

# ***Pennsylvania Middle School Associations Yearly Awards***

## **Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools To Watch:**

The Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch program seeks to establish a network of schools willing to serve as models and mentors for others. Selected schools will be featured in state and national publications, and will be visited by educators from around the country looking to see where “things are being done right.” Schools will also participate in professional development, and will serve as a model for other schools using the Schools to Watch Criteria to guide school improvement and reform. Don Eichhorn is considered the founding father of the middle school movement in Pennsylvania. First published in his seminal work, The Middle School (1966), was Dr. Eichhorn’s conceptualization of a socio-psychological model of education, a developmentally appropriate educational program based on young adolescents’ unique learner characteristics. He coined the term “transescence” to describe the stage of development that begins prior to the onset of puberty and extends through the early stages of adolescence. A cornerstone of the proposed school was a non-graded, multiage grouping of children based on the student’s individual stage of development, not the traditional chronological groups. Don’s model was viewed as a distinct entity, separate from both the elementary and secondary levels. Don organized the first middle school in Pennsylvania, Fort Couch Middle School, in the Upper Saint Clair School District. Don was passionate about the middle level and designing a program to meet all the developmental needs of all students. This award is presented to the middle school that demonstrates successful implementation of middle level practices and commitment to middle level philosophy.

## **Ann Moniot Award: Outstanding Middle Level Educator**

Ann was a very dynamic educator from the city of Pittsburgh. She was one of the original Board Members of PMSA. She was also the second president of the National Middle School Association. This award is presented to a middle level educator that has made professional contributions that have positively influenced middle level education as well as middle level students.

## **Joan Jarrett Student Awards:**

This award is presented to one boy and one girl from each of PMSA’s seven regions that have displayed leadership abilities, good citizenship, and have made a positive contribution to their middle school and community. A \$500 donation will be made in their name to a charity of their choice. Each student and their parents will be recognized at the Sunday banquet of the PMSA Professional Development Institute in March. This award was developed by Joan Jarrett during her tenure as the PMSA Executive Board President. Joan was and still is a very strong advocate for young adolescents and this award is one way for PMSA to recognize outstanding students across the state of Pennsylvania.

## **William Alexander Award:**

This award is presented, at the discretion of the PMSA President, to an individual who has made a significant, positive contribution to middle level education in the state of Pennsylvania. Regarded as the “Father of the Middle School,” William Alexander is best remembered for his contributions to curriculum development and middle level education. Alexander championed the rights of both adolescents and teachers. He insisted that schools in the middle provide developmentally appropriate education to students. He also advocated teacher education programs for teachers who want to build the bridge between elementary and high school.

## **PMSA Administrator’s Award:**

By establishing this award in 2004 – 2005, PMSA sought to honor administrators who value, understand and support effective middle level education that promotes powerful learning for young adolescents.

## **Promising Practitioner Awards:**

This award is presented to teachers who are just beginning their middle school careers. These beginning teachers

have made a positive impact on both their school and community. They incorporate effective middle level practices in their everyday teaching. Each PMSA member school has the opportunity to nominate up to three teachers yearly to receive this distinction. The first “class” of awardees was announced from the podium at the 2003 State Conference in Hershey, PA.

## **Learning to Teach & Teaching to Learn: Student Teachers**

This award is presented to recognize outstanding student teachers or interns. PMSA wants to recognize teaching candidates who have student taught in a middle school and have demonstrated both a commitment to middle level teaching as well as an awareness of young adolescent development. Any student teacher that has completed his/her student teaching in either the fall or preceding spring is eligible for this award. Each PMSA institutional or individual member may nominate one student teacher per middle school. These novice teachers will be recognized at the PMSA State Conference and awarded a certificate and a pin for their accomplishments. Their names will also be posted on the PMSA web site and included in PMSA conference materials. The nominees will also be awarded a free PMSA Individual Membership for one year.

## **Executive Director’s Partnership Award**

This award is presented annually to a PMSA sponsorship partner who has supported the middle level philosophy across the state. The award is chosen annually by the Executive Director of PMSA.

## **Advocate for Public Education Award (Legislative Award)**

This award is presented to a member of government who advocates for Public Education.

