

DART

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING STEM AWARD

FAQs

MINDS
INSPIRED

MARCH 1, 2021

FAQs

1. How do I nominate someone?

Visit our website at www.mindsinspired.ky to download a nomination form.

2. Who can nominate a teacher for the award?

Teachers can ONLY be nominated by another teacher, department head, or Principal. A teacher may not self-nominate or be nominated by a spouse or relative.

3. Who is eligible to be nominated for this award?

All home school and public and private teachers of STEM subjects working within elementary and high schools in the Cayman Islands are eligible. Once nominated, a teacher must confirm his/her intent to participate, and willingness to be assessed by a panel of judges. Once a teacher receives the award he/she is not eligible to be nominated again for three (3) years.

4. Can I provide supporting materials with my nomination?

We ask that you fully complete the nomination form and include the requested information. Once nominated, the teacher will be invited to participate and to supply supplemental materials with their application.

5. What happens after I complete my nomination?

Once you have completed the nomination, you will receive an email confirmation. Then, we will send an email message to the teacher you nominated, to the email address you provided on the nomination form, inviting them to participate and giving them the opportunity to submit additional support materials.

6. Can a teacher be nominated by more than one person?

Yes. As long as the teacher is eligible for the award they can receive multiple nominations.

7. Can I nominate myself?

No. Self-nominations are not eligible for the award.

8. Can I nominate a teacher in a different school or school system?

Yes. You can nominate a teacher from any of the Cayman Islands schools, provided that the nominator is able to provide the required information. The teacher's current school would be awarded the monetary grant.

9. Can a teacher provide supplemental materials with their application?

Yes. A nominated teacher will be invited to provide supplemental materials. To be considered during the judging process, all materials must meet the requirements communicated in the nominee's application letter.

10. What is the timeline for the award?

Our 2021 award timeline is as follows:

1 March 2021	Nominations Open
30 April 2021	Nominations Close
1 – 15 May	Nomination Evaluations
Late May	Announce 2020 and 2021 finalists and winners

11. What can the prize money be spent on?

In addition to the professional development conference prize, the awardee will receive a cash prize. As a condition of this award, the school grant portion must be used to enhance STEM educational resources in your school. Should you receive the award, we expect that you will discuss this with your department head/principal and that your equipment purchase will reflect this.

12. I have a question in relation to completing my nomination or application. Who should I contact for help?

For support please send an email message to mindsinspired@dart.ky or call Glenda McTaggart at 345 640-3676.

13. Who selects the award recipients?

A 'blind' process ensures that applications are anonymous. The teacher, nominator and teacher's school remain anonymous to the judging panel until the final stage. The panel of judges includes a representative from the Dart Scholar Selection Committee, a STEM specialist and education advisors. Final decisions or a tiebreak may use a classroom visit to observe STEM learning in action.

14. When should I expect to be notified of my nomination/application status?

You will receive an email confirming that your nomination was received and your nominee will be contacted.

15. When will 2020 recipients be announced?

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the announcement of finalists for the 2020 STEM Teacher Awards were postponed. We will be announcing the 2020 finalists and winners at an event in May 2021. Finalists and winners be contacted.

16. When will 2021 recipients be announced?

The 2021 award recipients will be announced in late May 2021.