Superintendent’s 2022 Teacher of the Year Remarks

If you google “words to describe New York City,” the first result is a link to Quora.com asking, “If you could describe New York City in 10 words, what would it be?”

Now, besides the obvious grammatical error in Quora’s question, the words submitted by New York City resident Glen North stood out among the responses. What did he write?

- Exhausting
- Exhilarating
- Diverse
- Fast-Paced
- Humbling
- Inspiring
- Non-stop
- Evolving
- Challenging
- Unforgettable

“It’s a city of dichotomies, exhausting and exhilarating, humbling and inspiring. It’s one of the hardest cities you’ll ever live in but if you survive you’ll never be able to live anywhere else.”

I’m going to read Mr. North’s list one more time, but this time listen as if he is describing the teaching profession instead of his beloved city.

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Who knew that teaching and New York City were so comparable?

Just as a student traditionally would give his/her teacher an apple as a thank you, we offer you the Big Apple this evening as a thank you.
• Thank you for excelling in this exhausting, fast-paced, and ever evolving profession.
• Thank you for providing exhilarating, diverse, inspiring, and unforgettable experiences for your students.
• Thank you and your families for the many daily sacrifices you have made to put your students’ futures first, and
• Thank you for building blocks instead of barriers.

I would also like to say thank you to the people who made it possible for us to visit NYC tonight. Please hold your applause until everyone has been recognized.

• Shell Norco for their generous donation in sponsoring tonight’s event and Cox Communications

• Our Master of Ceremonies – Brian Gough

• Satellite Center Team Member Briana Gilmore for leading the Invocation and Benediction

• Talented Music Teacher Mike Townsend for providing the voice talent for the Teachers of the Year grand entrance

• Satellite Center Advanced TV Broadcasting team members and facilitator Jordan Reid for production assistance

• Public Information Department
  o Director, Stevie Crovetto
  o Coordinators, Regina McMillan & Mason Dauphin
  o Senior Secretary, Stacey DeJean

Please join me in thanking all of the people who have worked so hard to make this a special and memorable event!!!

This has truly been a year like no other. Just when we thought life was getting back to normal, we were introduced to a new challenge – Hurricane Ida – followed by the surge of Omicron. Therefore, I would like to add a word to our list of adjectives – **Resilient**.

Once again, our teachers embraced the challenges provided by the hurricane and pandemic and welcomed the opportunity to reimagine education. After this exhausting year of resiliency and holiday make-up days, I hope each of you get the opportunity to get away and relax this summer. As a small token of appreciation, each of our 16 teachers of the year is being given a personalized travel bag to use when they visit New York or wherever their destination may be. Please bring home the bag and the picture on your table this evening.
• Exhausting
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• Challenging
• Unforgettable
• RESILIENT

Congratulations! You make us proud!