

Congratulations!

You have been nominated to be considered for the Great American Teacher of the Year Award. We strongly encourage you to submit the attached application so that we can learn more about you and the phenomenal work you do.

Rules for Eligibility:

In order to apply, the nominee must be a passionate, dedicated teacher who is currently employed by a public or private school, at any grade level or subject from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, and who is planning to continue in an active teaching status. A minimum of three years of current teaching experience is required.

Selection Process:

Applications will be accepted through September 1, 2009. Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee, and semifinalists will receive a scheduled classroom visit by Ron Clark or a member of the Ron Clark Academy staff. From these semifinalists, five teachers will be selected as national finalists, and they will be honored at the Oct. 2009 RCA Educators' Conference. Each finalist will receive prizes and national recognition. The five finalists will also be interviewed by Ron Clark and the RCA staff, and at the final night of the conference, the Great American Teacher of the Year will be announced.

The five national finalists who will receive the following:

- An all-expense paid trip to Atlanta for the finalist and a guest to attend our National Educators' Conference in October of 2009.
- Special recognition at our National Educators' Conference.
- Classroom resources and supplies.
- Media opportunities.
- A \$1000 honorarium.

After the five finalists have been selected, one teacher will be named the Great American Teacher of the Year. In addition to the prizes listed above,

- \$10,000 will be awarded to the winning teacher.
- \$5000 will be awarded to the winning teacher's school.

The Great American Teacher Awards Application

Please type or print.

Name: _____
Last Middle First

Contact information:

Home address: _____

Phone # _____

Cell # _____

E-mail: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

Fax # _____

Name of principal or administrator: _____

Number of years you have been an educator: _____

Please check the boxes that best apply to your current position.

Grades you currently teach:

- k-2
- 3-5
- 6-8
- 9-12

Subject/s you currently teach:

- language arts/reading
- mathematics
- social studies
- foreign language
- fine arts (music, art, drama, etc.)
- physical education
- other: _____

What best describes your school?

- Rural
- Urban
- Suburban

How many students attend your school? _____

What percentage of your student body receives free or reduced lunch? _____

Please answer the following questions. Answers for each question cannot exceed two pages and must be typed in no smaller than 10 pt. font.

- I. Describe a typical day in your classroom. What types of activities and teacher/student interactions take place? What does your class look, sound, and feel like?
- II. Explain what makes you or your classroom instruction unique and effective. What sets you apart from other educators?
- III. Tell about a creative or innovative lesson or unit that you have taught in the past. What did you do and how did the students respond?
- IV. How do you teach creatively and still achieve academic results? How do you ensure academic rigor?

Attach up to three letters of recommendation from coworkers, parents, students, or administrators. Each letter of recommendation cannot exceed two pages in length.

You may include up to three pages of photos that capture the essence of your classroom or activities/lessons you have done with your students. These are not required and will not be returned.

Mail completed application--contact information, essay questions, and letters of recommendation-- to the address below. Please staple together in the left-hand corner; do not place the application in a report cover of any type.

All entries must be postmarked no later than September 1, 2009.

Mail to:
Kim Bearden
Cofounder and Executive Director
The Ron Clark Academy
228 Margaret Street
Atlanta, GA 30315