

# APPLICANT INFORMATION FORM

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

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Name

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Current Grade Level(s) Taught

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Current Subject(s) Taught

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Years in Current Position

---

Total Years of Teaching Experience

---

Languages Other than English Spoken Fluently

Areas of National Board Certification Achieved or In Progress:

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

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School District

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School Name

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School Size

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District Size

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School Demographic

# EDUCATIONAL HISTORY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

List all below, most recent first.

## EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION

College or University	Dates Attended	Degree Earned (i.e., B.A. in Math)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Name of High School Attended	City	State	ZIP Code
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## EMPLOYMENT RECORD OF SERVICE (Include grade level and/or subject area)

School District	Position Held	Dates
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (Include offices held and/or other relevant activities)

Membership	Position Held	Dates
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**LEADERSHIP IN STAFF DEVELOPMENT (Include leadership in the training of future teachers)**

Title	Position Held	Dates
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**AWARDS AND OTHER RECOGNITION OF TEACHING**

Title	Dates
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## **ESSAY QUESTIONS**

Limit all following responses to spaces provided.

### **PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY**

**What were the factors that influenced you to become a teacher?**

**Describe what you consider to be your greatest contributions and accomplishments in education.**



## **PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING**

Describe your personal feelings and beliefs about teaching, including your own ideas of what makes an outstanding teacher. Describe the rewards you find in teaching. How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in your personal teaching style?



## **EDUCATION ISSUES AND TRENDS**

What do you consider to be the major public education issues we face today? Address them in depth, outlining possible causes, effects, and resolutions.





## **THE TEACHING PROFESSION**

What do you do to strengthen and improve the teaching profession?

What is and/or what should be the basis for accountability in the teaching profession?



## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Describe your commitment to your community through service-oriented activities including volunteer work, civic responsibilities, and other group activities.

## **OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

As the Teacher of the Year, you will serve as a spokesperson and representative for teachers and students. What is your message? What will you communicate to your profession and to the public?

## SHARE A LESSON

Describe a lesson or unit that defines you as a teacher. How did you engage all students in the learning, and how did that learning influence your students? How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in this lesson or unit?

# Staking A Claim in Our Students' Future

**Carmen Walters, M.Ed**  
Executive Director

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August 20, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

It is my great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Melanie Ball. I have had the honor to work alongside Melanie for eight years. Melanie is kind, attentive, concerned, and welcoming. Because of these traits, she makes everyone around her feel important, special, and heard.

When her students enter her classroom they are met at the door with Melanie's contagious smile and deep compassion for each child. You see that her students obtain this same sense of calmness and eagerness to learn in her classroom. It is clear Melanie's students yearn to please and to be loved by her.

The road to becoming a teacher was not an easy one for Melanie. Growing up her father left when Melanie was only seven years old. Consequently, without support her mother was forced to work two jobs, leaving Melanie home to care for her younger brother. Ensuring her brother was happy and secure revealed her incredible capacity to nurture. It was through this childhood hardship she realized even though she lost out on being a child herself, caring for others was paramount.

One place Melanie describes as making her feel significant and giving her a sense of security was school. At school she was special and felt as if she could make a difference and excel. Ultimately, it was the only place where her only responsibility was herself.

These experiences made Melanie the dedicated educator that she has become that would make sure every child felt respected, appreciated and loved. She effortlessly smiles, as she walks toward you and tells you with that huge smile she is so glad you are here. Many times I sit back and just watch her with great admiration thinking she is the most loving teacher that I have ever come across in my 23 years in education.

Melanie is a perfectionist when it comes to her students' learning. She will do whatever it takes to make sure each student succeeds. Even though her students always do well on their assessments, Melanie pours over their results pinpointing every area of improvement.

Valued by her peers Melanie makes it a goal to collaborate with her fellow teachers. She is described as a "saving grace" because of her willingness to share teaching strategies, ideas, and activities, often dedicating many of her own planning periods to help her peers.

