



Last week the State Board of Education announced the selection of Daneé Pinckney as the 2025 Ohio Teacher of the Year at a surprise assembly at Twinsburg High School. [HERE](#).

Pinckney teaches 11th and 12th grade English at Twinsburg High School in the Twinsburg City School District. She began her teaching career in Columbus, Ohio after earning a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Middle Childhood Education from The Ohio State University. She later earned an Ohio English K-12 Certificate to teach high school English, and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Educational Technology, from Ashland University.

Pinckney encourages students to become active in their community through service programs that promote social responsibility and civic engagement. Students recently collaborated with students in Ghana on a schoolwide project to build a global community and promote empathy.

Her interests in studying African American literature **led her to pursue grants to create a senior-level course, “Black Voices in Literature”, which has enriched the educational experiences for all students and staff**, and addressed students and the community needs to see themselves in the curriculum.

Pinckney’s career has earned her **recognition as a Master Teacher Finalist by** the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, and recognition as the 2023 Twinsburg City Schools Teacher of the Year and 2023 Fund for Teacher Fellows.

She was nominated by school administrators, fellow educators, parents, students and community members for the *State Board District Teacher of the Year Program*, and in July 2024 was recognized as State Board District 10 2025 *Teacher of the Year*, becoming one of eleven teachers statewide to receive the district-level honor. Pinckney was then selected as one of four District Teachers of the Year to be considered for *Ohio’s 2025 Teacher of the Year*, along with Justin Stone, Trotwood-Madison City Schools

District 3; Michelle Dorhrmann, West Clermont Local Schools District 5; and Jennifer Winkler, Green Local Schools District 11.

As the *2025 Ohio Teacher of the Year*, Pinckney follows Mark Lowrie, the 2024 Ohio Teacher of the Year, a broadcast journalist teacher at Gahanna Lincoln High School. **She will represent Ohio in the 2025 National Teacher of the Year program sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers early next year.**

Congratulations also to two outstanding arts educators who have been recognized this year as 2025 State Board of Education District Teachers of the Year. [HERE](#).

Jennifer Winkler is one of the four finalists and is the 2025 State Board of Education District 11 Teacher of the Year. She is a Middle and High School visual arts teacher at Green Local Schools.

Amanda Schaeffer is the 2025 State Board of Education District 7 Teacher of the Year. She is a Middle School visual arts teacher at Hilliard City Schools, District 7.

The *Ohio Teacher of the Year* program began in 1964 and recognizes exceptional teachers for their effectiveness both in and outside of the classroom. Details about the selection process, a list of previous recipients, and additional program information are available on the Ohio Department of Education's website. [HERE](#).