



NEWS RELEASE

Utah State Board of Education

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Salt Lake City Sixth Grade Teacher Named 2021 Utah Teacher of the Year

SALT LAKE CITY – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson today named John Arthur, a sixth grade teacher at Salt Lake City’s Meadowlark Elementary School as 2021 Utah Teacher of the Year.

Arthur, of Bluffdale, was presented with a check for \$10,000 and will compete with his state fellow teachers of the year in a national competition. He will participate in a number of state and national leadership opportunities.

Copper Hills High School (Jordan School District) American Sign Language teacher Rae Boren and Eastmont Middle School (Canyons School District) Career and Technical Education teacher Emma Moss were each named runners up and will receive \$4,000.

A committee with representatives from the Utah State Board of Education, the Utah State Charter School Board, parents, teachers, principals, and 2020 Utah Teacher of the Year Lauren E. Merkley selected Arthur from among local teachers of the year for the honor.

“He is not a normal teacher,” wrote Felicia Raybourne, the mother of one of Arthur’s former pupils. “He is there to help kids through life. He makes sure his students understand everything they are

learning no matter how much extra time it takes. Mr. Arthur took my daughter to chess and debate tournaments, opportunities I never thought she'd have. She also learned to take school seriously, and now she enjoys school so much."

"John works tirelessly to improve his teaching craft," wrote Meadowlark Assistant Principal Wayne Culley. "He tutors students before and after school no matter which grade or school they are enrolled in. He helps future students in younger grades, students from Northwest (Middle School) and the high schools. Students and families know his generosity, love, and dedication. He believes in all students no matter their past or current struggles."

Arthur succeeds Merkley, an English teacher at Granite School District's Cottonwood High School, as 2021 Utah Teacher of the Year.

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