



**TO: School Principals**  
**FROM: Charlene VanAllen, Sr. Communications Specialist**  
**SUBJECT: 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year Program**  
**DATE: February 26, 2010**

Twin Rivers Unified School District is pleased to participate in the 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year program through the Sacramento County Office of Education.

This program highlights educational innovation, student learning and the rewards of teaching. The Teacher of the Year process pays tribute to our teaching force, the complexity of challenges that confront our schools and the need to promote collaboration and teamwork to meet those challenges.

The 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year process is outlined on the following pages, including timeline and forms. Should you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Charlene VanAllen in the Communications Department at 916-566-1765.



**2010-2011 Teacher of the Year  
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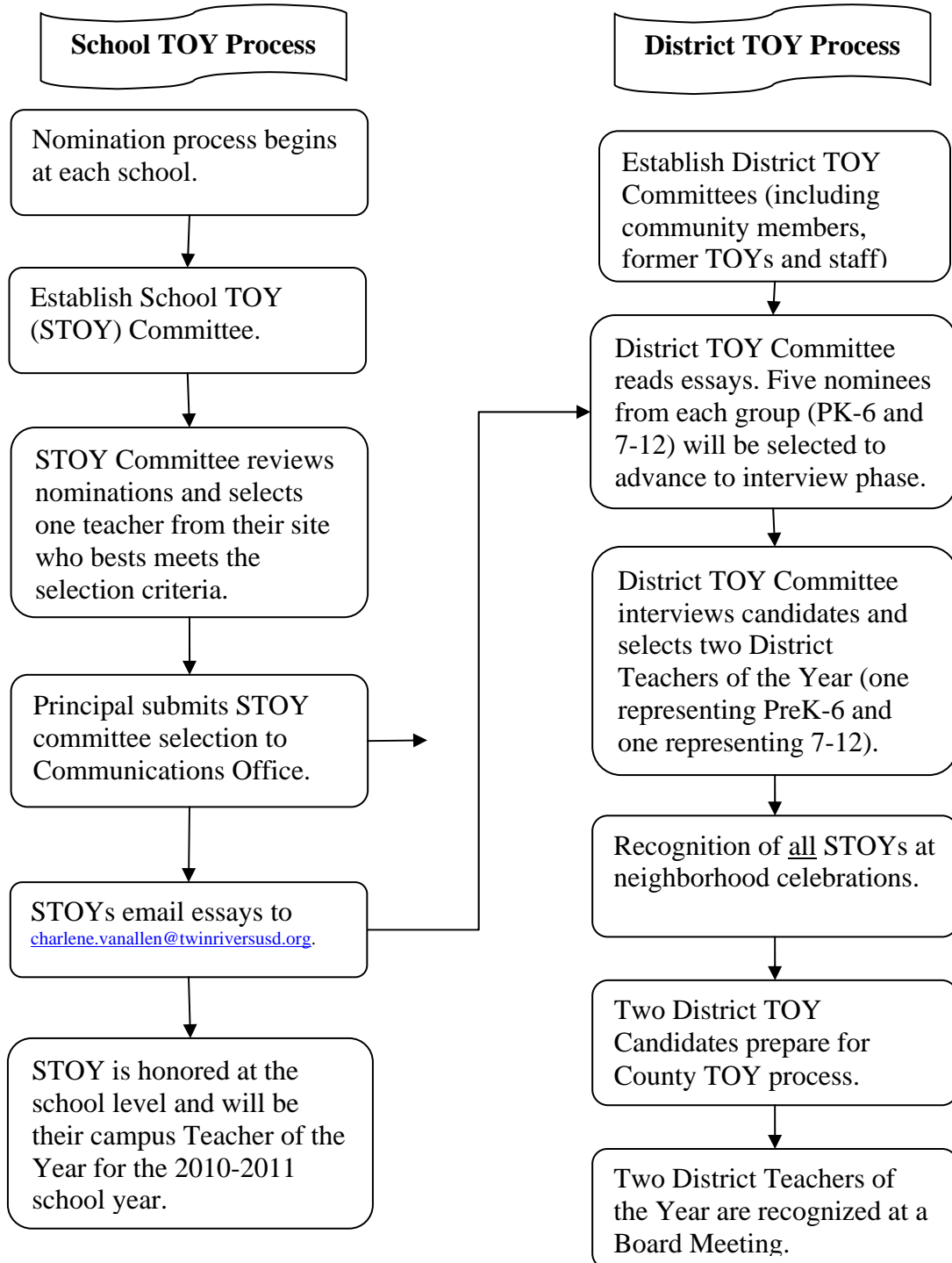
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## 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year (TOY) Selection Process





