

Teacher Appreciation Student Essay Contest: *Please consider participating.* Across the state, exceptional educators teach, care for and inspire Delaware students. Those who know best just how hard they work are the children in their classrooms. For the third year, the Delaware Department of Education will sponsor a student essay contest with winners announced during Teacher Appreciation Week in May.

This year's theme is based on a poem by former Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Carolyn Warner:

The New American Dream

Give me your hungry children, your sick children,
Your homeless and abused children.
Give me your children who need love
as badly as they need learning.
Give me your children who have talents and gifts and skills.
Give me your children who have none.
Give them all to me, in whatever form they come, and the
people within these walls will help
Give you the doctors and the engineers and the scientists and
the lawyers and the ministers and the teachers of tomorrow.
We will give you the mothers and the fathers, the thinkers and
the builders, the artists and the dreamers.
We will give you the nation of tomorrow.
We will give you the future of America.
We will give you the American Dream.

Secretary of Education Mark Murphy encourages children to tell him how their public school teachers are giving them the American Dream. Students should share their thoughts in 350 words or fewer and submit by Friday, April 19th. Entries should be emailed to public information officer Alison Kepner at alison.kepner@doe.k12.de.us with the subject line "Great Teaching Essay Contest." Handwritten entries should be scanned and emailed. Each entry must include: student's name, grade, school and district (if applicable) as well as the teacher's name and subject taught (if applicable). Students should write about one of their *current* teachers.

Secretary Murphy will announce the winners – one each in three grade categories (Pre-K to 4, 5 to 8 and 9 to 12) -- in May in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Week. He will visit each winning student/teacher's classroom to deliver certificates and Visa gift cards (\$50 for students and \$100 for their teachers).