



# Wyoming Department of Education

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## PRESS Release

### Local Teacher of the Year, Ted Menke, Receives Accolades

Big Horn County School District #3 teacher, Ted Menke, received the district Teacher of the Year award for 2015, according to Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill. Menke, a teacher for 35 years, served as English teacher at Greybull High School.

“I believe a teacher must love children and be comfortable in the context of their welfare,” says Menke. “Teachers should strive to live as they would expect any parent to live.”

Speaking about the teaching profession, Menke comments, “Teachers need to be excited, motivated, tireless, committed to success. We need to identify and encourage highly qualified, curious people to enter the teaching profession. We need to find people dedicated to their disciplines and convince them they can make a difference.”

Accountability is a current buzz word in educational circles. Menke addresses this topic: “Student success should drive accountability, but success should be a broader concept than a test score snapshot.”

Menke, who will receive a crystal apple award from the Wyoming Department of Education, says, “A democracy demands informed, thinking, engaged citizens. Our job as teachers, as mentors, and as educational consultants is to inspire curiosity, to uncover possibilities, to challenge stereotypes and dogma and drive back ignorance. We must lead toward the light; to push back against darkness of fear and hatred and misunderstanding.”