## 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year Timeline

Teachers selected as the **STOY** (School Teacher of the Year) will serve as their site's spokesperson for the 2010-2011 school year. Twin Rivers Unified School District will be selecting two candidates (PreK-6 and 7-12) to represent the district at the county level Teacher of the Year program. If your **STOY** is selected as the **District Teacher of the Year** they will serve as both their school and a district spokesperson for 2010-2011.

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Feb 22 – March 5, 2010</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nomination process at schools</li> <li>• Principals establish STOY Committees to identify one teacher who best meets the selection criteria from their site</li> <li>• Communications sends out district-wide telephone message (families and staff) encouraging TOY nominations</li> </ul> |
| <b>March 11, 2010</b>         | STOY selection form due to the Communications Office via fax (916-566-3586) or as email attachment to <a href="mailto:charlene.vanallen@twinriversusd.org">charlene.vanallen@twinriversusd.org</a> .   |
| <b>March 29, 2010</b>         | STOY's essays due via email to Communications Office ( <a href="mailto:charlene.vanallen@twinriversusd.org">charlene.vanallen@twinriversusd.org</a> ).   |
| <b>April 6-7, 2010</b>        | Essays read and ranked by a District TOY Selection Committee (Top five ranked nominees from each PK-6 and 7-12 will be interviewed in the final phase of the selection process.)   |
| <b>April 12, 2010</b>         | Interview schedule will be distributed to finalists  |
| <b>April 15, 2010</b>         | Interviews for District TOY finalists  |
| <b>May 2010</b>               | STOYs will be recognized at their Neighborhood School Celebration event in May   |
| <b>September 2010</b>         | District Teachers of the Year will be recognized at a Board Meeting (one representing PK-6 and one representing 7-12)  |

*Please Note: All dates are subject to change.*



**2010-2011 School Teacher of the Year  
Nomination Form**

Your school is soliciting nominations for its 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year. Please complete this form to recommend a teacher you believe has demonstrated excellence in the areas listed below and **return it to your Principal by Friday, March 5, 2010.**

Anyone (teacher, colleague, parent, student, district employee or community member) can submit a nomination. Self-nominations will also be accepted.

Please provide specific examples of:

- Professional Skills and Growth
- Student Achievement
- Contributions and Accomplishments in Education
- School/Community Involvement
- Additional talents, traits or skills that make your nominee an outstanding teacher

I wish to nominate: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level or Subject(s) currently teaching: \_\_\_\_\_

**I believe this teacher should be a Teacher of the Year because . . .**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Additional sheets may be attached.)

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2010-2011 School Teacher of the Year Selection Committee Recommended Guidelines and Criteria

The School Teacher of the Year selection committee should be composed of members that represent a cross-section of education and community affiliations and may include the following:

- Principal
- School Site Council Representative
- Parent or Volunteer of the Year
- Teachers (including former Teacher of the Year)
- Student Council Representative
- Classified Employee
- Others

A School Teacher of the Year serves as an ambassador of the teaching profession. During your selection process to determine which nominee would best fulfill the role as your School Teacher of the Year, please base all evaluations on the following criteria:

- I**nspired creator of a specific program, instructional strategy, or activity; how those efforts benefited students; how the experiences might help other schools and teachers
- M**otivated in supporting the profession through teacher collaboration and mentoring
- P**repared with an understanding of student achievement, assessments and necessary adaptations
- A**pprised of current issues and challenges facing the profession
- C**onnected to the community and gives back to the profession through school-community partnerships and service
- T**alented participant in professional memberships and staff development; recipient of awards and recognition



**2010-2011 School Teacher of the Year  
Selection Form**

Principals: please submit this form by Thursday, **March 11, 2010** via fax (916-566-3586) or email attachment ([charlene.vanallen@twinriversusd.org](mailto:charlene.vanallen@twinriversusd.org)).

