

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

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**NINE AUSTIN AREA 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 NINE AUSTIN AREA SCHOOLS
CALL ATTENTION TO \$4 BILLION “TEACHER-FUNDED CLASSROOM” SPEND***

NAPERVILLE, III. – Nine teachers in the Austin area 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 Austin 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 Austin-based OfficeMax associates -- working secretly with Austin area school principals to ensure the element of surprise -- will honor nine 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 Austin area teachers being honored can be found on the last page of this release.

“It’s astounding that teachers in the Austin area 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 Austin area 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 nine Austin area retail stores and distribution centers is collaborating with principals from local schools. Selected by OfficeMax’s non-profit partner, Adopt-A-Classroom (adoptaclassroom.org), the principals have nominated one teacher at each of the Austin area schools who exemplify a passion for learning and innovative classroom techniques. And – until October 2 – none of the nine Austin area 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 Austin area 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 Austin, visit 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 the Austin area. To identify the school closest 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>

AUSTIN AREA TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS BEING HONORED OCT. 2

- Jordan Elementary, Austin
 - Margarito Elizondo, Pre-K
- C C Mason Elementary, Cedar Park
 - Lance Miles, 4th Grade
- Del Valle Elementary School, Del Valle
 - Sue Martin, 1st Grade
- Copperfield Elementary, Austin
 - Sandra Pinkowski, Other
- Sunset Valley Elementary, Austin
 - Melissa Rojas, 3rd Grade
- Annie Purl Elementary, Georgetown
 - Jan Byrom, Kindergarten
- Williams Elementary, Austin
 - Jennifer Byrd, Kindergarten
- Odom Elementary, Austin
- Webb Middle School, Austin
 - Dayna Gaspard, 7th Grade

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