*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:** | January 17, 2023 |
| **Subject:** | 2023 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year |

At our January 24 meeting, I look forward to introducing you to the 2023 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, [Danielle (Dani) Charbonneau](https://www.doe.mass.edu/amazingeducators/stoy/#stoy). She teaches English language arts in [Project Vine](https://sites.google.com/mvyps.org/project-vine?pli=1), the alternative program within [Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School](https://mvrhs.org/welcome-to-marthas-vineyard-regional-high-school/), and she is also program coordinator for Project Vine. We [announced her selection](https://mailchi.mp/doe.mass.edu/press-release-baker-polito-administration-announces-2023-ma-teacher-of-the-year?e=583fc2bc03) at an assembly at her school in Oak Bluffs on September 27, and her time as Teacher of the Year began this month.

Each year, the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year program honors a Massachusetts teacher who exemplifies excellent teaching in the Commonwealth. Beyond celebrating the individual, the program looks at the complex work that is involved in educating all students and affirms the importance of the teacher as the single most important school-based factor in improving student outcomes.

While serving as Teacher of the Year, Ms. Charbonneau will continue teaching, attend several convenings of teachers of the year from other states, speak at events, and pursue other opportunities offered by this recognition.

This year, we received 106 nominations, which panels of DESE staff and previously named teachers of the year winnowed down to [12 semifinalists and five finalists](https://www.doe.mass.edu/amazingeducators/stoy/#semifinalists). Staff has helped these impressive educators connect with each other and with DESE initiatives, and we are planning a recognition event for all of our recognized educators at Devens in May. We hope Board members will attend, too.

I know you will enjoy meeting the 2023 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, and I hope you will consider [nominating an educator for 2024](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7090051/2024-MA-Teacher-of-the-Year-Nomination-Form).

Attachments:

* [The Vintage: Project Vine Newsblog](https://sites.google.com/mvyps.org/project-vine/news?authuser=0)