

## Patience Norman Prize for Teacher Excellence



Enclosed in this packet are all the essential materials related to making a nomination for the Patience Norman Prize.

- There are two sections, background information and the nomination form.
- The second page is background information. It is a summary of the guidelines for administration to give those making a nomination a clearer picture of the prize and the process for selecting a candidate.
- Finally, at the end of the packet is a nomination form.
- Completed nomination packets are to be returned to the Superintendent's Office of MSAD #52 or mailed directly to that office by October 15 (postmarked by):

MSAD #52  
Patience Norman Prize Nominee  
486 Turner Center Road  
Turner, ME 04282

## **Patience W. Norman Prize for Teacher Excellence**

**Prize:** \$5,000.00

**Nomination Deadline:** October 15 (postmarked by)

### **Background:**

Patience Norman was a history teacher with a fine, inquisitive mind who believed her students were capable of academic excellence. Miss Norman required her students to work hard and challenged them to surpass her, and their own, expectations. The Patience W. Norman Prize for Teacher Excellence has been established at the Maine Community Foundation to recognize outstanding, full-time teachers in MSAD 52 who emulate her education philosophy. Teachers who stimulate intellectual curiosity, raise aspirations and demand critical thinking in their classrooms are eligible. The donors' hope is to promote teacher retention by recognizing – through the award and its attendant recognition – an educator who exemplifies excellence in teaching.

### **Evaluation Criteria:**

Recipients should have a demonstrated commitment to SAD 52 as evidenced by their tenure (minimum of five years). The establishers of the award further measure excellence in teaching by demonstrating one or more of the following:

- Unusual impact and effectiveness in the classroom
- Commitment to students, including responsibility and concern for academic progress
- Creativity and innovation in teaching
- Leadership that provides a positive model for students

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

Full-time teachers with a minimum tenure of five years in MSAD 52 are eligible to be nominated for this award. Teachers who stimulate intellectual curiosity, raise aspirations and demand critical thinking in their classrooms are eligible. Recipients may be re-nominated and will be considered after a hiatus of one year.

Use of award: Use of the award is at the recipient's discretion. The Maine Community Foundation welcomes written feedback from recipients about the usefulness and meaning of the award at 245 Main Street, Ellsworth, ME 04605.

**Patience W. Norman Prize for Teacher Excellence  
Nomination Forms  
Deadline for Submission: October 15 (postmarked by)**

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Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Hire Date in MSAD 52 \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Person Making Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

The Patience W. Norman Prize for Teacher Excellence is awarded annually to a teacher in MSAD 52 with tenure of at least five years who exhibits one or more of the following qualities:

- Unusual impact and effectiveness in the classroom
- Commitment to students, including responsibility and concern for academic progress
- Creativity and innovation in teaching
- Leadership that provides a positive model for students

**Please complete the nomination process by filling out the above information and by writing a summary statement of how your nominee meets the prize criteria. Only completed application packets will be considered.**

Please submit this nomination form and your statement, postmarked by October 15, to:

Superintendent of Schools, MSAD 52  
Patience Norman Prize Nominee  
486 Turner Center Road  
Turner, ME 04282

## **Patience Norman Prize For Teacher Excellence**

Following this paragraph are ten attributes that represent the criteria for selecting the Patience Norman Prize recipient. These descriptors are the qualities of an outstanding teacher and form the basis for the committee to determine the teacher most deserving of this recognition. As a final step in the nomination process, please submit a summary statement based on one or more of these attributes. The committee is seeking first-person accounts and concrete examples that demonstrate that the teacher being nominated exemplifies the attributes of an outstanding teacher. You may write your summary on Page 8 or attach it as an addendum to this nomination form.

### **Attributes**

#### **Effectiveness as a Classroom Teacher**

The teacher is proactive in meeting individual student needs and seeks out the necessary resources to ensure such needs are met. The teacher's lessons have a clearly defined structure that includes the essential elements of quality teaching: student engagement, exploration of new learning, appropriate pacing of lessons, questioning to develop higher order thinking skills and lesson closure to ensure student understanding.

#### **Creativity and Innovation in the Classroom**

The teacher is always seeking to improve his/her craft. He/she understands the importance of professional development and is willing to try new techniques that will improve his/her respective skills. A primary focus of the teacher is the effective use of new knowledge and research to improve instruction along with the willingness to share that expertise with others.

#### **Impact on Student Learning**

The ultimate indicator of quality teachers and their ability is the academic success of their students. Through the use of formative and summative assessment data, the teacher plans instruction that is relevant for all students, thereby promoting academic growth in all children, from those that are gifted and to those who are challenged by the fundamental tasks of their respective grade level. Ultimately, student achievement will be the best objective indicator of the teacher's classroom ability.

#### **Ability to Raise Aspirations of Students**

The teacher inspires students to think about the world around them and helps them see the possibilities that it has to offer. Likewise, the teacher challenges students to consider where they want to be in that world, fostering within students the belief that they can fulfill their dreams if they are willing to work hard enough to achieve them. Students of Patience Norman indicate she showed greater belief in the potential of her students than they often showed in themselves.

**Commitment to Students**

The teacher understands that the work of a teacher cannot be quantified, that a commitment to students and their education means doing whatever it takes to help children learn. The teacher will question unfair practices that adversely affect children including teaching methodology that does not support student learning. The teacher also understands that learning transcends the classroom and daily class work and seeks to find other ways to help students grow.

**Role Model for Students**

The hallmark of the teacher is the demonstrated respect for others, especially students, and the insistence that all classroom members honor those criteria. The teacher consistently exemplifies the positive attributes that accompany an adult that is to be respected and in doing so causes students to see this teacher as someone to be looked up to.

**High Expectations for Students**

The establishment of high expectations are maintained and supported for all students. When observing the students it is clear that they take obvious pride in their learning and the teacher in his/her teaching. In this teacher's classroom, both students and the teacher initiate improvements in each respective area.

**Commitment to Teaching Profession**

The teacher is an active participant in and is supportive of the educational decision making process. He/she attends and actively contributes to committees, meetings, and events at school and at the district level. The teacher provides leadership in professional development and demonstrates the effective use of new knowledge and/or research to improve instruction.

**Ability to Raise Aspirations of Colleagues**

The passion and excitement that this teacher demonstrates for the profession causes other staff to members to become excited as well. The teacher demonstrates such a love for children and for teaching that they inspire other colleagues to raise their expectations for their own students and therefore increase their commitment to the profession.

**Role Model for Peers**

The teacher communicates respectfully with others and consistently fosters a positive work climate. The teacher maintains confidentiality and models the highest level of professionalism at all times. In all day-to-day actions, whether it is the classroom or playground, a meeting or an informal interaction, the teacher's commitment to the teaching profession is always evident.

## **Summary Recommendation**

Please provide a written summary of the characteristics of the teacher being nominated. Whenever possible, please provide first-person accounts and stories that demonstrate how the nominee has met the criteria for being considered for the Patience Norman Prize. You may submit your summary on this page or attach it as an addendum to this nomination form.