## **Student Art Awards**

This award is presented to one student from each of the regions of PMSA. Students submit their art work based upon the theme for the year. If they are selected as winners, their art work is printed on notecards which are presented as gifts to all PDI presenters. Notecards are also available for purchase at the PMSA bookstore.

## **Don Eichhorn Award Winning Schools:**

Maple Avenue Middle School	1992	Mr. Jack Bream
Upper Perkiomen Middle School	1993	Mrs. Celine Matz
Wilson Middle School, Philadelphia	1994	Ms. Arlene Holtz
Carson Middle School	1995	Dr. Marsha Martin
Independence Middle School	1996	Dr. Robert David
Derry Area Middle School	1997	Mr. Richard Birchill
West Allegheny Middle School	1998	Dr. Janet Walsh
Mellon Middle School	1999	Dr. Kevin Lordon
Lewisburg Area Middle School	2000	Mr. Floyd Walters
Highlands Middle School	2001	Dr. Karol Galcik
Marshall Middle School	2002	Mr. John J. Schwoebel
J.E. Harrison Middle School	2003	Mr. Randy Lutz
Pine Richland Middle School	2004	Dr. Kathleen Harrington
Moon Area Middle School	2005	Dr. Julie Moore
Drexel Hill Middle School	2005	Mr. Jonathan Ross
Orefield Middle School	2005	Dr. Victoria Hersh
Paxon Hollow Middle School	2006	Dr. Stephen Subers
Lemoyne Middle School	2006	Mr. Robert Savage
Seneca Valley Middle School	2006	Ms. Tracy Vitale

Note: as of the 2004 – 2005 school year, a focus on the 14 elements of an effective middle school, as outlined in This We Believe, was added to this award and each PMSA region was invited to nominate and select an award

winning middle school. This modification enabled PMSA to recognize lighthouse “Don Eichhorn Award Winning Middle Schools” in each PMSA region of the state.

In 2006-07, PMSA developed Pennsylvania’s STW program in partnership with the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. This took the place of our existing Don Eichhorn Outstanding Middle School program.

## **Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch**

The Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch program seeks to establish a network of schools willing to serve as models and mentors for others. Recognized schools will be featured in state and national publications, and will be visited by educators from around the country looking to see where “things are being done right.” Schools will also participate in professional development, and will serve as a model for other schools using the Schools to Watch Criteria to guide school improvement and reform.

Schools to Watch are schools that demonstrate:

- Academic Excellence. These schools challenge all students to use their minds well.
- Developmental Responsiveness. These schools are sensitive to the unique developmental challenges of early adolescence.
- Social Equity. These schools are democratic and fair, providing every student with high-quality teachers, resources, and supports.
- Organizational Structures and Processes. High-performing schools establish norms, structures, and organizational arrangements to support and sustain their trajectory toward excellence.

A Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn School is a school that is conscientiously moving to meet fully the nationally endorsed criteria for high performing middle schools, one that has made marked progress in meeting all of the 37 criteria, including measurable gains in the academic achievement of all students over time.

Each school was selected by state leaders for its academic excellence, its responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents, and its commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels. In addition, each school has strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to assessment and accountability to bring about continuous improvement.

Dr. John Harrison, Chair of the National Forum’s Schools to Watch Committee stated, “These schools demonstrate that high-performing middle grades schools have a clear focus on academic growth and achievement. They also recognize the importance of meeting the needs of all of their students and ensuring that each and every child has access to a rigorous, high-quality education. We are proud to have these schools serve as models from which others can learn.”

Selection is based on a written application that required schools to show how they met criteria developed by the Forum. Schools that appeared to meet the criteria were then visited by state teams who observed classrooms, interviewed administrators, teachers, and parents, and looked at achievement data, suspension rates, quality of lessons, and student work. Schools are recognized for a three-year period, and at the end of three years must repeat the process in order to be re-designated. The schools vary in size from several hundred to one thousand students and represent urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Dr. Deborah Kasak, National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform Executive Director stated, "We are pleased that our Schools to Watch programs have shown that schools can meet high academic expectations while preserving a commitment to healthy development and equity for all students. Schools to Watch are indeed special; they make education so exciting that students and teachers don't want to miss a day. These schools have proven

that it is possible to overcome barriers to achieving excellence, and any middle-level school in any state can truly learn from their examples.

