



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN



2024-2025 MCCPTA SHINING STAR AWARDS!

We all know volunteers who go above and beyond on behalf of our children and schools, as well as staff, students, individuals and businesses that make service to our youth a priority. It's time to honor them and let them know how much their efforts are appreciated!

Review the selection guidelines for each category below and nominate a well-deserving individual(s), business, or community group for one of the following awards:

- [PTA Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
- [PT\(S\)A President of the Year](#)
- [Partners for Education Award](#)
- [Principal of the Year](#)
- [Advocacy Award](#)
- [Student Advocate of the Year Award](#)
- [Teacher of the Year](#)
- [Support Staff of the Year](#)
- [Special Education Educators of the Year Award](#)
 - [Special Education Educator of the Year Award](#)
 - [Special Education Paraprofessional of the Year Award](#)
 - [Special Education Specialist of the Year Award](#)
 - [Special Education Advocate of the Year Award](#)
 - [Student Advocate for Special Education of the Year Award](#)

THE NOMINATION DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025

Awards will be presented at the MCCPTA Celebration of Excellence on Wednesday, May 28, 2024. The winner will be provided an award and have an opportunity to give brief remarks during their acceptance at the celebration. Nominators are asked to provide a photo and short bio to be included in the awards program. Winners may update their photo and/or bio before the program is finalized. If no updates are received, the nominator's submission will be used in the program and promotional materials.

Awards Category Descriptions

Each nomination should reflect at least one of the criteria listed below for the relevant category. A supporting quote or statement from a student, parent/guardian, administrator and/or other educator should be included.

PTA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The PTA Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor PTA bestows, recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service on behalf of our children and youth. The winner of this award is named a National PTA Life Achievement Awardee and will receive a gold lapel pin, a certificate of achievement, and a press release notifying local media.

Nomination and Selection Guidelines

- All parents, teachers, students, administrators, support staff, and community members who have made exemplary contributions to youth, the school community, and/or PTA are eligible.
- Nominees should demonstrate advocacy efforts that have benefitted the education, health, and well-being of children and youth.
- Nominees should exhibit commitment that goes above and beyond expectations.
- The winner will be selected by the MCCPTA Awards Committee selection panel, which will consider each nominee's depth, breadth, and length of service.

MCCPTA PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR

Every year, MCCPTA honors one local PTA president with an award recognizing their contributions and dedication to our children and youth.

Nomination and Selection Guidelines

- All Montgomery County PT(S)A presidents who have made exemplary contributions to children, the school community, and PT(S)A are eligible.
- Nominees should embody the following MCCPTA objectives: promoting the welfare of children and youth; making every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children; bringing home and school into closer relations; and developing united efforts between educators and the general public to secure the highest educational advantages for all children.
- The winner will be selected by the MCCPTA Awards Committee selection panel, which will consider each nominee's depth, breadth, and length of service.

MCCPTA PARTNERS FOR EDUCATION AWARD

The Partners for Education Award recognizes an organization, group, or individual that has formed an outstanding program or alliance to support the education and well-being of Montgomery County youth.

Nomination and Selection Guidelines

- All businesses, organizations, community groups, and individuals that have worked with a school and/or PTA to support the education of Montgomery County children are eligible. Individuals must not be directly associated/member of the nominating PTA.
- Nominees must be involved in programs or activities that have taken place or will occur during the 2024-25 school year. Programs may be ongoing or a single event.

- Examples of the types of activities nominees will have been involved in include (but are not limited to) the following: tutoring programs; school landscaping or environmental projects; or substance-free school or after-prom, or-homecoming activities.
- The winner will be selected by the MCCPTA Awards Committee selection panel, which will consider each nominee's specific service.

MCCPTA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

MCCPTA honors one local Montgomery County Principal with an award recognizing his or her contributions and dedication to our children and youth through their working relationship with their PTA.

Nomination and Selection Guidelines

- All Montgomery County Principals who have made exemplary contributions to children, the school community, in connection and cooperation with their PTA are eligible.
- Nominees should embody the following MCCPTA objectives: promoting the welfare of children and youth; making every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children; bringing home and school into closer relations; and developing united efforts between educators and the general public to secure the highest educational advantages for all children.
- The winner will be selected by the MCCPTA Awards Committee selection panel, which will consider each nominee's depth, breadth, and length of service.

MCCPTA ADVOCACY AWARD

MCCPTA honors one local PTA member with an award recognizing his or her contributions and dedication to our children and youth through their dedication to advocacy.

Nomination and Selection Guidelines

- All Montgomery County PTA members who have made exemplary contributions to children and the school community, in connection and cooperation with their PTA, are eligible.
- Nominees should embody the following MCCPTA objectives: promoting the welfare of children and youth; making every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children; bringing home and school into closer relations; and developing united efforts between educators and the general public to secure the highest educational advantages for all children.
- Specifically, the winner should be an example of advocating for the students of this county, whether in political forums, community engagement events, public speaking, or within their school and/or cluster.
- The winner will be selected by the MCCPTA Awards Committee selection panel, which will consider each nominee's depth, breadth, and length of service.

MCCPTA STUDENT ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

MCCPTA honors one local Student Advocate with an award recognizing their contributions and dedication to our schools and students.

Nomination and Selection Guidelines

- Any MCPS student who has advocated on behalf of students and their families. Advocacy efforts can be at the school, county, state or federal level and include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - Being a changemaker on behalf of students and their families by actively participating in school programs that increase peer acceptance and support.

