



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

September 7, 2012

Dear Principal of *West Homer Elementary School*:

Congratulations! U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has designated *West Homer Elementary School* as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2012. Please find enclosed your official letter of designation from Secretary Duncan.

We are looking forward to celebrating your school's success and meeting you and a teacher (or staff member) from your school at the Washington, DC awards ceremony on Monday, November 12th and Tuesday, November 13th. Please note that registration begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 11. Each school representative is responsible for travel, hotel reservations, and expenses and must present photo identification at registration. Please review the Ceremony information enclosed.

Each school may be represented by the building principal and one teacher (or staff member) at the ceremony. Due to budgetary constraints, it is not possible to increase the number of representatives beyond the two unless the principal at the time of nomination is no longer the current principal. In that instance, the principal at the time of nomination is also invited. Any additional guests will be able to view a simulcast of the awards ceremony in an adjacent ballroom; but will not be sealed with the official school representatives.

Within a few days of receipt of this letter, you will receive an email from Judy Cercone with a link for you to download the official camera-ready 2012 National Blue Ribbon School logo in jpeg and eps formats. If you need the logo in another format, please email Judy at jcercone@mcrec.com with your request. The official National Blue Ribbon School logo cannot be modified. When using the program's logo, the year must be clearly displayed. Also, all references to your National Blue Ribbon School status, including on signs, banners, letterheads, etc., must clearly show the year of recognition, that is, 2012.

We hope you find your time in Washington, DC professionally rewarding as well as exciting. If you have any questions, please call me on 202-401-1767 or email me at aba.kumi@ed.gov. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aba Kumi".

Aba S. Kumi
Director

Enclosures

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202
www.ed.gov

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

**IN RECOGNITION OF
WEST HOMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HOMER, AK
2012 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL
September 7, 2012**

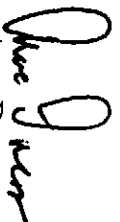
Congratulations on your recognition as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School. This award acknowledges your efforts to ensure that every child achieves at high academic levels or makes significant improvements in achievement in accordance with the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program criteria. Your school is a model of excellence that will inspire others.

As a National Blue Ribbon School, you affirm your commitment to expanding the opportunities for all your students, and you equip them with the skills and knowledge to explore those opportunities wisely. You remind us that with determination and effort, anything is possible.

President Barack Obama and I believe that a world-class education is critical in order for all children to become productive, engaged citizens in our society and meet the challenges of the future. Your work reflects this conviction. At the U.S. Department of Education, we are investing unprecedented resources to realize a vision of education that supports students from cradle to career. We are supporting high-quality early childhood programs and K-12 reform at the state and local levels. We are working to strengthen and elevate the teaching profession, including innovations to attract and retain great educators. And finally, we are making college and career options accessible and affordable so that all our young people have a path to a fulfilling career and an engaging civic life. In our interconnected, competitive global economy, the best way to secure our common future is through an excellent education.

We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments at the 30th anniversary of the National Blue Ribbon School awards ceremony. Recognition events will be held November 12-13, 2012, in Washington, D.C., at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, located at 2500 Calvert Street, N.W. Two representatives from your school (the principal and a teacher or staff member) are invited to attend.

We, at the U.S. Department of Education, commend you for your commitment to improving student achievement and for inspiring all of your students to aim high. It is my hope that you will become a beacon for other educators, working with them and sharing the practices that make your school so deserving of this national recognition.


Arne Duncan