

News Release **EMBARGOED UNTIL 10/2/07**

---

**OfficeMax Media Contacts:**

William Bonner, 630-864-6066

Jennifer Rook, 630-864-6057

- or -

Heather Schwartz, Maccabee PR, 612-247-9365

Paul Maccabee/Gwen Chynoweth, Maccabee PR, 612-337-0087

---

**FOUR MARYLAND TEACHERS AMONG  
1,000 EDUCATORS NATIONWIDE HONORED OCT. 2 BY OFFICEMAX  
DURING “A DAY MADE BETTER” -- ONE OF LARGEST NATIONAL  
GRASSROOTS SCHOOL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS IN HISTORY**

***“A DAY MADE BETTER” EVENTS IN FOUR MARYLAND SCHOOLS  
CALL ATTENTION TO \$4 BILLION “TEACHER-FUNDED CLASSROOM” SPEND***

**NAPERVILLE, III.** – Four teachers in Maryland have been selected by their principals to join hundreds of teachers at 1,000 other schools across the United States in being honored October 2 during “A Day Made Better.” The campaign will launch at 10:00 a.m. with surprise in-class ceremonies and donations of more than \$1 million in school supplies (nearly \$1,200 worth per selected Maryland teacher), as OfficeMax® Incorporated (NYSE:OMX) kicks off a campaign to eliminate “teacher-funded” classrooms.

According to National Education Association national studies, teachers spend nearly \$1,200 out of their own pockets each year for basic classroom supplies – adding up, nationally, to teachers spending about \$4 billion a year. In a move to end ‘teacher funded’ classrooms, hundreds of Maryland -based OfficeMax associates -- working secretly with Maryland school principals to ensure the element of surprise - will honor four teachers with donations of much-needed school supplies on October 2. “A Day Made Better” is expected to be one of the largest single-day national school advocacy campaigns ever; a full list of Maryland teachers being honored can be found on the last page of this release.

“It’s astounding that teachers in Maryland have to reach into their own wallets to buy basic classroom materials such as markers, posters and pencil sharpeners,” says Bob Thacker, SVP-Marketing for OfficeMax. “Our October 2 ‘A Day Made Better’ campaign has one message: it’s time to act together so that our Maryland teachers can focus on educating our children, without worrying about where their classroom supplies will come from.”

To execute “A Day Made Better,” every one of OfficeMax’s four Maryland retail stores and distribution centers is collaborating with principals from local schools. Selected by OfficeMax’s non-profit partner, Adopt-A-Classroom ([adoptaclassroom.org](http://adoptaclassroom.org)), the principals have nominated one teacher at each of the Maryland schools who exemplify a passion for learning and innovative classroom techniques. And – until October 2 – none of the four Maryland teachers will know they’ve been chosen to be honored.

“Outside of the home, the teacher is the primary influence on our children,” said James Rosenberg, founder and executive director of Adopt-A-Classroom, which has to-date raised more than \$6 million on behalf of classrooms. “Despite increasing demand for qualified teachers, 50 percent of our teachers quit within their first five years due largely to a lack of financial support. On October 2, the ‘A Day Made Better’ campaign will rally Maryland parents, local governments and businesses to help eliminate teacher-funded classrooms by giving teachers the support they deserve.”

For more information about A Day Made Better events in Maryland, visit [www.officemax.com](http://www.officemax.com).

### **About OfficeMax® Incorporated**

OfficeMax Incorporated is a leader in both business-to-business and retail office products distribution. The OfficeMax mission is simple: to help our customers do their best work. The company provides office supplies, print and document services through OfficeMax Impress™, technology products and solutions, and furniture to large, medium and small businesses and consumers. OfficeMax customers are served by approximately 35,000 associates through direct sales, catalogs, e-commerce and more than 900 stores. For more information, visit: <http://www.officemax.com>.

**MEDIA NOTES:**

News media are welcome to attend the October 2 “A Day Made Better” events at 10:00 a.m. at schools across Maryland. To identify the closest school to your media outlet, schedule interviews with teachers and principals, or to connect with ‘A Day Made Better’ spokespeople Bob Thacker of OfficeMax and/or Jamie Rosenberg of Adopt-a-Classroom, media should call PR staff Heather Schwartz at 612-247-9365 or Paul Maccabee at 612-337-0087.

Video, photos and other media materials on “A Day Made Better” are available starting October 2 at: <http://officemax.mediaroom.com/index.php/adaymadebetter>

**MARYLAND TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS BEING HONORED OCT. 2**

- Funkstown Elementary, Hagerstown
  - Jill Mellott, 2nd Grade
- Maree Garnett Farring Elementary, Brooklyn
  - Ben Posner, 3rd Grade
- New Song Academy, Baltimore
  - Megan Kashdin, 3rd Grade
- Bentalou Elementary, Baltimore
  - Minerva Eaton, 5th Grade

###