PA Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch is a program of the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades reform and primarily sponsored by Pennsylvania Middle School Association. For more information access the following websites: [www.pmsaweb.org](http://www.pmsaweb.org) ; [www.mgforum.org](http://www.mgforum.org) ; [www.schoolstowatch.org](http://www.schoolstowatch.org) .

2006-07

**DuBois Area Middle School**

404 Liberty Boulevard  
DuBois, PA 15801-3229  
Principal: Daniel J Hawkins  
Email: [dhawkins@dasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:dhawkins@dasd.k12.pa.us)

**Lenape Middle School**

313 West State Street  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
Principal: Nick Chubb  
Email: [nchubb@cbsd.org](mailto:nchubb@cbsd.org)

**Pine-Richland Middle School**

100 Logan Road  
Gibsonia, PA 15044  
Principal: Kathy Harrington  
Email: [kharrington@pinerichland.org](mailto:kharrington@pinerichland.org)

2007-08

**Boyce Middle School (grades 5 and 6)**

Upper Saint Clair School District  
Mrs. Karen Brown, Principal  
1500 Boyce Road  
Upper Saint Clair, PA 15241  
Email: [kbrown@uscscd.k12.pa.us](mailto:kbrown@uscscd.k12.pa.us)

**Fort Couch Middle School (grades 7 and 8)**

Upper Saint Clair School District  
Dr. Joseph DeMar, Principal  
515 Fort Couch Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
Email: [jdemar@uscscd.k12.pa.us](mailto:jdemar@uscscd.k12.pa.us)

2008-09

**Abington Heights Middle School (2009)**

1555 Newton Ransom Boulevard  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

- Principal: Mr. Edward Kairis
- Enrollment: 1169
- Grade Configuration: 5-8

**Avonworth Middle School (2009)**

256 Josephs Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

- Principal: Mr. Thomas W. Ralston
- Enrollment: 318
- Grade Configuration: 6-8

**Great Valley Middle School (2009)**

255 N. Phoenixville Pike  
Malvern, PA 19355

- Principal: Mr. Edward Souders
- Enrollment: 983
- Grade Configuration: 6-8

**Meadville Area Middle School (2009)**

974 North Street  
Meadville, PA 16335

- Principal: Rebecca James
- Enrollment: 472
- Grade Configuration: 7-8

**South Allegheny Middle School (2009)**

2743 Washington Blvd.  
McKeesport, PA 15133

- Principal: Mr. Jeff Solomon
- Enrollment: 240
- Grade Configuration: 7-8

**Yellow Breeches Middle School (2009)**

4 Forge Road  
Boiling Springs, PA 17007

- Principal: Dr. Frederick Withum, III
- Enrollment: 517
- Grade Configuration: 6-8

**Ann Moniot Award Winning Educators:**

Mr. Jack Bream	1991-92	Maple Avenue Middle School
Dr. Robert David	1992-93	Independence Middle School
Dr. Donna Milanovich	1993-94	J. E. Harrison Middle School
Cheryl Webber	1995-05	North Star East Middle School
Leslie Shearer	1995-96	Hershey Middle School
Dr. Joseph Cuzzola	1996-97	Westlake Middle School, Erie
Not Awarded	1997-98	
Louise Havrilla	1998-99	Highlands Middle School, Natrona Hts.
Joy Hirokawa	2000-01	Upper Perkiomen Middle School
Natalie Cajka	2001-02	Highlands Middle School, Natrona Hts.
Deb Kuhar	2002-03	Wendover Middle School

Jane Eisenhart	2003-04	Seneca Valley Middle School
J.P. Prager	2004-05	Pine Richland Middle School
Stephanie Ross	2005-06	Thomas Jefferson Middle School
Renee Owens	2006-07	Hershey Middle School
Barbara Frye	2007-08	Titusville Middle School
Jeffrey Tranell	2008-09	Park Forest Middle School

