



Mr. Wayne Perry High School and Dr. Deborah Dennie Middle School Principal of the Year Awards 2026-2027

Research consistently shows that the principal is the cornerstone of a school's success. Those involved in student activities also recognize that principals play a crucial role in establishing and sustaining vibrant programs that engage and empower students. Without strong administrative support, student activities, involvement, and representation at the school, regional, state, and national levels would not thrive. For this reason, MASC seeks to honor middle and HS principals who enable and empower student leaders and organizations while upholding high standards for comprehensive school programs.

The HS award is named in honor of **Mr. Wayne Perry**, a retired Harford County principal and long-time friend of MASC. Mr. Perry has served MASC in numerous capacities—as a school advisor, regional advisor, volunteer, and now registrar—and has been a steadfast advocate for student involvement in school policy and decision-making. He exemplifies the mission of MASC through the programs he established in his schools and his ongoing dedication to student leadership within his community and across the state.

Beginning in the 2026–2027 school year, the Middle School Award will be named in honor of **Dr. Deborah Dennie**, principal of Leonardtown Middle School in St. Mary's County. A dedicated advocate for student leadership, Dr. Dennie has consistently supported MASC programs and inspired students to take active roles in their schools. Guided by her motto, *"Only hard work leads to success,"* she has strengthened student councils, expanded participation, and fostered meaningful opportunities for middle school engagement.

While this award does single out an individual at a middle and HS on the state level, the purpose of the award is to highlight the many contributions made by all principals throughout the state who support and nurture student activities and student leaders. To bring recognition to as many principals as possible, each regional organization is encouraged to establish its own principal recognition program.

MASC Wayne Perry Principal of the Year Recipients

1994-95 Mr. Tommy Tucker - Northern HS, Calvert County	2012-13 Mr. Frank E. Eastham, Jr. - Oakland Mills HS, Howard County
1995-96 Mr. John Cox - Westlake HS, Charles County	2013-14 Mr. James Carver, North Carroll MS, Carroll County
1996-97 Mr. Don Cook - La Plata HS, Charles County	2014-15 Ms. Chrystal Benson, Westlake HS, Charles County
1997-98 Mr. David Reeder - N.Hagerstown HS, Wash. County	2015-16 Mr. Matthew Mauriello, Western Heights MS, Washington County
1998-99 Dr. Jane Snider - Summit School, Anne Arundel Co.	2016-17 Mr. L. Joseph Jira, Hereford HS, Baltimore County
1999-00 Ms. Joyce Smith - Annapolis HS, Anne Arundel Co.	2017-18 Mr. Richard Conley, St. Charles HS, Charles County
2000-01 Mr. Daniel Contesti - Redland MS, Montgomery Co.	2018-19 Mr. James Aleshire, North Hagerstown HS, Washington County
2001-02 Dr. Mel Ross Stephen - Decatur MS, Worcester County	Dr. Deborah Dennie, Leonardtown MS, St. Mary's County
2002-03 Heath Morrison - Thomas Stone HS, Charles County	2019-20 Dr. Jeff Fink, Oakland Mills HS, Howard County
2003-04 Denise Fargo - Devine Fredrick HS, Frederick County	2020-23 No Nominees
2004-05 Ms. Constance - Lewis Atholton HS, Howard County	2023-24 Mr. Rodney Gayman, South Hagerstown HS, Washington County
2005-06 Ms. Carol Weiss - Redland MS Montgomery County	2024-25 No Nominees
2006-07 Ms. Denise Hersberger -Kent Island HS, Queen Anne's County	2025-26 No Nominees
2007-08 Dr. William Wise - Mattawoman MS, Charles County	
2008-09 Mr. Jack Newkirk - Catoctin HS, Frederick County	
2009-10 Mr. Thomas Hill - Westminster West MS, Carroll Co.	
2010-11 Mr. Nicholas Novak - River Hill HS, Howard County	
2011-12 Ms. Claire Hafets - Burleigh Manor MS, Howard Co.	

MASC Dr. Deborah Dennie Middle School Principal of the Year Recipients 2025-26 No Nominees

Nomination Process:

1. Each region is eligible to nominate one middle school and one HS principal. Nominees must be from MASC member schools. Previous winners of the award will not be considered.
2. Each region, through its own selection process, selects one middle school and one HS principal to nominate at the state level. **Member schools wishing to nominate their principal must contact their regional president or regional advisor to be considered in the regional selection process.**
3. The selection committee will select a candidate to nominate to the state. Regional nominations **must be completed online by 5:00 p.m., March 8, 2027.** This includes uploading all of the required signed documents.
4. The MASC Awards selection committee shall consist of one regional president, one regional advisor, the student member on the State Board of Education, the MASC elected officers, and a MASC Executive Director. Substitutions will be made in cases of nominees from a committee member's region.
5. The selection committee will evaluate nominees in terms of their support of the mission of MASC and the contribution of student activities to the overall school climate and school success.
6. The recipient will not be informed until the announcement at the Awards Program during MASC Convention from April 14-16, 2027. Others connected/related to the recipient will be confidentially informed so they may make arrangements to be present at the Awards Program.

ONLINE APPLICATION LINK: <https://forms.gle/45fJ5H2CDqnL5Wqv5>

Nominations must be completed online by **5:00 p.m., March 8, 2027**. This includes uploading all of the required signed documents.

Remember, the nomination process MUST go through the region, so be sure to submit your application to the regional president or advisor in enough time to allow the regional selection process to occur. Principals must be from MASC member schools.

Schools that do not have a county-level structure may submit applications directly to MASC.

The following page includes the information that you will need to complete the online application. Please remember that all information will be completed online, uploading the required, signed documents to the Google Form.

Questions? Please email Karen.Crawford@mdstudentcouncils.org

Principal of the Year Award 2026-2027

This information is for “pre-planning” purposes. The application and supporting signed documents must be submitted online.

Regions may nominate one middle school principal and one HS principal. Submit a separate application for each nominee.

Nominee Information:

- Name of Nominee
- School* (**must be a current MASC member school*)
- Region
- School Address
- Superintendent’s Name and Email

**ONLINE
APPLICATION ONLY.**

**This information is for
planning purposes
only.**

Nominator Information:

- Name of Nominator
- Title of Nominator
- Email of Nominator

Documentation to be uploaded:

1. Written, signed recommendations are *required* from the following individuals (three total)
 - a. The nominator (can be the advisor or a student leader)
 - b. Regional President (in the case that the nominator is the regional president, another regional elected officer should provide a recommendation)
 - c. Regional Advisor
2. Photo of the nominee. The scanned photo should be scanned at 300 dpi into .jpg or .tiff format. Do not use photos downloaded from social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

Recommendations should address the following:

- 1.) How the nominee supports the mission of MASC*
- 2.) The involvement of the nominee in student activities (including school, region, and state activities)
- 3.) What leadership qualities are displayed that enable the nominee to be an effective principal
- 4.) How the nominee contributes to the student council, school climate, and overall school success

****The MASC mission statement reads as follows:***

The mission of MASC is to foster a statewide environment for all secondary school students to express and exchange opinions and ideas, develop leadership skills, and to promote student representation and involvement in all groups and organizations impacting the lives of students.

Note: Documents other than recommendations will not be considered.

ONLINE APPLICATION LINK: <https://forms.gle/45fJ5H2CDqnL5Wqv5>