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New Hampshire

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Pembroke educator named 2024 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

CONCORD, NH (October 5, 2023) — Elizabeth Duclos, a teacher at Pembroke Hill School in Pembroke, was named New Hampshire’s 2024 Teacher of the Year during a surprise celebration on Thursday.

Selected from a pool of more than 300 nominees, Duclos was chosen for her incredible work ethic, insightful thinking, expertise in education and ongoing work to ensure that each student receives the support they deserve to succeed.

Duclos has taught for 16 years. Since 2010, she has worked for the Pembroke School District, currently serving as a third-grade teacher at Pembroke Hill School and previously serving as a first-grade teacher at Pembroke Village School and Pembroke Hill School. Earlier in her career, Duclos worked at Shaker Road School in Concord where she was a second and fourth-grade teacher.

“Elizabeth Duclos will serve as an ambassador for all of the excellent teachers throughout the state, as she is committed to creating and delivering instruction that meets students where they are, challenges them to try their best and empowers them to grow as learners and individuals,” said Frank Edelblut, education commissioner. “New Hampshire is lucky to have an engaging educator who is devoted to creating young learners who feel their work has both meaning and importance. Today, we celebrate Duclos and her efforts to foster resilient students who are motivated to succeed and thrive.”

Principal Wendy Gerry of Pembroke Hill School described Duclos as a valued member of the school family whose insightful thinking and willingness to participate has made impactful changes to the student experience at Pembroke Hill School. “When you walk into her learning environment, it is evident that the students feel valued and safe to take risks in their learning,” said Gerry. “... Her ability to connect with students is truly superior.”

In her application essay, Duclos wrote, “Successful students in my classroom are confident in their abilities and trust themselves to try, even if that risk may end up in failure, which I teach is a way to grow,” adding that a successful student is one who puts forth their best effort – academically and socially – as a unique individual.

Duclos will now be in the running for the National Teacher of the Year. At the end of November, the semi-finalists, finalists and Duclos will be invited to a Leadership in Education Banquet to celebrate their accomplishments along with other distinguished educators in the state.

“Each year we are amazed by the top talent and high-quality applicants considered throughout the rigorous Teacher of the Year selection process. With an unprecedented number of nominations and applications this year, New Hampshire is proud to have such an impressive field of educators,” said Christine Brennan, deputy commissioner of education.

“The Teacher of the Year program is a perfect opportunity to shine a light on the good work that our teachers are doing every day. For me, being a part of this process is an honor and a privilege,” said Valerie Sununu, New Hampshire’s First Lady and member of the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee. “I’d like to thank every applicant and finalist for taking the time to share their craft and for the inspiration and hope for the future of education.”

