



NEWS RELEASE

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Riderwood Elementary educator earns fellowship with Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth

Towson, MD – J. Heather Buchman, a Grade 5 writing instructor at Riderwood Elementary School, is one of six educators to be inducted into the Sarah D. Barder Fellowship Program administered by The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY). Buchman was recognized for excellence in identifying, motivating, and developing students with advanced academic ability, which is also CTY’s core mission.

Buchman and the other fellows participated in and were honored during the CTY’s 2022 Sarah D. Barder Conference, held virtually on February 25 - 26.

To identify Sarah D. Barder Fellows, CTY students are invited to nominate a teacher who has made a special contribution to their academic growth and success. Students write a 500-word essay describing their teacher’s strengths. Buchman was nominated by Graham TerBeek, a former Riderwood Elementary student now at Dumbarton Middle School. All nominated teachers are then invited to submit an application that includes an essay about their own approach to the challenges and rewards of working with the most advanced learners

In a letter announcing the award, Stephanie Eaddy, CTY senior executive specialist, wrote, “We received many impressive applications this year, and Jennifer’s submission was one of the strongest. . . . Thank you for all you have done to foster the conditions in which excellent teaching can thrive.”

Buchman, a Towson resident, earned a bachelor’s degree in theater and English literature from Washington College, a master’s degree in education from Towson University, and she is pursuing a doctorate at Notre Dame of Maryland University. A BCPS employee since 2007, Buchman served as a

Kindergarten teacher at Riderwood Elementary until 2020 when she moved into her current position as a writing instructor at the school.

(Editor's Note: A photo of Buchman accompanies this release.)

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