******MEDIA INVITATION******

ASD TEACHER, MELISSA MARCKS, FROM RITTER ELEMENTARY, TO RECEIVE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION "AMERICAN STARS OF TEACHING" AWARD

DATE: **Tuesday, September 21, 2004**

TIME: **1:00 p.m.**

LOCATION: **Ritter Elementary School Auditorium**
740 North Plymouth Street
Allentown, PA 18102

BRIEFLY: Melissa Marcks, a fifth grade teacher and intern serving at Ritter Elementary School, will receive on Tuesday, September 21, at 1:00 pm an award from Ray Simon, Assistant Secretary, United States Department of Education, for her outstanding performance in the classroom and her subsequent contributions to the successful implementation of *No Child Left Behind.* The award, known as "American Stars of Teaching," is part of the federal government's *No Child Left Behind* Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative under the direction of U.S. Secretary of Education, Rod Paige.

Marcks started at Allentown School District as a paraprofessional in 1990. She began teaching at Ritter Elementary School in 1993. She holds a BS degree in elementary education from Cedar Crest College; an MS degree in classroom technology from Wilkes University; and a principal's certification from the Pennsylvania State University. A native of Middletown, PA, Marcks resides in Allentown, PA with her husband, Michael Marcks, who is an assistant principal at Dieruff High School. Their three children are ASD graduates.

Details about the Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative are available on www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative. Ms. Marcks will be available for an interview on Tuesday after the award presentation.

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