

**Agenda Item:** 1.b

**Meeting Date:** May 4, 2023

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** City Commission

**Date:** 2023-04-25

**From:** Phyllis Gorshe, Library Director

**Subject:** City of Dunedin Mayor's Top Apple and School Awards

**Presenter(s):** Phyllis Gorshe, Library Director

**Recommend:** Announce winners of the City of Dunedin Mayor's Top Apple and School Awards:  
- Top Apple Schools - Curtis Fundamental (A), Discovery Academy of Science (A), Dunedin High School (C to B);  
- Achievement in the Arts - Dunedin Elementary - Artists in Bloom - Julia Roberts;  
- Excellence in Technology - Dunedin Elementary - Media Magic - Tanya Abresch;  
- Golden Apple - Teacher of the Year - Garrison Jones Elementary - Mrs. Geronimo;  
- Health & Wellness Initiative - Academie da Vinci - Coach Kuk; and  
- Visionary Leadership - Academie da Vinci - Andrea Bartelloni.

**Epic Goal(s):** Goal #5 - Enhance community relationship strategies that strengthen inclusiveness, respect, transparency and collaborative engagement.

**Boards & Committees:** N / A

**Budget Impact:** Mayor's Top Apple and School Awards are part of the City Commission budget.

**Past Action:** Mayor's Top Apple and School Awards are given each year on behalf of the Commission. 2023 marks the 12th year of the awards.

**Next Action:** Share awards with recipients.

**Attachments:**

**Background:** The City of Dunedin is sponsoring the 12th Annual Dunedin School Awards program (a.k.a. Mayor's Top Apple) to provide recognition for outstanding achievements by schools located within the City. The Mayor's Top Apple Awards program originated within the City of St. Petersburg in 2005 as a way to honor those public schools in the city that earned an "A" grade from the state of Florida or improved their grade from the previous year. Since 2005, the Mayor's Top Apple Awards program has been expanded to other communities throughout Pinellas County.

In early 2011, Dunedin Commissioner Julie Ward Bujalski began taking steps to integrate the program within the City of Dunedin. Realizing the potential of this program, Commissioner Bujalski sought the assistance of the City's School Principal's Committee and City staff to create an expanded Top Apple awards program that recognizes all schools, versus simply being limited to public schools who are subject to the State's grading system.

As such, the City's program provides several opportunities for recognition, both in overall grade achievement or maintenance, and in expanded categories of achievement within each school.