



January 30, 2023

Dear Principals/Presidents,

This spring the Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools will award the fifteenth annual Golden Apple Awards for excellence in teaching. Ten of our teachers will be honored for their outstanding teaching and commitment to Catholic education.

The Golden Apple Award is the creation of the Donahue Family Foundation. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Donahue were the parents of 13 children, all of whom were educated in Catholic schools. Eager to express their deep appreciation to Catholic school teachers for providing a quality academic and faith-filled education for their children, the Foundation has established this award in five dioceses around the country.

ADW teachers, parents and students are invited by their principal to annually nominate a teacher for the Golden Apple Award. Please direct them to submit a nomination form to the principal by February 10, 2023. All individuals nominated are then to complete a Golden Apple application form to submit to their principal by February 28, 2023. After reviewing the nomination forms and applications forms, a committee at each school will select one teacher that will represent the school by March 10, 2023. The selected teacher's application is then scanned and attached to an email to Chris Buchleitner ([BuchleitnerC@adw.org](mailto:BuchleitnerC@adw.org)) at the Catholic Schools Office by **March 21, 2023**.

**Applications will only be accepted electronically via a single PDF document.** No late applications will be accepted. The CSO will send an email to the principal when the application is received.

A selection committee made up of former Golden Apple winners, administrators, board members and parents will then evaluate the entries and choose 10 winners with the approval of the Secretary for Catholic Schools.

In May 2023 each of the 10 teachers will be presented a golden apple, a Certificate of Achievement, and a check for \$5,000.

Attached is the nomination form, the application form and information on the process for your review. Please distribute the nomination form to your school parents and teachers through your weekly communication method and publicize the award. We encourage all schools to participate and celebrate the extraordinary teachers who provide such benefit to our Catholic schools.

### **2023 Golden Apple Timeline**

|                   |                                                               |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 10, 2023 | All nominations to Principal                                  |
| February 28, 2023 | School level nominees submit application to principal         |
| March 10, 2023    | School's Nominating Committee chooses school's nominee        |
| March 21, 2023    | Application of school's selected nominee to Chris Buchleitner |
| Mid-April 2023    | Winners Announced                                             |
| May 2023          | Winners Celebrated                                            |

Sincerely in Christ,

Kelly Branaman,



Secretary for Catholic Schools and  
Superintendent of Schools