



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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Date: August 13, 2024

Subject: Ms. Stefanie Lachenauer Named 2024-25 Somerset County Teacher of the Year

Dear Montgomery Township School District Community,

On behalf of the entire district, I would like to congratulate Upper Middle School's Ms. Stefanie Lachenauer on being named the 2024-25 Somerset County Teacher of the Year. For close to two decades, Ms. Lachenauer has been making a positive impact in the lives of both our students and staff members, so this honor is well-deserved.

If your children have been lucky enough to have a class with Ms. Lachenauer, you already know how passionate, committed, and supportive she is. Through her innovative and engaging lesson plans, her students learn about what it means to be a global citizen and how to think globally and act locally. They make their voices heard through letter writing, donations, and connecting to a variety of nonprofits and local community efforts in and around Montgomery Township.

To aid UMS students with their mental health and wellness, Ms. Lachenauer began two clubs—the Reflections Club, where students can learn about different strategies for relieving stress, and the Yoga Club, where students can participate in yoga, yoga games, breathing exercises, and mindfulness practices.

Ms. Lachenauer is also a tremendous influence on our staff members. For four years, she has been a co-chair for our Compassionate Care Team, helping to create trauma-informed professional development programs while helping other staff members become certified trauma-informed specialists. As a District Wellness Champion, Ms. Lachenauer and our district Wellness Committee share community wellness opportunities throughout the year, plan and host Wellness Fairs, and partner with local businesses for events like flu shot clinics and weekly yoga classes.

Ms. Lachenauer will now be considered by a panel of educators that will ultimately select the 2024-25 State Teacher of the Year. You can [watch the video](#) of Ms. Lachenauer being honored during the recent awards ceremony (if the link doesn't work, her segment begins at 1:22:12) and [view her County Teacher of the Year bio](#) on the New Jersey Department of Education's website.

Once again, congratulations to Ms. Lachenauer—we're all incredibly grateful that you are a member of our community!

Sincerely, Mary E. McLoughlin | Superintendent of Schools