



# Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Sherrie Emoto, board@mbhsmagnet.org

## **Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Teacher Recognized as Finalist in Maryland Teacher of the Year Award**

**Silver Spring, MD**—James Schafer, a physics and mathematics teacher in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program and 2010 Montgomery County Teacher of the Year, was honored by the Maryland State Department of Education as one of seven finalists for the 2010-2011 Maryland Teacher of the Year at a gala reception and dinner at Martin's West Restaurant in Baltimore on October 8. His selection was by a panel of judges from education organizations representing principles, teachers, school boards, teacher unions, and parents. Judging criteria included teaching philosophy, community involvement, knowledge of educational issues, and suggestions for professional and instructional improvement.

State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, congratulated the finalists stating, "This year's talented finalists demonstrate unwavering dedication to academic achievement of all Maryland's students. These educators, unequivocally, deserve our gratitude and acknowledgement, as well as our respect."

A graduate of Rockville High School, Schafer studied applied mathematics and physics at the College of William and Mary, where he graduated cum laude in 2002. That same year, he joined the Montgomery Blair Science department to teach several levels of physics. For the past three years, Schafer has shared his instructing expertise with students in the Blair Magnet as a mathematics and physics teacher. Along with his teaching responsibilities, for the past three years Schafer has served as coach of the Blair *It's Academic* team, which took first place in the 2008 and 2009 D.C. Metropolitan Regional Championships. He also coaches the physics team and the Final Frontiers program, as well as mentors other county AP physics teachers.

When congratulated on this honor, true to his considerate nature, Schafer graciously acknowledges those around him, "My personal thoughts on this award are that this recognition is a positive reflection on the Blair community, but specifically the Magnet and Science

Address:

MBHS Magnet  
Foundation Inc.  
P.O. Box 5329  
Takoma Park,  
MD 20913

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departments. The positive attitude, cooperation and collaboration that come with those departments are truly second to none. This is, of course, also a direct result of the fantastic students I get to interact with every single day. My energy and drive to teach every day is motivated by the enthusiasm and inquisitiveness that these students bring to class. I am fortunate to have wonderful colleagues, students and a school community that has always been supportive.”



James Schafer, Montgomery County Teacher of the Year and  
State of Maryland Teacher of the Year Finalist

### **About The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation**

This organization was founded by a group of concerned students, teachers, administrators, parents, and alumni in 2008. Its purpose is to promote science, mathematics, and computer science education by supporting the Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School in its efforts to develop resources and refine practices needed to provide a rigorous and enriched education for students, staff, and the community at large. The Foundation is incorporated in the state of Maryland and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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