



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Middle Level Educators
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New England League
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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An electronic copy is available at www.nelms.org.

LOCAL MIDDLE LEVEL STUDENTS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

_____ and _____, students at _____ in _____, MA, were honored at the Eighteenth Annual Middle Level Scholar Leader Awards Banquet, held at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlborough, Massachusetts, on May 17, 2017. The students were presented with an award whose criteria included demonstrating academic initiative and scholarship, providing service to classmates and school, exemplifying positive attitudes and demonstrating leadership in the classroom and school activities.

Over 400 guests, including students, educators, and parents, attended this year's banquet, which celebrated the achievements of middle level students who are representative of the many outstanding young adolescents in middle level schools in Massachusetts. The guests included eighty students from forty schools from all over the state were addressed by keynote speaker, Jermaine Wiggins, Retired New England Patriots.

The Middle Level Scholar Leaders Award is organized annually by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Middle Level Educators (COMMLE) and the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS), with supporting sponsorship from Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association (MSSAA) and Lifetouch National School Studios.

For more information about the Scholar Leader Award program, please contact NELMS.

For the list of participating schools from this event, please visit: http://www.nelms.org/pages/awards/sl_ma.html

2017 Selection Criteria

All decisions concerning selection have a certain subjective element; however, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Middle Level Educators and the New England League of Middle Schools urge schools to follow the recommended criteria described below. Procedures used at the school must be fair, non-discriminatory, and consistently applied.

It is suggested that two students, one male and one female, be selected from the eighth grade (unless the school has all female or all male students). Seventh grade is appropriate if that is the highest grade in your school.

The following criteria are suggested:

- Demonstrates academic achievement.
- Provides service to classmates and school.
- Is a positive role model for peers.
- Demonstrates integrity, honesty, self-discipline, and courage.

These additional indicators may be of assistance:

- ✓ Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals
- ✓ Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- ✓ Shows leadership in group situations
- ✓ Shows respect for self and others
- ✓ Exemplifies positive attitudes and inspires positive behavior in others
- ✓ Demonstrates academic initiative and is willing to uphold scholarship
- ✓ Demonstrates leadership in the classroom and school activities
- ✓ Is dependable and well-organized in any responsibility undertaken
- ✓ Volunteers and is gladly available and willing to sacrifice to offer assistance to others
- ✓ Accepts criticism willingly and recommendations graciously
- ✓ Exemplifies desirable qualities of character and integrity