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OAKLAND COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Lamphere Teacher to Receive \$2,000 from Oakland Schools Education Foundation

WATERFORD, MI – March 25, 2013 – Earlier today, representatives of Oakland Schools together with The Lamphere Schools' administrators knocked on the classroom door of John Page Middle School teacher, Hadeel Azzo, to announce she had been selected as the 2013 Oakland County Outstanding Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Azzo, West Bloomfield, Michigan, began her teaching career in 2008, and has been teaching at John Page Middle School in Madison Heights since that time. Azzo was selected from a pool of 18 middle school nominees by a committee comprised of education and community representatives. Candidates are evaluated in six areas: Engaging students, meeting individual needs of students, demonstrating knowledge of subject area, demonstrating classroom management, relating to parents and colleagues, demonstrating citizenship and leadership in the school community and support statements from colleagues, parents and students.

When asked to describe Mrs. Azzo, one parent said, "She is like a candle which lights the way of our children with love and care in order to help make them not only good students, but good human beings." Colleague Laura Maalouf states, "I am proud to work with such a caring, loving and kind individual who is the epitome of what an educator should be."

Azzo will be honored, along with the elementary school and high school winners, and the remaining 55 nominees at an event at Oakland Schools on Thursday, May 9. The three winners will each receive a check for \$2,000 at the event. The Oakland County Outstanding Teacher of the Year program is sponsored by the Oakland Schools Education Foundation with funds from Health Alliance Plan (HAP) and other sponsors. This is the fifth consecutive year HAP has contributed substantial funds for the program.

For more information about Hadeel Azzo and The Lamphere Schools, please contact Rita Lewis at 248.589.1990 extension 2009.

For more information about the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Program, please contact Danelle Gittus, APR, Communication Services Manager at Oakland Schools at 248.209.2181, check out the **Frequently Asked Questions**

(<http://www.oakland.k12.mi.us/LinkClick.aspx?link=CommunicationsMarketing%2fOTOY+Facts+2013.pdf&tabid=512&mid=2600>) or visit the **Teacher of the Year page on the Oakland Schools website** at <http://www.oakland.k12.mi.us/OaklandCountyOutstandingTeacheroftheYear/tabid/3289/Default.aspx>.

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