



Downers Grove North High School art teacher Marty Voelker shows a few pieces of his artwork.

Photo provided

BEST IN SHOW

Downers Grove North teacher is art teacher of the year

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DOWNERS GROVE Downers Grove North High School art teacher Marty Voelker has been named the high school art teacher of the year by the Illinois Art Education Association.

The annual award recognizes a teacher's exemplary contributions, service and achievements in support of art education in Illinois, according to a news release from Community High

School District 99.

Voelker, who started teaching in the district in 1996, said he was nominated by a parent of a student in his Advanced Placement class. Once nominated, the organization sent him more than 30 pages of information he had to fill in.

He needed to include a lesson plan, some of his own professional network and examples of how he contributes to the arts through the school and community.

See **TEACHER**, page 2

• TEACHER

Continued from page 1

In his submission, he included a project where he had students create their own character and use computers to make a comic and game cover.

He submitted the information in May and heard tentatively in July that he had won.

"I was really honored," he said. "I had no idea that I was going to win."

Voelker said he's gotten a lot of support from his colleagues and the administration always has helped out with the art program. Teachers have

always helped each other out, he said.

"It really is kind of a community effort," Voelker said.

He said there are "plenty of other teachers who are deserving" of the award, and this award is for the whole school.

Brayer Teague, fine arts department chair, said this is a great recognition for Voelker.

"We know that the IAEA carefully examines a number of teaching qualities, such as a creating a culture for learning and an advocacy for the arts, when determining who receives the award," Teague said in a news release.

Scott Kasik, principal of Downers Grove North High School, said Voelker has been a big asset to the school and the arts community.

"He consistently brings out the best in his students by providing the instruction, support, and encouragement for them to express their artistic talents," Kasik said in a news release.

The IAEA noted Voelker's work both inside the classroom as well as with other teachers, according to the news release.

Voelker will receive the award at a ceremony in November, where he will also give a presentation about what he does in the classroom.