



# NEWS RELEASE

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Waterford School District, 1150 Scott Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328

Rhonda Lessel, Specialist  
School & Community Services  
Phone: (248) 706-4867  
Fax: (248) 681-2503

## **Waterford School District Teacher James Petersen Named Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year**

**September 30, 2009, Waterford, Mich.** – The Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (MAHPERD) has named Physical Education Teacher James Petersen to receive their award as the 2009 Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year. Educators are nominated for this prestigious award by parents, students, peers, and community. Selection for this award is based on varying teaching methods, professional growth, professional commitment, and positive role modeling.

Petersen is well known for his innovative teaching style and his dedication to students. He has been instrumental in developing the Waterford School District Fitness Challenge, and has contributed to the District achievement of reaching Level 8, the highest level, on the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health, and Sports Exemplary Physical Education Curriculum. Petersen established a senior citizen mentoring program, with Waterford third grade students participating in developing physical activity skills with seniors.

Petersen joined the Waterford School District in 1975 and currently works at Adams and Cooley Elementary Schools. He earned his Bachelors Degree from Western Michigan University and his Masters Degree from Eastern Michigan University.

The award will officially be presented at an awards dinner at the 2009 MAHPERD Awards Celebration Traverse City on November 12.

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