### **Joan Jarrett Student Awards:**

1999	Nalene Denning	7	Norwin MS West
	Robert O. Fairley	8	Allen MS (West Shore Dist.)
2000	Tara Belcher	8	Penns Valley JHS
	Matthew Jacob	8	West Allegheny MS
2001	Melinda Ann Snavelly	8	Manheim Central MS
	Jason McGovern	8	Northern Lebanon MS
2002	Jonna Sattizahn	8	Schuylkill Haven Area MS
	Wayne Querry	8	Huntingdon MS
2003	Rebecca Ann Joyce	8	Orefield MS (Parkland School Dist.)
	John C. Bradford	7	Chambersburg MS
2004	David Adley	8	J.E.Harrison MS (Baldwin Whitehall Dist.)
	Amy Pompelia	8	Ligonier Valley MS
2005	Bianca Palmisano	8	Ingomar MS (North Allegheny School Dist.)
	Ryan "Rocky" Hillanbrand	7	Stewart MS (Norristown Area School Dist.)
2006	Taylor Frederick	8	Ligonier Valley MS
	Madison Pawley	8	Moon Area MS
	Sean Grim	8	Saucon Valley Middle School
	Kemper Vogel	8	Pine-Richland Middle School
2007	Jason Appiah	8	Benjamin Franklin School, Math/Science Academy
	Cody Clements	8	Ligonier Valley MS
	Kayla Hammel	8	Spring Cove MS
	Robin Hannen	8	Trinity MS
2008	Samantha Papp	7	Penn-Delco School District/ Northerly MS
	Zachary Estojak	8	Saucon Valley/Saucon Valley MS
	Natasha Crawford	8	Titusville School District/ Titusville MS
2009	Meredith Thompson	8	Radnor School District/Radnor MS
	Stephen Fay	8	Radnor School District/Radnor MS
	Nicole Koontz	8	Everett Area School District/Everett Area MS

### **William Alexander Award:**

Mrs. Diane W. Kyle	2002
Mr. Charles Patton	2003
Mr. David Brown	2004
Mr. Bernard Hoffman	2005
Ms Gail Heinemeyer	2006
Mrs. Sue Swaim	2007
Ms. Claire Miller	2008
Robert Furman Ed.D	2009

## **PMSA Administrator's Awards:**

Mr. Joseph Gargiulo	2005	Lemoyne MS, (West Shore SD)
Mrs. Tammy Andreyko	2006	Ingomar MS, (North Allegheny SD)
Diane Hathaway	2007	Hill-Freedman MS (Philadelphia SD)
Brian Miller	2008	Carson MS (North Allegheny SD)
Joseph DeMar	2009	Fort Couch MS (Upper St. Claire SD)

## **Learning to Learn & Learning to Teach – Student Teachers**

2003-04

Summer Bennetch		
Scott Blair		
April Blythe	Elementary/ Special Ed	LaRoche College
Brody Bush	Health/PE	West Chester University
Brian Eisiminger	Spanish	California University of PA
Lisa Kern	Health/PE	Indiana University of PA
Elizabeth Lehman	Elementary Ed	Alvernia College
Renee Manzetti	Elementary Ed	LaRoche College
Erik Ness	Secondary Social Studies	West Chester University
Elizabeth Olshock	Elementary / Special Ed	LaRoche College
Michelle Paige	General Science & Biology	Corlow College
David Stahler		
Debra Utz	Elementary Education	Clarion University
Allison Wright		

2005-06

Erin Manion – (University of Pittsburgh)

2006-07

Diane Leslie – Ben Franklin School – Harrisburg SD (Penn State University)  
Tim Seibert – Owen J. Roberts MS – Owen J. Roberts SD (Ursinus College)  
Christine Bradley – C. F. Patton MS – Unionville-Chadds Ford SD (University of Delaware)  
Jennifer Moran – Owen J. Roberts MS – Owen J. Roberts SD (West Chester University)  
Jessica Sobotka – Governor Mifflin MS – Governor Mifflin SD (Kutztown University)

2007-08

Amanda Yenshaw – CF Patton MS – University of Delaware  
Megan Zerbe – Kutztown MS – Kutztown University  
Jennifer Mellin – Walnut Creek MS – Edinboro University

2008-09

Lindsay Brinchi – J.S.Wilson MS – Gannon University  
Kathleen Pfeifer – Pine Richland MS – Duquesne University

