



## PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**Michelle A. Peduto**

Director of Catholic Schools  
Diocese of Pittsburgh  
mpeduto@diopitt.org  
Office: (412) 456-3090  
Cell: (412) 400-6257

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Dear Catholic School Community,

Due to the challenges of Covid -19, we are a bit late in getting the Golden Apple process underway this year. I hope you will assist us in nominating teachers and principals for this prestigious award. We are committed to completing the selection process by the close of the school year. Below you will find a brief history of the award and the family who created it.

Jack and Rhodora Donahue are parents of thirteen children all of whom were educated in Catholic schools. The Donahues were eager to express their deep appreciation to Catholic school teachers for providing a quality academic and faith filled education for their children. Sadly, Jack Donahue passed away in 2017, but we remain truly blessed by their generosity.

In 1991 the Donahue Family approached Bishop Donald W. Wuerl, Bishop of Pittsburgh, who immediately embraced the idea of a Golden Apple Award. To begin the award process, a committee was formed. In 1992 the first award dinner was held and seventeen teachers were honored. This beautiful tradition lives on today and has grown to include other dioceses.

Teachers, parents and students are invited annually to nominate a teacher and/or a principal for the Golden Apple Award. A small committee at each school then selects the individual that will represent the school. The completed application packet is submitted to the Catholic Schools Office. A selection committee then evaluates the entries and chooses the awardee with the approval of the Director of Catholic Schools and the Secretary for Education. The awardees are then notified by letter, email, and telephone. Awardees receive the beautiful Golden Apple Award, a cash award, and a Certificate of Achievement.

Many people throughout the years have made the Golden Apple Award program in the Diocese of Pittsburgh a notable success. However, without the generosity and kindness of the Donahue Family Foundation, this award would not be possible.

I know all too well how special all our teachers and principals are and how hard they work. This school year is a shining example of their dedication and faith. Please make some time to nominate a teacher or principal who goes above and beyond every day. The nomination form is attached. Thank you so much for your assistance!

God bless,