2026-2027 Golden Apple Award Nominees

All Saints Catholic Academy
Rose Beaman
Beth Hubner
Mary Ann Welch

Barbour Two-Way Language Immersion
Elizabeth Alvarez
Nidya Angeles
Kelly Caicedo
Johana Castaneda
Karla Cruz
Gerardo Esparza
Jennifer Herrera
Dennis Meachum
Lorena Moctezuma
Isabel Nevalainen
Jessica Rodriguez
Ashley Roemerman
Edith Wallace

Beyer Early Childhood Center
Kari Desai
Melissa Duchess
Eryn Frank
Ashley Jack
Alejandra Lopez-Espina
Holly Lowtharp
Julie Millard
Terri Rivas
Andrea Schaack
Vicki Sherman
Abi White

C. Henry Bloom School
Theresa Bartsch
Amie Walker
Heather White

Brookview Elementary
Margaret Brandon
Amy Durso
Mirela Gavric
Ashleigh Hannel
Sarah Kloweit
Corine Martinovich
Kelley Nguyen
Elizabeth Rhodes
Ashley Sjostrom
Lisa Thoren

Caledonia Elementary
Laura McLarty
Morgan Olbrich
Jessica Romano

Capron Elementary
Shannon Harkness
Ashlee Hilton
Sarah Kint

Carlson Elementary
Kristin Archer
Alissa Balzer
Ana Berg
Karen Bucher
Jessica Buffo
Jesenia Campos
Linda Freeland
Patricia Kinley-Fry
Tara Hammer
Nick Lassandro
Jessica Loofboro
Theresa Monson
Carly Nesmith
Leslie Neumann
Jennifer Pierson
Renee Printz
Angelica Ramos-Ortiz
Bethany Ray
Whitney Riley
Jamie Spears
Jennifer Wahl
Shelia Zuroske

Cherry Valley Elementary
Hailey Bahnick
Morgan Bauch
Alyssa Byrne
Andrea Cooper
Lauren Giddings
Heather Giebel
Elizabeth Klarner
Natalie Sommers
Billi Sparacino
Nicole Washington

Christian Life
Courtney Borrett
Molly Butts
Julie Glendenning
Ashley Johnson
Emily Jordan
Kayla Mazzari-Bankson
Allison McCutcheon

Clark Elementary
Kathryn Anderson
Laura Kurich
Amber Laue

Conklin Academy
Isabel Freedlund
Brenda Lisitza
Lindy Locsmondy
Karen Martinez-Cruz
Monse Perez Castro
Miriam Pope
Ashley Turton

Constance Lane Elementary
Kimberly Arocho
Maddison Ernst
Michele Gutzmer
Cecelia Marie Haase
Delaney Krewer
Lindsey Wells

Donald C. Parker Early Education Center
Sarah Bare
Lisa Lynn Bauer
Judith Becerra Avila
Jennifer Bell
Bri Ensor
Rachelle Erb
Jodi Graber
Lexi Kashi
Rachel Krepfle
Kristen Merrick
Kylee Semenchuk
Kathleen Summer
Sara Svetich
Amber Vausha
Kim Zaphel

Dorothy Simon Elementary
Michele Campenella
Tracy Forde
Emma Gocken
Karianne McCarty
Megan Moseley

2026-2027 Golden Apple Award Nominees

Dorothy Simon Elem. (cont'd.)
Jenny Rossol
Rebecca Yerk

Durand Elementary
Caitlin Burns
Randi Carlson
Amy Damon
Natalie Dolan
Dianna Dornink
Jamie Gooley
Caryn Hardy
Nicole Milbrath
Sue Szymanski
Nicole Trampel
Lisa Wight

Ellis Elementary
Veronica Agama
Stephanie Conus
Mario Crutchfield
Dena Dieguez
Jerilyn Dye
Michele Frazier
Emilie Godlewski
Korissa Ostic
Mikala Piamonte
Janet Salter

Fairview Early Childhood
Maha Alzoubi
Kate Blair
Giannah Boice
Andrea Hernandez
Balbina Holder
Amy Hollander
Regina Johnson
Carla Mayor
Alyssa Posch
Melissa Ruano
Ashley Smith
Courtney Zoril

Froberg Elementary
Arshee Alam
Crystal Beilfuss
Kalli Bruck
Paige Bruno
Kiara Burnell
Vanessa Carter
Doug Crawford
Kris Dahl
Ashley Dahlberg
Jessica De La Rosa
Katie Fischer
Samantha Flannery
Ashley Gordon
Katie Hawley
Amy Henson
Troy Kirshner
Katie Knox
Leslie Labeau
Nick Letsinger
Kayla Ohm
Erin Renner
Gabby Riley
Natasha Selph
Shannon Teleso Reilly
Maeve Thomas
Chris Venable
Jamie Waak