- Providing direct assistance, friendship, and encouragement to students and/or demonstrating leadership in student activities to promote a spirit of caring, belonging, and cooperation among the student body.
- Engaging in advocacy efforts; spearheading or promoting initiatives that promote wellbeing, inclusiveness, and promoting information campaigns and/or events that raise awareness and build community.
- Any Montgomery County student, who is a PTA member who has made exemplary contributions to children, the school community, or PTA is eligible.
- Nominees should embody the following MCCPTA objectives: promoting the welfare of children and youth; making every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children; bringing home and school into closer relations; and developing united efforts between educators and the general public to secure the highest educational advantages for all children.
- The winner will be selected by the MCCPTA Awards Committee selection panel, which will consider each nominee's depth, breadth, and length of service.

MCCPTA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

MCCPTA honors one local Montgomery County Educator with an award recognizing their contributions and dedication to our children and youth through their working relationship with their PTA.

Nomination and Selection Guidelines

- All Montgomery County teachers who have made exemplary contributions to children, the school community, in connection and cooperation with their PTA are eligible.
- Nominees should embody the following MCCPTA objectives: promoting the welfare of children and youth; making every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children; bringing home and school into closer relations; and developing united efforts between educators and the general public to secure the highest educational advantages for all children.
- The winner will be selected by the MCCPTA Awards Committee selection panel, which will consider each nominee's depth, breadth, and length of service.

MCCPTA SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

MCCPTA honors one local Montgomery County Support Staff (such as paraeducators, secretaries, building services and cafeteria staff, IT technicians and media center staff, bus drivers/attendants, etc) with an award recognizing his or her contributions and dedication to our children and youth.

Nomination and Selection Guidelines

- All Montgomery County support staff who have made exemplary contributions to children, the school community, or PTA are eligible.
- Nominees should embody the following MCCPTA objectives: promoting the welfare of children and youth; making every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children; bringing home and school into closer relations; and developing united efforts between educators and the general public to secure the highest educational advantages for all children.
- The winner will be selected by the MCCPTA Awards Committee selection panel, which will consider each nominee's depth, breadth, and length of service.

MCCPTA SPECIAL EDUCATION SHINING STARS OF THE YEAR

MCCPTA honors a Montgomery County Special Education staff member in each of the 5 categories with an award recognizing their contributions and dedication to our children and youth through their working relationship with their PTA.

Nomination and Selection Guidelines

- All Montgomery County Special Education staff who have made exemplary contributions to children, the school community, in connection and cooperation with their PTA are eligible.
- Nominees should embody the following MCCPTA objectives: promoting the welfare of children and youth; making every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children; bringing home and school into closer relations; and developing united efforts between educators and the general public to secure the highest educational advantages for all children.
- Nominations may be submitted in the category below that best describes the Nominee's position or role.
- The winner will be selected by the MCCPTA Awards Committee selection panel, which will consider each nominee's depth, breadth, and length of service.

Award Categories (select one)

Educators: Any staff member who has provided consistently outstanding services to advance the success of students with special needs in at least one of the following ways:

- Providing school leadership in developing or carrying out instructional or social practices to promote achievement and participation of students with special needs (e.g. organizing a Special Needs Awareness Week.)
- Demonstrating teaching practices in the classroom (special education or general education) which enable achievement and participation of students with special needs (e.g. classroom organization, differentiated instruction, instructional accommodations, appropriate test modifications, peer helping strategies, social skills development, management of behavior.)

Paraprofessionals: Any paraprofessional who has made an outstanding contribution to school objectives, programs, or activities in one or more of the following ways:

- Actively participating in school programs that increase peer acceptance and support of individual differences.
- Providing direct assistance, friendship, and encouragement to students with special needs.
- Demonstrating leadership in student activities to promote a spirit of caring, belonging, and cooperation among the student body.

Specialist: A specialist who has made an outstanding contribution to school and/or community programs that benefit students with special needs in one or more of the following ways:

- Planning and conducting staff and/or parent training programs.
- Providing support to school programs by organizing volunteers or providing direct in-school assistance.
- Providing support to parents through participation in group meetings, PTA functions, or IEP conferences.

Advocates: Any administrator or community member who has advocated on behalf of students with special needs and their families. Advocacy efforts can be at the school, county, state or federal level and include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Being a changemaker on behalf of students with special needs and their families within MCPS or in the broader community.
- Engaging in advocacy efforts; spearheading or promoting initiatives that promote inclusiveness, and promoting information campaigns and/or events that raise awareness and build community.

Student Advocates: Any student who has advocated on behalf of students with special needs and their families. Advocacy efforts can be at the school, county, state or federal level and include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Being a changemaker on behalf of students with special needs and their families by actively participating in school programs that increase peer acceptance and support of individual differences.
- Providing direct assistance, friendship, and encouragement to students with special needs and/or demonstrating leadership in student activities to promote a spirit of caring, belonging, and cooperation among the student body.
- Engaging in advocacy efforts; spearheading or promoting initiatives that promote inclusiveness, and promoting information campaigns and/or events that raise awareness and build community.

Please attach a description (no more than one page, please) of the nominee's qualifications, including depth, breadth, and length of service, for review by the Awards Committee. Your description should provide a few specific details that clearly reflect one or more of the criteria outlined for the nominated category. Supporting statements from students, parents, and/or other educators/school staff are welcome for all categories. You may upload up to a maximum of five (5) files.