## **Promising Practitioners Award Winners**

2002-03

Dan Cabrol	Jennifer Wood	Becki Banker
Sarah Doris	Jeffery Lytle	Heather Spancake
Marcia DiGregorio	Amy Barone	Sue McDonald
Kristian Damaska	Stacey Catanese	Karen Snyder
Renee Gabol	Heather Hassinger	Dr. Erin Carlin
Kristen Mitchell	Joan Crick	Robert Piatt
Tiffany Gruber	Lisa Thiry	Marissa McGlone
Joseph Talarico	Adam Weber	Carol Kelly
David Bruce	Stephanie Wolfe	Rob Thompson
David Mayan	Sharon Branca	Craig Corrao
Jennifer Stewart	Wendy Gross	Ryan Barr

2003-04

Rob Thompson	Jared Reck	Andrea Peck
J.P. Prager	Kathy Batykefer	Jayne Elson
Michael Schrader	Dawn Qualli	Carrie Catalina
Natalie Lilley	Tawnia St. Amant	Elizabeth Bollens
Jessica Phillips	Melissa DeSimone	Kelly Walbush
Mandi Yarroll	Joel Yohn	Marianne Fronk
Natalie Wozniak	Frank Nefos	
Colleen Tovey-Schroeder		

2004-05

Marilyn Eaton	Pottsgrove MS
Christine Sedlacko	Mechanicsburg MS
Carol Slovinac	Mechanicsburg MS
Colleen Siebener	Mechanicsburg MS
Darin Hickethier	Hershey MS
Troy Smith	Hershey MS
Kristen Schaffer	Hershey MS
Terry Lewis	Hershey MS
Heather Dussinger	G.A. Stetson MS
Julie Chase	Titusville MS
Anneliese Ledebur	Titusville MS
Denise Mellott	McConnellsburg MS
Amy Burke	Eagle View MS
David Freidenbloom	Chestnut Ridge MS
Dana Wolfel	Charles F. Patton MS

2005-06

Dana Burrows	West Allegheny MS
Nancy Watkins	West Allegheny MS
Valerie Prevade	West Allegheny MS
Faye Junker	Ingomar MS
Sarah Thatcher	Saucon Valley MS

2006-07

Rayna Smith	Lenape MS
Zachary Marttila	Lenape MS
Stephanie Godsell	Lenape MS
Greg Perry	Big Springs MS
Leah Richwine	Big Spring MS
Heidi Gilbert	Big Spring MS
Jacqueline Russo	Disston Eementary School
Carey Barzeski	James S. Wilson MS
Michael Choi	North Brandywine MS
Janet Faccenda	Charles F. Patton MS
Diana Armitage	Hershey MS
Michael Gogoj	Lambertson MS
Allison Clabaugh	Bellwood-Antis MS

2007-08

Christine Kline	Dubois MS
Heath Vavrek	Bethelem-Center MS

2008-09

Rena Callihan	Seneca Valley MS
Colleen Byrnes	Ingomar MS
Allison Whitman	Mechanicsburg MS
Nicole Settanni	Radnor MS
Christie Haibach	J.S. Wilson MS
Caitlin Bogosta	Pine Richland MS
Shawn Haddox	Highland MS
Brian Beighey	Seneca Valley MS
Chris Brown	Seneca Valley MS

## **Advocate for Public Education Award**

2004-05	State Senator James J. Rhoades
2005-06	State Representative Jerry L. Nailor
2006-07	State Representative Mike Turzai
2007-08	United States Representative James Gerlach State Representative Marquerite Quinn
2008-09	Charles McIlhenney

## **Executive Director's Partnership Award**

2001-02	Dr. Maritza Robert from PDE
2002-03	LifeTouch
2003-04	Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc
2004-05	PHEAA Teachers' Insurance Plan
2005-06	Future Connect
2006-07	QSP
2007-08	InnerLink
2008-09	Lincoln Investment Planning, INC

## **Student Art Awards**

2006-07

2007-08

2008-09

East Region – Corryn Klien – Abington Heights MS – grade 8

West Region – Jenna Richardson – Neshannock Jr/Sr HS – grade 8

Southeast Region – Paige Demucci – Ridley MS – grade 8

Northwest Region – Shannon Lavery – Titusville MS – Grade 8

Central Region – Rachel Hill – Penns Valley Jr/Sr HS – grade 8