Galapagos Charter School
Cyndi Brudent
Brandi Camacho
Abaigeal Finnerty
Chase Fischer
James Grigsby
Jamie Henke
Katie Kennedy
Lauren McDermott
Elizabeth Mock

Gregory Elementary
Jessica Brackemyer
Beth Kellerman
Joseph Kowalski
Christine Lawson
Carolina Lopez
Monica Lowenthal
Mariela Marin
MariAnn Morton
Amanda Nguyen
Vanessa Posadas
Natalie Sales
Anthony Stone
Erin Tulley

Hillman Elementary
Nicole Adams
Rosa Arreguin
Jaime Doubek
Misty Eisenbraun
Heather Hecker
Jennifer King
Lisa Mund
Trisha Scott
Crystal Vanderheyden
Claudia Velasco
Jason Yates

Holy Family Catholic School
Vincenza Becker
Angela Christensen
Sarah Fey
Libby Hoffman
Hailey Jansen
Holly Johnson
Sarah Laudicina
Debbie Lunnon
Patricia Nelson
Julie Seivert
Cheri White

Jean McNair Elementary
Katie Dill
Sam Eden
Tracy Miller
Jessica Nelson
Shayleigh Nelson
Chelsie Wandell

Julia Lathrop Elementary
Amy Breese
Connie Mayer
Jenny Oswald
Ylda Rodarte
Mayra Rodriguez
Gabriela Saavedra
Jennifer Valdez

Kinnikinnick School
Grace Gatto
Amy Hill
Jill Nosbisch
Amy Lewis
Kyle Orendorff
Christian Ralston
Blake Read
Emily Reinders
Elizabeth Wecker

2026-2027 Golden Apple Award Nominees

Ledgewood Elementary
Renee Cassioppi
Traci Cutler
Kiley Doherty
Melissa Lawrence
Emily McDonald
Rene Miller
Ashlee Phetteplace
Mandi Plock
Kassandra Rakuc
Avery Ramlow
Courtney Samuelson
Ashley Weidman
Julie Wiest

Legacy Academy of Excellence
Misty Clark
Hillary Simmons

Lewis Lemon Elementary
Beth Ackerman
Abeni Copeland
Kathryn Kilgore
Leonard Mackey
Suzette Ramos
Rose Richard
Chelsie Rundall
Renee Tapp

Lincoln Elementary
Kara Anderson
Kristen Curtis
Melissa Diaz
Abby Dornbush
Alicia Grawey

Loves Park Elementary
Amber Black
Denise Campbell
David Cleveland
Cheri Dilley
Christina Gregerson
Sara Jacobson
Kelli Kiger
Kassidy McKenna
Scott Mellentine
Beth Oliveri
Amy Phillips
Natasha Walsh

Machesney Elementary
Preston Barr
Rachael Erickson
Rebecca Martin
Rena Rush
Elena Schelling-Tufte
Sarah Warner
Moriah Wegner

Manchester Elementary
Laura Blomquist
Lauren Boyce
Tammy Dunbar
Sarah Fleming
Abigail Hopkins
Terri Weiser
Richard Williams

Maria Montessori at Marsh
Erin Andrews
Kymbre Callaway
Julie Foltmer
Laurie Davis-DeVries
Leslie Hamilton
Megan Holmes
Elizabeth Johnson
Rebecca Johnson
Melissa Kelly
Adrienne Smith
Damon Wurth

Marquette Elementary
Ann Bratko
Emily Breakfield
Holly Carlson
Lauren Conklin
Christine Franklin
Mary Jo Hittington
Haylee Horkheimer
Meredith Hughes
Sarah Jacobson
Julie Miller
Marissa Sati
Erica Wahler
Corine Wehrle

Maud E. Johnson Elementary
Cynthia Bowley
Dana Holmin
Kim Jirak
Abbie Kerr
Leslie Mann
Shannon Milam
Mindy Minor
Neda Skakavac

McIntosh Elementary
Resha Allen
McKenzie Dixon
Kaitlyn Feehan
Holly Janowski
Zeovon Lyons
Carrie Mickle
Stacee Proper
Andrea Robins
Elizabeth Jane Scholberg
Jon Solverson

