



Maddie Westerhold, Madison Communications and Brian Lotter, Staunton Schools Band Director



Maddie Westerhold, Madison Communications and Mrs. Maggie McCalla with students of St. Peter's Lutheran School.



Maddie Westerhold, Madison Communications and Peggy Nelson, with students of South Macoupin Head Start in Benld.

## Madison Communications Honors Three Teachers in Annual Contest

**Staunton, IL, May 25, 2017** - Rural broadband is more than making an Internet connection, it's about connecting people and making an impact in our communities. Madison Communications is growing, and that means connecting more people and contributing to more communities and the organizations and businesses in your area. Madison recently expanded its Teacher of the Year program to include three winning teachers in its serving areas versus two. The Teacher of the Year program is awarded annually and allows community members to nominate and vote for their favorite teacher. 2017 marks the 12<sup>th</sup> year for the annual contest and Madison has proudly contributed over \$13,000 to area schools through this program. "We're pleased and excited about our growth over this past year, especially when it's related to community outreach. The more community support we can lend, the greater the positive impact, we call that a win-win!" said Robert Schwartz, President, Madison Communications.

The 2017 Teacher of the Year winners are Mrs. Maggie McCalla, a third through fifth grade teacher at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Prairietown, Mrs. Peggy Nelson, a preschool teacher at South Macoupin Head Start in Benld, and Mr. Brian Lotter, the Staunton Schools band director. One nomination for Mrs. McCalla's stated, "She motivates the children and teaches them in a fun way." Mr. Lotter was complimented by one parent who said, "He has drive, determination and creativity in building a successful band program." The nominations for Mrs. Nelson complimented her approach of adding kindness and patience in her daily routine with the kids. One parent said, "Peggy is patient and kind and has a bond with her students because she truly cares!"

Each winner received \$500 to be used toward a future student advancement project and celebrated the award with their students during pizza parties hosted by Madison representatives. Teachers employed at school districts within Madison's southern Macoupin County and eastern Madison County service areas were eligible to be nominated for this award. This year, 47 area teachers were nominated, and received nearly 4,000 online votes over the course of four weeks. Madison wishes to congratulate all of the teachers who were nominated by area students, parents and administrators for the impact they have on the students each day. To view a complete list of all teachers who were recognized, please visit [gomadison.com](http://gomadison.com).

**About Madison Communications:** Madison Communications is a fully integrated service provider of high-speed Internet access, digital phone, HD entertainment programming, and other IP solutions to residential and business customers in Southwestern Illinois. For questions regarding Madison's service or to inquire about other products, please dial 1-800-422-4848 Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or visit [gomadison.com](http://gomadison.com).