



MEDIA ADVISORY

Department of Communications and Community Outreach
6901 Charles Street Towson, MD 21204
443.809.5908 (English) 443.809.7801 (Español) www.bcps.org

FOR RELEASE: Apr. 26, 2022

CONTACTS: Dept. of Communications/Community Outreach, 443.809.5908
[BCPS press releases are available online](#)

BCPS to name Teacher of the Year for 2022-23 during livestreamed celebration

Event takes place at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 28

What: The Baltimore County Public Schools Teacher of the Year for 2022-23 will be announced during a livestreamed celebration event. The honoree will be selected from among six finalists:

- **Zack Davis**, Logan Elementary School
- **Tracey Dowling**, Overlea High School
- **Brent Driessen**, Deep Creek Elementary School
- **Alicia Amaral Freeman**, Franklin Elementary School
- **Muriel Olowokakoko**, Powhatan Elementary School
- **Heather Young**, Charlesmont Elementary School

The BCPS Teacher of the Year will go on to represent the school system and its more than 9,000 professional educators in the Maryland state Teacher of the Year program.

Who: Among those scheduled to speak are:

- Julie Henn, Chair, Board of Education of Baltimore County
- Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski
- BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams

When: Thursday, April 28, 2022, from 4 - 5 p.m.

Where: George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology
938 York Road, Towson 21204

The event will be [livestreamed](#) on the [BCPS website](#), BCPS TV (Comcast 73 and Verizon 34), and [YouTube](#).

Background: The finalists were chosen from among 159 nominees by a committee composed of BCPS administrators, staff, students, TABCO (Teachers Association of Baltimore County) representation, and current BCPS Teacher of the Year and Maryland Teacher of the Year Brianna Ross.

Additional information about the finalists follows:

- Zack Davis of Logan Elementary School in Dundalk teaches Grades 4 and 5. Having earned degrees from Cazenovia College and Towson University, he has taught for 13 years at both Hernwood Elementary and, for the past five years, at Logan.
- Tracey Dowling is the mathematics department chair at Overlea High School in Overlea. A 17-year veteran teacher, including for five years at Overlea, she is a graduate of Notre Dame of Maryland University and previously worked as a buyer for Home Depot and a store manager for Lowes Home Improvement.
- Brent Driessen teaches children in Grades 4 and 5 at Deep Creek Elementary School in Essex. Holding degrees from the Community College of Baltimore County, Towson University, Johns Hopkins University, and Walden University, he served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps before becoming a BCPS educator 13 years ago.
- Alicia Amaral Freeman of Franklin Elementary School in Reisterstown is an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) teacher at the school. She taught Spanish and ESOL in Baltimore City and was a director of admissions and a principal before coming to BCPS in 2019 and to Franklin in 2021. She holds degrees from Barnard College of Columbia University and Notre Dame of Maryland University.
- Muriel Olowokakoko is a Grade 4 teacher at Powhatan Elementary School in Woodlawn. She earned degrees from both Towson University and Grand Canyon University and has taught for more than 16 years, including the last three at Powhatan Elementary School.
- Heather Young of Charlesmont Elementary School in Dundalk is a reading specialist at the school. A graduate of Towson University, she has taught for 16 years at Charlesmont Elementary School.

###

[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).