If you are fortunate enough to ever spend even five minutes with this amazing teacher, you should consider yourself lucky. Melanie is a true role model for both students and teachers. I am forever changed by being in the presence of this outstanding teacher. It is truly my pleasure to share the educational journey with her.

Sincerely,



Carmen Walters, M.Ed  
Executive Director

August 19, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Mrs. Melanie Ball for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. I have worked with Mrs. Ball now for 3 years at Cotteral Elementary in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Mrs. Ball is an amazing teacher that not only loves her job, but loves each and every one of her students. Mrs. Ball goes above and beyond to reach the individual needs of her students daily. I know this and have seen it first-hand because she is not only a co-worker of mine that I look up to, but she also taught my son in third grade for the 2019-2020 school year. I am so blessed and thankful that my son had the opportunity to be in her class. The love and determination that she shows each student is absolutely remarkable. Mrs. Ball has the biggest heart, she always has a smile on her face, and when she is faced with obstacles that may occur in her classroom she handles them so professionally. Her ability to motivate her students to learn is one of her many talents. My son has pulled the, "I don't feel good mom, I don't think I should go to school today" several times during his previous school years. Last year, not once did he say that to me! He was excited and motivated to go to school every day and I know it had everything to do with the love and compassion that she showed to him, and the way she approached her teaching strategies each day in her classroom.

Mrs. Ball is one of the teachers that will step up and help wherever it is needed. She has been a mentor to many first year teachers in her years of teaching. She is by far the best one for that title. She is so patient, dependable, and understanding. She goes above and beyond to help and guide the new teachers that were placed "under her wing". If Mrs. Ball could be every ones "mentor teacher" our school will eventually be filled with the best of the best, if they learn everything from her and her teaching strategies. It is my honor and privilege to recommend her for the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year!

Sincerely,

Cara Henson



To Whom it May Concern,

It is an honor to write a letter of recommendation for Melanie Ball. My name is Allyson Mullenix and I am now 27 years old, a 2011 graduate from Guthrie High School, I have my associates degree, and I am currently finishing my nursing degree. I was in Mrs. Melanie Ball's class when I was in fourth grade at Guthrie Upper Elementary School. Through the years, I have had my share of teachers, with different styles of teaching and different personalities but still to this day Mrs. Ball is hands down my ultimate favorite teacher. She was a huge part of the person that I am today.

Mrs. Ball touched my life in so many ways. She had so many different teaching styles to fit each one of her students. I will never forget the year I was in 4th grade. The summer before 4th grade, my family lost one of the most amazing men in our lives, my Papa Dink. The death of my Papa caused a lot of sadness for me personally at such a young age. Mrs. Ball made me feel like I was the only one in her class but I know now that she treated all her students all that way. She would always make sure through my sadness that I was getting my work done and understanding of each assignment. She was very in tune with my feelings and always had kind words for me. I became super sick for part of the year. My parents contacted Mrs. Ball and asked if there was any way I could stay inside from recess to rest so that I could get through the rest of my day, and without any question Mrs. Ball said absolutely. She didn't have to give up her personal time but she did for me and I am sure many more through the years. During these lunch times, not only did I get rest but we had some of the most amazing talks not only about my Papa but about life. Mrs. Ball got me through one of the saddest times in life. This is the kind of teacher Mrs. Ball is, she will go above and beyond to do anything for her students so that they can learn and succeed to their fullest potential.

She is the kind of teacher every parent dreams that their child will have in school. Mrs. Ball not only teaches her students but she also loves, guides, nurtures, and gains their respect. She understands her students and she finds ways to connect with them on a personal level so she can better understand how to teach them. Teachers are placed in students' lives to make small imprints on their lives and the imprint Mrs. Ball made on mine is one that will last forever. She helped mold the person that I am today and I'm forever thankful. If anyone deserves to be Oklahoma's Teacher of the Year it would be Mrs. Melanie Ball. She is truly a one in a million teacher.

Thank you,

Allyson Mullenix  
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