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## **News Release**

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## **Katharine Peet Named Hartford's Teacher of the Year**

(June 8, 2007) – Katharine Peet, a music teacher at Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School, has been named Hartford's 2007-2008 Teacher of the Year. As Hartford's top teacher, she will automatically represent Hartford in the competition for the Connecticut Teacher of the Year award, which is announced in the fall.

Mrs. Peet has taught at Webster, Fisher, Quirk, Fox Middle and Batchelder schools. Since 1992 she has been the general and instrumental music teacher at Webster. Originally a violin/viola performance major at the University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music, she decided to go into teaching through the Alternate Route to Teaching program at Wesleyan University. She then went on to do her graduate work at Central Connecticut State University.

At Webster, because of her efforts, all students in all grades perform in their class choir at least two times a year; the upper grades have presented musical productions of Shakespeare and Broadway classics, and more than 200 students play a string or band instrument. Mrs. Peet has dedicated her career to ensuring that all children are able to experience "finding their musical talent, playing an instrument, and exploring their creative side."

She is a member of the Music Educators National Conference, the American Orff-Schulwerk Association and the American Federation of Musicians. In 2001, she received the "Mr. Holland's Opus Award" given by the Hartford Board of Education and has made numerous appearances on National Public Radio and ABC-TV. As a professional violinist, she has performed with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and other local orchestras. She is currently working with the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts on bringing jazz music instruction to Webster students.

Other finalists were Monica Brase, a science teacher at Capital Preparatory Magnet School; Laurie Maria Cabral, an English teacher at University High School of Science & Engineering; and Brandi Lumpris, a fifth-grade teacher at Thirman L. Milner Elementary School.

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