GOLDEN APPLE AWARD PORTFOLIO
2024-2025

The Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program honors outstanding teachers, who upon induction into the Golden Apple Teacher Academy, will:

- Promote an awareness of educational excellence in their school district and encourage a partnership between the schools and the community,
- Recognize and support best practices in teaching,
- Mentor the next generation of educators, and
- Promote learning as a lifelong process.

ELIGIBILITY-(Must Meet All):

- Nominated, certified **PreK-5h grade** teacher who teaches a group of students in a classroom on a regular basis
- A minimum of **five years** of full-time teaching experience
- Currently teaching full-time in a public school or ISBE recognized non-public school in **Winnebago or Boone County**
- Employed in **good standing** within current school district

PROCESS:

- Complete portfolio packet and submit to the Golden Apple Foundation office by **5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, 2024.**
- Type or print clearly. If using a computer or word processor, you may use your own paper, but only use the amount of space and size of paper provided on the application.
- Complete four required components of the **Portfolio Packet:**
  - A. **Background Information-**Include most relevant information for this process.
  - B. **Self-Reflective Essay-**Submit no more than five double spaced, typed pages with no smaller than font size 10. *Do not* state your school's name in the essay. *Do not staple* your portfolio materials. If using page numbers, *do not* place page numbers in the upper or lower right-hand corners of any pages. ***Provide in-depth insight, including specific illustrative examples in these areas. Please use these as headings:***
    1) **Commitment you have made as an educator and how it has affected your students.**
    2) **How you challenge, monitor and manage student learning to ensure that all students reach high standards and expectations.**
    3) **Ways you involve families in the education process.**
    4) **How you address diversity in your classroom and with your students.**
    5) **How you collaborate with other educators to increase student achievement.**

    This essay is an opportunity for you to reflect on your career as an educator. Only a teacher can help others understand the deep commitment necessary in educating students. The essay allows our selection committee to understand the importance of the work you do as a teacher and helps the Golden Apple Foundation promote to the community the true significance of the education profession. The committee uses the above criteria when reviewing your portfolio.
  - C. **Letters of Recommendation-**Provide **two** letters of recommendation. Be sure at least one is from an educator familiar with your classroom teaching. Each person sending a recommendation letter must include his/her name, address and relationship to the applicant on ***non-letterhead stationery***.
  - D. **Authorization-**Attest to authorization and eligibility criteria with signature.

SEND COMPLETE PORTFOLIO PACKET TO:

Golden Apple Foundation
5301 E. State St., Suite 114, Rockford, IL 61108
Email: info@goldenappleofrockford.com

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For Office Use Only – Application #_____
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PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE:

Name:_____

Home Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone:_____ Cell Phone:_____

Personal E-mail: _____ School E-mail:_____

School:_____

School Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

School Phone:_____ School Fax: _____

Principal's Name:_____

AUTHORIZATION:

The thoughts and information expressed in this portfolio are my own and I give my permission to Golden Apple Foundation to use the enclosed information in the selection process. I hereby confirm that I meet all the eligibility criteria as listed in this portfolio.

_____
     SIGNATURE   DATE

For questions or more information, please feel free to contact the Golden Apple Foundation office.

"Thanks and Good Luck"!

Current Grade Level/Subjects:_____

*Years at Present School:*_____

Prior Grade Levels/Subjects Taught   *Years*

_____

_____

_____

Total Years Teaching Experience:_____

DEGREE   MAJOR   COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY   DATE DEGREE AWARDED

_____   _____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____   _____

Professional Recognition and Honors: _____

_____

_____

_____

Relevant Professional Development within the past 5 years:(not necessary to list all courses)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

School Related Activities/Responsibilities:_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Community Involvement: _____

_____

_____

_____

AWARDS PROCESS:

- Complete portfolio packet, including background information, essay, and two letters of recommendation.
- Submit to the Golden Apple Foundation office by 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, 2024.
- **Selection committee reviews and evaluates portfolios (with teacher identifying information omitted) based on only the following:**
    1) Background Information-page 3
    2) In-depth insight provided into the five required areas of the essay utilizing **specific illustrative examples**.
    3) Well-organized, well-written, grammatically correct essays.
    4) Two Supporting letters of recommendation.
- 20 semi-finalists selected for classroom observations by Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2024.
- Community volunteers observe and evaluate 20 finalist teachers in their classrooms between Jan. 21 and Feb. 19, 2025.
- Interviews conducted of 20 finalists Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025.
- Golden Apple awards presented to five teachers in surprise classroom visits Thursday, March 6, 2025.
- **Golden Apple Recipients and Finalists** will be honored at the Golden Apple Excellence in Education Banquet Friday, April 25, 2025, at the Tebala Event Center.

AWARDS FOR 5 GOLDEN APPLE RECIPIENTS:

- Inscribed Golden Apple
- Membership in the Golden Apple Teacher Academy
- Ticket for you and a guest to attend the Golden Apple Banquet
- Recognition at the Golden Apple Awards Banquet
- Recognition on billboards
- Cash award
- Computer
- Professional development stipend
- Rockford University scholarship

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

___ **Golden Apple Portfolio Packet**

  ___ **Completed Background Information Form**

  ___ **Self-Reflective Essay**

  ___ **Two letters of recommendation**

  ___ **Signed Authorization**

  ___ **Teacher Schedule***

*If your schedule varies depending on the week, please submit a copy of a calendar for the time frame we'll be doing observations so we know when it is an A-week, B-Week, etc.

TEACHER SCHEDULE

Name:_____   School:_____   School day start and end times: _____

Provide a detailed schedule for a typical week during the observation period. Note lunch periods, break or planning time, and class beginning and ending times. *

Class Hour & Times Room #	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Please complete both sides of this form. Include with portfolio packet.

TEACHER SCHEDULE

Name:_____   School:_____   School day start and end times: _____

Provide a detailed schedule for a typical week during the observation period. Note lunch periods, break or planning time, and class beginning and ending times. *

1. Provide an explanation of any special events or conflicts that can be predicted in your schedule during the observation period. Include date, time and event(s).

2. Provide an explanation of any special situations that may exist in your classroom that would assist observers in their understanding of your teaching responsibility. This may include special students, inclusion students, team-teaching situations, or the use of parent volunteers.