



Created *by* Teachers *for* Teachers and Students

Teacher Created Materials Celebrates Educational Excellence with Spotlight Awards

Teacher Created Materials (TCM) is proud to announce the first three recipients of the prestigious TCM Spotlight Award for the 2024-2025 school year. This award recognizes schools that exemplify educational excellence, foster a love of learning, and demonstrate a deep commitment to their communities.

Oxendine Elementary School

Located in a high-poverty area, Oxendine Elementary, under the leadership of Principal Dr. Sheri Herndon-Dial, stands as a shining example of resilience and commitment. Dr. Herndon-Dial and her team have cultivated a nurturing environment where every student feels supported to excel.

- **Why Oxendine?**

The school goes above and beyond for its students, families, and teachers, extending its impact by supporting neighboring schools in their shared mission of excellence.

Oxendine Elementary's holistic approach to education ensures that students are not only academically challenged but also emotionally and socially supported, embodying the spirit of the TCM Spotlight Award.

The Learning Center

Located in Washington, DC, The Learning Center provides an inclusive, innovative environment for students aged 3 to 13, many of whom have faced significant challenges in previous schools. Led by Principal Michael Cordell, this unique school model exemplifies dedication to community, equity, and high expectations.

- **Why The Learning Center?**

With a teacher retention rate of 75% over three years—the school has built a culture of growth and support. Teachers rise from paraprofessionals to leadership roles, reflecting the school's "Grow Your Own" philosophy. Its community-centered approach includes monthly all-school gatherings, mentorship programs, and partnerships with local organizations such as Georgetown Hospital and Martha's Table. The school's success is reflected in its growing enrollment and students' ability to transition out of IEPs to thrive in traditional educational settings.



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Tustin Memorial Academy

Tustin Memorial Academy (TMA) in Tustin, California, led by Principal Brooke Carreras, exemplifies what it means to be a community of learners and leaders. This school's exceptional efforts to foster a love of learning and its culture of collaboration have set it apart.

- **Why Tustin Memorial Academy?**

TMA excels in creating an environment where students, staff, and families work together to achieve excellence. TMA is dedicated to fostering high expectations and building strong community ties. The staff's unwavering commitment to student growth and academic rigor ensures that every learner is positioned for success.

Celebrating Excellence

Each of these schools has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to overcome challenges and create environments where students thrive. TCM is honored to spotlight their successes and celebrate the remarkable leaders, educators, and communities that make these achievements possible.

We look forward to announcing and celebrating more outstanding schools as recipients of the TCM Spotlight Award throughout the 2024-2025 school year. Each award will highlight unique achievements and innovations that inspire excellence in education.

For more information about the TCM Spotlight Award or to learn more about the award-winning schools, please visit <https://go.teachercreatedmaterials.com/spotlight-award>.