdale Continuation High School • School Site Council • Alt-Ed ELA Teacher Coach • Instructional Leadership Team • LGBTQ+ Liaison • Rudsdale Bicycle Hub Founder

# Outline

- We identify and honor two 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

# Niesha Johnson



3rd Grade Inclusion Teacher, Chabot Elementary,  
9 Years

- “I will never forget [how] my jaw dropped as, unprompted, one of her most hard to reach third graders raised her hand and prefaced her response with, ‘OK, I am going to take a risk now,’ and the whole class burst into respectful applause. Not only does Niesha explicitly teach her students the importance of academic risks she facilitates them becoming each other’s biggest supporters.”
- “She employs student choice and ownership of learning. Most of her subjects utilize workshop models where students take charge of their learning and goal setting so she can focus on differentiated, targeted small group instruction. Student choice is a hallmark of her classroom and the third graders are always able to explain what they are learning and why it is important.”
- “Niesha is a deep, thoughtful, and enthusiastic teacher with a growth mindset. Her positive attitude and warm smile welcomes everyone in and permeates our school community.”

# Sean Gleason



9th - 12th Grade English 4 Teacher, Rudsdale Continuation High School, Serving for 9 Years

- “Sean is an intentional and dedicated teacher at Rudsdale. He has exposed students to writing and recording their own perspectives, modeled after the KQED series. So many students, during a short 6 week marking period, have found their voices to express their hardships and successes as teens growing up in Oakland and the greater Bay Area.”
- “Sean has truly demonstrated himself as a dynamic member of our school community. He has spearheaded the Student of the Marking Period (STOMP) assembly awards, runs a Bike Shop elective, plans/facilitates professional development, is a Safety Lead, and teaches a full load of classes. He is thoughtful and intentional, providing students innovative and realistic support.”
- “Mr. Sean is a one in a million kind of teacher; if it weren’t for Mr. Sean, graduation would’ve never been an option for me. He’s the sole reason why many students graduate!”

# THANK YOU to Our Teachers of the 2023-2024 School Year!





# Community Schools, Thriving Students



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[www.ousd.org](http://www.ousd.org)



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