

NEWS RELEASE

September 29, 2012

Rome City Schools' Names 2012 Teacher of the Year! Rome City Schools' Employee Recognition Program

The Rome Board of Education is pleased to announce that **Ms. Brenda Coult-Bailey**, third grade teacher at West End Elementary School, has been named the 2012 Teacher of the Year for the Rome City School System. Ms. Coult-Bailey received the news she had been selected as Teacher of the Year on September 29, in a surprise visit to her classroom by Rome City Schools' Superintendent, Dr. Gayland Cooper. Ms. Coult-Bailey completed both her bachelor's degree in social work and her master's degree in elementary education at the University of South Florida. Ms. Coult-Bailey was recently selected as one of only two Georgia teachers for participation in the International Educators to Japan Program. Accompanied by thirty other teachers from around the globe, Ms. Coult-Bailey traveled throughout Japan sharing her professional experiences and learning from her colleagues. Ms. Coult-Bailey says: "As teachers we reinforce values, we cultivate children's abilities and talents, we nurture and help children grow as individuals. Teaching is meaningful because, along the way, we invest ourselves in our children's lives." Ms. Coult-Bailey is most proud of the many achievements and accomplishments of her students.

Ms. Lori Wilson, academic math teacher/coach at Main Elementary School, also received a surprise visit from Dr Cooper as she was named Teacher of the Year runner-up. Prior to working at Main Elementary, Ms. Wilson taught in Ohio, Texas, and Kentucky. Ms. Wilson holds a bachelor's degree in middle grades education from Mercer University and a master's degree in curriculum from Walden University. Ms. Wilson is always looking for innovative strategies to improve student achievement. She recently created a Math Olympics program in which participating students or "mathletes" compete with one another for math trophies. Ms. Wilson says of her philosophy of teaching: "I believe that success breeds success, so my goal is always to allow my students to feel success."

Ms. Evelyn Couey was named the district's 2012 Support Employee of the Year. Ms. Couey has been employed eight years in the School Nutrition Program. She is currently the lunchroom manager at Elm Street School. Her duties include overseeing the preparation of over 400 breakfasts and over 500 lunches, five days a week! Arriving at 5:30 a.m., Ms. Couey is easily the first employee at work each morning. Ms. Couey completed her GED and later completed an Associate Degree in Accounting and Bookkeeping. Ms. Couey takes pride in her job and serves as an outstanding role model to both students and co-workers.

These outstanding employees were selected from representatives from each school by a committee of retired educators from outside the Rome area. The Rome Board of Education and the employees of the Rome City School System extend congratulations to these three outstanding employees, as well as, all of the representatives selected for recognition.

These special employees will be honored at a banquet scheduled for **Tuesday, October 12, 2010** at Rome Middle School at 7:00 p.m.