

PRESS RELEASE



CONTACT

Kathleen C. Greider, Superintendent of Schools
(860) 673-8268
greiderk@fpsct.org

For Immediate Release: September 16, 2020

MR. PATRICK KEEGAN, WWUES TEACHER, IS AWARDED THE 2019-2020 MAA EDYTH MAY SLIFFE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING MATHEMATICS

Superintendent Kathleen C. Greider and the Farmington Board of Education are proud to announce that Mr. Patrick Keegan, Mathematics Teacher at West Woods Upper Elementary School (WWUES), has been recognized by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) as one of ten nationally recognized recipients of the **2019-2020 Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished Mathematics Teaching**.

Mr. Keegan has been teaching advanced math for grade 6 at WWUES since 2002. He coaches the MathCounts and Math Olympiads for Elementary and Middle School teams and also hosts the American Math Competition (AMC) and international AreteLabs competitions. The teams have found great success at multiple levels of competition. Mr. Keegan's guidance and instruction have enabled students to flourish in their mathematics courses at Irving Robbins Middle School, Farmington High School, and beyond. According to the MAA, recipients of the Edyth May Sliffe Award must prove to have a profound effect on students' interest in mathematics through an increase in number of students participating in AMC competitions, an improvement in AMC scores, and through efforts to engage students in pursuing mathematics-related activities outside the classroom.

Felicia Wang, one of several former WWUES students who nominated Mr. Keegan for the prestigious award, stated, "Mr. Keegan has greatly impacted the learning of many of his students through his willingness to explore new topics, share available resources, nurture curiosity, and instill a growth mindset. By curating an environment for fun, collaborative problem-solving, with interesting problems and delicious donuts, Mr. Keegan made math team meetings fun rather than tedious. He introduced various students to the exciting world of competition math, which eventually led them to take and succeed on the AMC 8, 10, and 12. Thus, numerous students, parents of students, and colleagues of his have been impacted by his dedication and love for mathematics and enthusiastically nominated Patrick Keegan for this award."

WWUES Principal, Dr. Katie Blore expressed, "Mr. Keegan is an exceptional educator, who focuses on supporting students to meet challenging expectations in a highly collaborative classroom environment. He is committed to strengthening student understanding and problem-solving through authentic learning opportunities. Students in Mr. Keegan's classes are supported in their innovative work and parents/guardians are partners in their child's learning. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated teachers in our West Woods school community and we are thrilled that Mr. Keegan has been honored with the MAA Excellence in Teaching Mathematics Award."

Superintendent Greider stated, "We are so proud to recognize Mr. Keegan for this prestigious national recognition. The fact that former students were inspired to nominate Mr. Keegan for this award makes the recognition even that more special. In Farmington, the foundation of all that we do is based on cultivating strong relationships with students, families and colleagues as well as excellence in education. The MAA Edyth May Sliffe Excellence in Teaching Mathematics Award is a reflection of Mr. Keegan's commitment to building and sustaining strong relationships with his students, parents and colleagues as well as ensuring excellence in mathematics instruction and learning. Please join me in congratulating and celebrating Mr. Keegan for this impressive national recognition."

Upon learning of his nomination, Mr. Keegan stated, "The award is primarily related to instilling a desire to pursue mathematics learning, including participation in competitions, from grade six through high school. I have worked with many of my former students through tenth and eleventh grades to prepare them for the prestigious American Mathematics Competitions, grades 8, 10, and 12. For all of those students, their desire to learn more was very high, and I'm a firm believer in capitalizing on that youthful enthusiasm when the opportunity presents itself and to cultivate it for as long as possible. I've worked with students outside of school hours on advanced topics pursuits, answered numerous questions via email correspondence, and provided opportunities for taking competitions that otherwise would not have been as accessible to them. I am honored to be a part of Farmington Public Schools and a 2019-2020 recipient of the Edyth May Sliffe Award."

We look forward to celebrating Mr. Keegan at an upcoming Farmington Board of Education meeting. He will also be honored at the annual, national MAA conference in Sacramento, CA next summer.