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## Mason Middle School Teacher Chris Braue Named 2023 Waterford Foundation Teacher of the Year

April 20, 2023, Waterford, Mich. – Mason Middle School Teacher Chris Braue was selected as the 2023 Waterford Foundation Teacher of the Year. Waterford Teacher of the Year is sponsored by the Waterford Foundation for Public Education and Suburban Ford. As Waterford Foundation Teacher of the Year, Braue receives free use of a vehicle of his choice from Suburban Ford for two years and will be honored, along with other nominees, at the Excellence in Education reception on May 31.

Braue has been teaching high school and middle school band in Waterford since 1994 and is the current band director at Mason Middle School. Braue strives to create a classroom environment where everyone feels valued and can contribute to something that's bigger than themselves. Braue says "When they excel as an individual musician, they can make a positive contribution to the group as a whole." Students say that "Mr. Braue always works to make sure everyone understands what we are doing. He is supportive and understanding, and not to mention, funny!" A parent supporter states, "When Mr. Braue presents his classes at concerts, you can see the pride on his face and hear it in his voice. We have been very lucky to have Mr. Braue foster a love for music in the lives of our children."

The Waterford Foundation for Public Education Teacher of the Year Award is a way of affirming the value the Waterford community places on educational excellence and the critical role the classroom teacher plays in providing it. Sponsors for this event include Barton Malow and French Associates Architects, Presenting Sponsors; Vibe Credit Union, Gold Sponsor; McLaren Oakland, Silver Sponsor; Michigan United Credit Union, MEEMIC Insurance Agency – Mike Macy; Dr. Jim & Lori Stepanski, and Tom & Gail Wiseman, Bronze Sponsors; and Waterford Education Association (WEA). For more information about the Waterford Foundation visit <a href="https://www.wsdmi.org/wfpe">www.wsdmi.org/wfpe</a>.