

2023 Recipient Darren McGarvey  
nominated by Mike Zywiec  
presented by Tyler Alexander



**Read about Darren's contributions to the community on the next page below.**



## **Dor-Wood Optimist Friend of Youth** **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

# **DARREN MCGARVEY**

Darren McGarvey is the International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinator and Secondary Gifted Coordinator for Kettering City Schools, and he is the cornerstone of Fairmont High School Theatre. His shows are always award winners in the Dayton and surrounding regions, and if you think about theatre at Fairmont, Darren McGarvey has most likely been involved in some way. He is passionate, dedicated, and cares about providing opportunities for our students to have access to the performing arts at Fairmont.

Darren began his teaching career at Fairmont High School in 1997, where he served as English and Theatre teacher and coached the Speech and Debate Team and directed plays for the Theatre Department. He was also co-advisor to the Octagon Club. After teaching at Lakota East High School, Darren moved to Chicago where he attended Story Studio Chicago while working as an editor at McGraw Hill. In 2006, Darren returned to the area and opened Word's Worth Writing Connections, a school that fosters writing pursuits for students of all ages. Darren returned to Fairmont High School in 2009, picking up many of the same duties he left eight years prior. Since that time he has directed over 30 plays, started a Theatre Club, and reinstated the Thespian Troupe, a theatre honor society. He has also created curriculum for five levels of theatre classes, engaging students' interests and involvement in theatre arts.

Darren received his Masters in Teaching through the Ohio Writing Project at Miami (OH) University and has taught Advanced Placement (AP) and IB English to seniors along with multiple theatre classes. Darren leads the IB Program, a college preparatory experience for juniors and seniors that culminates in the award of the IB Diploma, one of the highest credentials a high school student can attain during their tenure. He is also the Vice President of Professional Development for the Ohio Association of IB World Schools and a member of the Ohio Association for Gifted Children. He is also the high school curriculum writer for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, connecting students to authors and their stories that promote peace within and throughout our World.

Darren McGarvey is a shining example of someone who has not only committed his time and energy to youth projects, activities, and mentoring in the Kettering community, but he has had amazing results with his kids, who are recognized every year for their outstanding productions. He has clearly worked for the betterment of youth, and clearly goes "above and beyond" his daily employment responsibilities. Sometimes effort and expertise do not pay off in recognition and accolades. In the case of Darren McGarvey, his clearly outstanding dedication to his position and his superlative mentorship of his Fairmont High School students results in great growth and achievement for the future citizens of this community. He is truly a "friend of our Kettering youth," and we are proud to recognize him as this year's Dor-Wood Optimist Club "Citizen of the Year!"

