



Our students will shape and lead the future

News release

Oct. 2, 2015

JHS Rick Wigre is Washington State Art Teacher of the Year!

Wigre has taught art for 32 years and was a part of H.M. Jackson High's design team Wigre to be honored at Oct. 6 school board meeting, 4:30 p.m.



When you visit Henry M. Jackson High School teacher [Rick Wigre's website](#), you see his emphasis on students front and center. His home page includes a link to awards his students have earned all the way back to the beginning of this century. And those awards represent the diversity of this man's interests and talents – and his capability to inspire excellence in the students who take his classes and are involved in his co-curricular activities.

His art students have earned local, state and national awards for what

some might call “traditional” art mediums – and in computer graphics. Over the years, his students' works have been among those featured in the district's student art calendar. Wigre is an advisor for Jackson High's Student Technology Association (TSA). TSA has earned awards here in Washington and across the nation.

Now, Mr. Wigre himself is the recipient of the state's top art teacher honor. The [Washington Art Education Association](#) (WAEA) has named him the 2015 Art Teacher of the Year.

He was nominated and selected for the award because he met the association's criteria:

- His history of highly accomplished teaching
- His example of how Visual Arts should be taught
- His experience writing curriculum, standards and student assessments
- His mentorship of new teachers
- His published articles
- His leadership at school, the district, his professional organizations and online communities and organizations

(more)



*Artist: Chan Ha Kim, 'Birdcaged'
– earned first place and Gold
Key Award last year*

As the WAEA website notes, this award goes to a teacher at any grade level, “who stands out above and beyond all their peers in local and state levels of participation, education and advocacy.”

Wigre’s versatility is reflected his dedication to his personal artistic practice. Since the 1970s, he has practiced drawing, painting, intaglio, ceramics, glass, photography – even stone carving. He has worked with other artists, including William Morris, Dale Chihuly and Margaret Tomkins.

Cynthia Gaub teaches art at North Middle School and says of Wigre, “He brings his wealth of experience into his graphic design and digital arts classrooms. He has been a leader in many professional and technical organizations in computer, visual arts and graphics design industries. He’s also been published in several industry journals and magazines.”

Wigre’s abilities to inspire students is universally known and appreciated.

When his award was announced at JHS, para-educator Jean Sarcletti sent him the following accolade,

“Congrats, Mr. Wigre!!! I am always amazed at what you are able to get from kids of all backgrounds.

It is inspiring to see them realize that they DO have talent....and that can only come when someone shows them their path. You ROCK!!!!”

When he learned of the award Wigre said, “It is with great pride and humbleness that I accept this award. I feel that many of the years I have been teaching the arts I have been in a vacuum, isolated from the fine arts because of the art media I have pursued, *technology*.

“It has been a fine bleeding edge to take on this challenge. My ambition and love has been for the visual arts. To share, entice and excite students to explore with their eyes, hands and mind to develop their creativity.”

Although this is his first time to earn this particular honor, it’s not the first time Wigre’s artistic and teaching talents have been noted. He has been the Washington state *TSA Advisor of the Year*, and *National Computer Graphics Contest Advisor Award*.

Wigre will be honored by Everett Public Schools Board of Directors at the Oct. 6 school board meeting and at the annual WAEA Conference on Oct. 24 – an event that will be held in Leavenworth.

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For more information:

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[Cynthia Gaub](#), North Middle School art teacher and Awards Chair of the Washington Art Education Association