**Questions?** Call Charlene VanAllen in the Communications Office at 566-1765.

***We believe the following individual will effectively represent our school, the district and the teaching profession:***

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level/Subject Areas: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***The following information must be completed by the School Teacher of the Year***

Nominee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Best email to reach me: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: CA Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate one:

\_\_\_\_\_ **YES\***, I will be participating in the District Teacher of the Year process (includes short essay and possible interview)

\_\_\_\_\_ **NO**, I will not be participating in the District Teacher of the Year process (You will still hold your school's Teacher of the Year title for 2010-2011 and be celebrated at Neighborhood School Celebrations.)

*\*Please note that in order to be considered as a District Teacher of the Year, the candidate must have been teaching for at least five years in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve. These are guidelines passed down from the State and County Teacher of the Year process.*



## 2010-2011 District Teacher of the Year Essay Guidelines

**School Teachers of the Year:** The submission of your essay indicates your willingness to participate in the selection process for District Teacher of the Year. If you do not want to be considered, you may regretfully decline and are under no obligation to submit an essay. You will still be honored at your school and at a neighborhood celebration.

***Why I should be selected to represent Twin Rivers Unified School District as a District Teacher of the Year***

**Brief Biography** (10 points)

- including what factors influenced you becoming a teacher
- teaching experience

**Philosophy of Teaching** (15 points)

- what aspects make you an outstanding teacher
- rewards you find in teaching

**Student Achievement** (25 points)

- how you assess and address the needs of struggling students
- what teaching strategies do you incorporate to improve instruction for all students

**Issues and Trends in Education** (10 points)

- what issue you consider to be the biggest in public education today and why

**The Teaching Profession** (15 points)

- why you would recommend that individuals enter the teaching profession
- ways in which you support the profession through teacher collaboration and mentoring

**Community Involvement** (25 points)

- how you connect with the community through service-oriented activities, such as volunteer, civic and other group activities
- community involvement beyond that which is considered basic school-related involvement

Your essay should be in the following format:

- Limited to 3 pages (double-spaced)
- Times New Roman 12-point font
- Include full name and school name in the footer of each page
- Label each section of your responses

**Due to the Communications Office: Monday, March 29, 2010.**

Please email your essay to [charlene.vanallen@twinriversusd.org](mailto:charlene.vanallen@twinriversusd.org)

All essays will be evaluated by a District TOY Selection Committee.



## **2010-2011 Teacher of the Year Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who may be nominated for School Teacher of the Year?**

Any credentialed teacher may serve as School Teacher of the year. However, in order to be considered as a District Teacher of the Year, the candidate must have been teaching for at least five years in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (per state and county guidelines).

### **Who can submit a nomination for School Teacher of the Year?**

Any person – teacher, colleague, parent, student, district employee or community member – may submit a nomination. Self-nominations will also be accepted.

### **When are the School Teacher of the Year selections made?**

Schools must make their Teacher of the Year selection by Thursday, March 11, 2010.

### **Who selects the District Teacher of the Year?**

District Selection Committees are comprised of former teachers of the year, community members, retirees, and district employees. They will select two District Teachers of the Year (representing PreK-6 and 7-12).

### **What does it mean to be a District Teacher of the Year?**

Two District Teachers of the Year represent Twin Rivers in the annual Sacramento County Teachers of the Year program (including essay and interview process) and at events in our district throughout 2010-2011.

### **Additional Questions?**

Contact your Principal or Charlene VanAllen, Teacher of the Year Coordinator, at 916-566-1765 or email [charlene.vanallen@twinriversusd.org](mailto:charlene.vanallen@twinriversusd.org).