Meehan Elementary
Jhoam Isaac Albornoz
Rhea Balsley
Nailybeth Berrios
Carolina Bonilla Eslava
Joceline Caceres Ballesteros
Rafael Duran Calixto
Matt Fleury
Krista Goldie
Aimee Hansen
Annie Heidemann
Rebecca Kamp
Alicia Kufalk
Katie Larrabee
Robert Leese
Sierra Leitner
Megan Propp
Linda Smith
Dana Stanley
Lisa Wisely

Nashold Early Childhood
Raylene Bell
Devin Busch
Rachel Casazza
Karla Delamora
Kelly Hill
Hannah McGuire
Nina Neilson
Sherrie Norman
Courtney Parson
Emily Salinas
Melissa Saucedo

2026-2027 Golden Apple Award Nominees

Nashold Early Childhood (cont'd.)
Karla Surface
Katrina Vargas

North Boone Upper Elementary
Elaine Ahrens
Randal Greenfield
Amanda Hahn
Brenda Kamholz
Eileen Moran
Matthew Protz
Heidi Surratt
Michael Wesbecher

Pecatonica Community Middle School
Milana Bergstrom
Johanna Hoffman
Brooke Hurt
Kaitlin Koester

Pecatonica Elementary
Amanda Benney
Tina Clark
Sydney DeWall
Sarah Dulaney
Megan Garcia
Angela Hoffman
Jessica Lalowski
Eric Meyer
Chelsea Rawhoof
Katie Sneek

Poplar Grove Elementary
Lynn Brody
Natalie Engelman
Krystal Jole
Lindsey Keppel
Megan Laing
Sandy Moon
Codelyn Willis

Prairie Hill Elementary
Valerie Baumann
Alison Bowers
Hanna Chiodini
Jacki Davenport
Amy Estvander
Jenny Francik
Erin Gissel
Krystle James
Ashley Kentner
Kelly Rogers
Mackenzie Wagoner

Ralston Elementary
Sarah Askeland
Jay Bigwood
Abby Derry
Bobby Heisler
Jonathan Herrera
Ingrid Hyde
Taylor Nuelle
Doris Pearson
Beth Schmidt
Brittany Schmidt
Joanna Stoneham
Carrie Whitmire

Riverdahl Elementary
Elizabeth Cummings
Rylie Kowitzke
Hannah Lake
Addy Olson
Kayla Stockton
Jeannette Trava

Riverview Elementary
Wendy Breit
Jamie Chu
Jessica Dobson
Jennifer Eeg
Kathryn Helton
Katelyn Kehrer
Kelly Williams

Rock Cut Elementary
Megan Coslovich
Jennifer Fausett
Jenny Focci
Kristi Hart
Kaila Masters
Kimberly Slick
Miranda Smith
Rachel Zitzke

Rockford Christian
Jackie Anderson
Julie Bartel
Kris Gargani
Lori Granite
Jen Harty
Coe Johnson
Megan Kirkham
Anna Lentini
Kristen Love
Cory Park
Beth Ann Riggins
Stacy Riley
Lori Wells

Rockford Iqra
Zainat Abufannas
Ambreen Azmat
Andrea Gutierrez
Jennifer Luhman

Rockford Lutheran School
Delica Austin
Heather Barefield
Joni Carlson
Holly Choppa
Jennifer Fustin
Haley Helt
Stephanie Miller
Kenlyn Nitz
Cheri Schmid

Rockton Grade School
Betsy Atkins
April Graves
Samantha Hawkinson
Madison Jarka
Paige Lanning
Rachel Maddix
Brian Martin
Arisa Midgett
Jessica Polnow
Jamise Roberts
Erin Rollinson
Mary Spors
Amy Stevens
Mary Vosberg
Rachel Wilkinson

Rolling Green Elementary
Zaman Al-Shameri
Gail Beck
Nicole Brickey
Jessica Correa
Alexia Derrer

2026-2027 Golden Apple Award Nominees

Rolling Green Elem. (cont'd.)
Rachel Harder
Amal Hindi
Abigail Key
Mary Beth Laubenstein
Whitney Mohr
Sara Tanaglia Jones
Katherine Weinand

Roosevelt Early Childhood
Angela Turner

Seth Whitman Elementary
Lindsey Abbott
Nicole Busker
Mireya Gloria
Caitlin Leese
Amy Lindell
Angi Manalli
Eliana Postigo
Carolyn Schlie
Sue Thomas

Shirland Elementary
Ciara James
Kimberly Tenner

SOAR Academy
Amy Pepple

Spectrum Progressive School of Rockford
Shelley Forss

Spring Creek Elementary
Christina Badgley
Claudine Conner
Rebecca Currie
Kelcey Dodd
Sarah Greenberg
Jane Guerrero
Rachael Hill
Lindsay Johnson
Coleen Lancaster
Bradley Lauman
Lauren Osterberg
Jessica Owen
Aaron Park
Brian Quitno
Paula Rabon
James Sati
Rachel Shippert
Jennifer Tilford
Carol Tukker

