



Nomination Essay for Hanna Tomhave  
Submitted by: Mary Jo Kavjian

This letter is written to nominate Hanna Tomhave for the Virginia Lottery Super Teacher Award. Ms. Tomhave is a K-1 teacher at Mantua Elementary School in Fairfax.

Ms. Tomhave's commitment to teaching shows in everything she does. She has excellent communication skills, a caring and positive demeanor, and well-thought-out homework packages. For parents of kindergarteners and first graders, many of whom are sending their first child to school, these are important traits.

The weekly report she prepares for parents contains everything they want to know. In addition to information about what the students are learning, the report includes questions parents can ask their children regarding things they learned to encourage better child/parent communication. She also includes a "core virtues corner" where she highlights her student's activities that show core virtues.

Ms. Tomhave set up a website for parents and students to access so they can view pictures she has taken in class, on field trips, etc. Students delight in seeing themselves show up on the screen. This is another useful tool in encouraging communication between parents and children. Taking this extra step is not unusual for her. Ms. Tomhave goes the extra mile again and again. When a parent of one of her students became seriously ill, Ms. Tomhave guided the student socially and academically. On another occasion, one of her students

needed to leave school for an extended trip. Mrs. Tomhave voluntarily packed study materials and checked with the parents to see if the student would be enrolled in school where she was going. No one asked Ms. Tomhave to do these things. She just did them because she cared about the students' well-being.

The homework package each week is very inclusive and well-prepared with different levels to suit each student's needs. Her instructions are clear. Ms. Tomhave reviews the completed work carefully and often writes back to students with very positive comments.

She answers any questions the students ask in their writing journals. Ms. Tomhave is a wonderful, caring teacher who brings her love of teaching to the class every day. She definitely should be considered for this award.