



2022 LOUISIANA TEACHER + PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

The Louisiana Department of Education is proud to announce the 2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year winners. These educators are making exceptional gains with students, guiding them to achieve at the highest levels in the state. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

All Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists and semifinalists were honored at the 15th Annual Cecil. J. Picard Educator Excellence Gala Celebration, which was held virtually this year. This exciting event was co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

2022 OVERALL TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Annelise Cassar Tedesco

St. Bernard Parish

Twitter: [@AnneliseCassar](#)

Mrs. Annelise Cassar Tedesco currently serves as Vocal Music Teacher and Music Director for CHS Voices, Chalmette High School's Music Theatre and Vocal Arts program. She has taught at Chalmette High School since 2008. An alumna of St. Bernard Parish Public Schools and valedictorian of Chalmette High School's graduating class of 2002, Annelise graduated from Loyola University New Orleans, summa cum laude. At Chalmette High School, she has coached multiple finalists in the Donald W. Wood Sr. Vocal Competition. She has also coordinated and traveled with students to competitions, performances and auditions in Chicago, Orlando, Syracuse and New York City, where students have earned multiple awards, scholarships and performed on the stage of the New Amsterdam Theatre. Additionally, Annelise works to create a more vibrant, student-centered environment which has created equitable learning opportunities for all. She also serves as Music Director for St. Bernard's Performing Arts Academy. No stranger to the concert or theatrical stage herself, some of her performance credits include Mahler for the Children of Aids and Beethoven for the Indus Valley, two benefit concerts at Carnegie Hall to raise funds and public awareness for global pediatric AIDS and victims of the 2010 Pakistani floods, respectively. She also maintains her professional singing career on a weekly basis at Trinity Episcopal Church on Jackson Avenue. Most recently, Annelise was honored to be the soprano soloist for Handel's Messiah in a collaborative concert with musicians from the Symphony Chorus of New Orleans, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and Chalmette High's own CHS Voices Varsity Chorale.

2022 OVERALL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



Marco French

Caddo Parish

Twitter: [@mdfrench01](#)

Mr. Marco French proudly serves as principal of Queensborough Elementary School in Shreveport, Louisiana. His incredible story of faithfulness, perseverance, and resilience is inspiring. Being taught the importance of pride, dignity, and dedication, has led French to accomplish transformative work. French started this journey as a substitute teacher at Atkins Elementary in 2003. In January 2010, the winds shifted and he pursued a career in education. Certified, this powerhouse educator extended his wings, and he became a beacon of light within his school and district. Named principal of Queensborough Elementary in 2017, a failing school since 1999, Queensborough faced state takeover. Despite the challenges of high mobility rates, poverty, and a crime stricken neighborhood, French accepted no excuses. He worked diligently in establishing relationships with the community and his students. In two years, French took what appeared impossible and made it possible. The community invested in the school once again, improving the neighborhood. Under French's leadership, the school experienced tremendous growth as evidenced by being removed from the state's academically failing list, receiving recognition as Louisiana's Outstanding School, and ranking #1 of the Top 10 High Performing Schools for 3rd Grade Literacy Progress and Growth (2019). Queensborough was also recognized for having the highest growth in the district with 93.7% progress index and school performance score increase of 8 points. French received his Bachelors of Science in Education from Grambling State University and earned his Masters of Science in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University.

2022 TEACHER DIVISION WINNERS



KAITLYN RICHARD

Elementary School – Beauregard Parish



ERNEST HILL

Middle School – Richland Parish



BRITTINI MATTHEWS

High School – Zachary Community
School District

2022 PRINCIPAL DIVISION WINNERS



KAREN ROBERTSON

Elementary School – Vernon Parish



JEREMY MUSE

Middle School – Ascension Parish



RONNIE HARVEY, JR.

High School – Calcasieu Parish

2022 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



MICHELLE LEWIS

Iberville Parish



MICHELE PELLISSIER

Jefferson Parish



COURTNEY MARTIN

Lincoln Parish



ANGELA GOODLY

Orleans Parish



ANGELA LEACH

Ouachita Parish

2022 PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



DAVID THRASH

Bossier Parish



CLAUDETTE PERKINS

East Baton Rouge Parish



JOHN HILL

Livingston Parish



LACEY MOREL BUECHE

Pointe Coupee Parish



KEVIN DUGAS

St. Martin Parish

2022 TEACHER OF THE YEAR SEMIFINALISTS

LORIE MILLER
Allen Parish

RHEA BLANCHARD
Assumption Parish

CICELY JACOB
Avoyelles Parish

STEVE BROWN
Bossier Parish

CARRIE LORIDANS
Caddo Parish

COURTNEY KING
Cameron Parish

KOBIE GRIFFIN
Central Community
School District

KARARI HANKS
City of Monroe
School District

ANDREA TINSLEY
Claiborne Parish

LEAH DARDEN
DeSoto Parish

KAYLA JOSEPH
Evangeline Parish

INDYA PRUITT
Franklin Parish

JEFF KENIMER
Rapides Parish

BRIAN GOUGH
St. Charles Parish

VICTORIA ROUSSEL
St. James Parish

2022 PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR SEMIFINALISTS

CHEVONDA LEONARD
Jackson Parish

SELENA GOMES
Jefferson Davis Parish

GINGER RICHARD
Lafayette Parish

GREGORY COOK
Lafourche Parish

MARY WILKS-KILGORE
Lincoln Parish

ANNA LINCOLN
Plaquemines Parish

JOHN DICKEY III
Red River Parish

CYNTHIA LEWING
Sabine Parish

BECKY LOUQUE
St. James Parish

KELLIE RABALAIS
St. Landry Parish

SHANTELL TOUPS
St. Mary Parish

AMY BARROW
St. Tammany Parish

DARRELL DILLARD
Terrebonne Parish

PATRICIA GASPARD
Vermilion Parish

**CASSANDRA "CASSY"
BROU**
West Baton Rouge
Parish