St. Bridget Catholic School
Tressa Appino
Laura Burkins
Carrie Lee
Nancy Ryan

St. Rita Catholic School
Cheryl Benson
Bianca Sutherland

STEAM Academy at Haskell
Tammy Altensey
Emily Darnell
Rachel Didier
Jessica Frint
Amy Pliml
Rani Russell
Deanna Shere
Alexis Trank

Stone Creek Elementary
Isabella Fluehr
Rachel Foster
Melissa Franzen
Stacy Gazouski
Kelli Greenfield
Ann Johnson
Sarah Swanson

Summerdale Early Childhood
Jill Cascio
Abigail Crose
Jayde Dye
Denise Gibbons
Kelli Girardin
Summer Gomez
Rachel McIntyre
Tasneem Mumtaz
Cheryl Webster

Thurgood Marshall Elementary
Kathleen Churchville
Abir Hussameldin
Jean Johnson
Deborah Krug
Molly Lilja

Thurgood Marshall Middle
Kimberly Ball
Ryan Brown
Kimberly Foreman
Kelli Johnson
Jennifer Nowicki
Tiffany Thomas

Washington Acad. (Belvidere)
Angela Doss
Adriana Mandujano-Black
Julia Mortimer
Heather Nelson
Linda Zavala
Jessica Zych

Washington Elem. (Rockford)
Angela Anderson
Jeneva Davis
Katheryn Lundine
Erik Manriquez
Madeline Nevalainen
Ana Medina Ocampo
Alma Sooby
Carly Stone
Fanny Valdez

Welsh Elementary
Jenna Evett
Stefanie Fictum
Leah Haney
Anthony Jones
Rori Regan
Christopher Reuter

West View Elementary
Selina Diaz
Alexandra Graham
Angela Hulsey
Brittany Motz
Kennedy Powers
Lukas Roselle
Franchesca Schiro
Alyssa Stout

Whitehead Elementary
Stacy Andersen
Jessica Blumm
Kristine Caballero
Denise DeLeon
Jessica DeLeon

2026-2027 Golden Apple Award Nominees

Whitehead Elem. (cont'd.)
Theresa Denny
Chante Ely
Natalie Emanuel
Susanna Finley
Maria Garcia
Katelyn Gilg
Kristina Kasten
Alicia Latasa
Deanna Lemke
Dalia Lerma-Suh
Trisha Lewis
Veronica Martinez
Claire Mathiesen
Yael Maya
Hector Montano
Patricia Moreno
Kasey Morgenstern
Nicole Morris
Miriam Ramirez
Michelle Reece
Alexis Resendiz
Ashton Romine
Luis Ruvira
Diana Vincent
Natalie Wallner
Todd Wilson
Yasmine Zavala

Whitman Post Elementary
Shelia Ball
Amy Bigwood
Laura Brooks
Stori Dimke
Megan Genens
Taylor Jacobi
Katie Kuhn
Emily Larson
Andrea Leitner
Amanda Mathews
Molly Parker
Mikhaela Slovacek
Lindsey Tackeberry
Taylor Williams

Willowbrook Middle School
Sara Betti
Kira Cangelosi
Erika Goodsell
Melissa Henschel
Anna Tapia
Danielle Vanek
Tyler Zimmerman

Windsor Elementary
Nichole Dyreson
Toni Holmes
Dana Larson
Jennifer Licari
Caitlin MacRoy
Tara Smith
Amy Theien

Winnebago County Special Education Co-Op
Lyndsey Hansas
Jessica O'Keefe

Teacher Academy (teachers who have previously received the Golden Apple award)
Crystal Ellis
Shannon Fisher
Kelli Houghton
Brad Koloch
Jelena Holcomb
Holly Hunt
Amy Meier
Sarah Meyers
Heidi Milner
Gabrielle Nunez-Reagan
Alyssa Passmore
Lisa Robinson
Sarah Shoevlin
Gina Tuula

Retired or no Longer Teaching
Margarita Santana
Jennifer Diamond
Mary Murphy
Julia Gallagher
Michael Rhines

Unknown/Not Verified
Mr. Kelly
Kelli Balsman
Mrs. Champassack
Mrs. Schrader
Jordyn Lott
Regina Smith
Melissa Perry
Shelby Szwiec
Jasmin Daniel
Mrs. Jao
Kaitlynn Williams