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Mequon-Thiensville School District Names Outstanding Educators of the Year *Two Homestead Teachers Honored with Prestigious Award*

MEQUON, WI. — Mequon-Thiensville School District is pleased to announce that Joseph Ciurlik and John Emanuelson have received the District's 2014 – 2015 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award.

The award recipients were nominated by their colleagues for their continued professionalism and educational excellence. Once nominated, staff members are asked to complete a robust application process. A selection committee reviews the applications and votes on award distribution at the district level. Additionally, the committee offers consideration to forwarding the nominations for competition at the state level.

Joseph Ciurlik currently teaches Honors American Studies Government and AVID 9, 11, 12 at Homestead High School. Mr. Ciurlik's colleagues say his "love of learning and passion for teaching makes him one of the most innovative, forward-thinking educators." He is dedicated to helping struggling students by offering additional support before school, at lunch, during prep, after school or over the weekend.

John Emanuelson, Homestead High School Director of Orchestras, was nominated by a colleague for his "commitment to providing an outstanding music education to the young people in the Mequon-Thiensville community." Mr. Emanuelson has a special connection with his students that includes a high-level of mutual respect and encouragement.

"I am honored to work alongside Mr. Ciurlik and Mr. Emanuelson," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Demond Means. "Their leadership and dedication in educating all students is one reason the Mequon-Thiensville School District ranked as the top performing K-12 district for two consecutive years."

Mr. Ciurlik and Mr. Emanuelson are now eligible to apply for the Herb Kohl Fellowship Award.

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