



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

1014 ROUTE 601 · SKILLMAN, NJ · 08558-2119

Telephone: (609) 466-7601 - Fax: (609) 466-0944

Date: December 19, 2024

Subject: 2024-25 Governor's Educators and Educational Services Professionals of the Year

Dear Montgomery Township School District Community,

As part of the state's Governor's Educator of the Year program, school principals asked our school district community members to nominate teachers and Educational Services Professionals (ESP) who are dedicated, inspiring, and making a difference in our children's lives.

We are excited to officially announce MTSD's final nominees for the Governor's Educator of the Year and Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year from each school in our district. The honorees are:

OHES



Teacher: Lisa Piccirillo, 2nd Grade Teacher

Lisa Piccirillo has taught in the district since 2002, primarily in the second grade. Students thrive under her leadership, as she truly takes it upon herself to develop young learners who can solve problems, have meaningful conversations, and think on their own two feet!



Educational Services Professional: Melissa Patane, School Counselor

Melissa Patane serves as a school counselor at Orchard Hill. Her willingness to put the needs of students first is apparent through every collaborative conversation she has with teachers and administration, as she consistently thinks of useful ways to help students within and outside the classroom walls.

VES



Teacher: Kelly Vucin, 3rd Grade Teacher

Kelly Vucin has been a teacher at VES since 2007. Her classroom environment is magical, and she has developed a kind community of confident and motivated students who truly care about learning and the well-being of others.



Educational Services Professional: Jolene Schantz, School Counselor

Jolene Schantz has served as a school counselor at VES since 2015. Her connections with students, parents, and colleagues are uplifting and impactful as her ultimate goal is to make a difference in the lives of others.

LMS



Teacher: Adriana Gonzalez Delgado, 5th/6th Grade Special Education Teacher

Adriana Gonzalez Delgado's belief in the boundless potential of every student has transformed countless lives. Her ability to coach and guide every child under her care has left a lasting impression on our district, where she's earned the admiration of parents, colleagues, and administrators alike.



Educational Services Professional: Amy Costa, Child Study Team Learning Consultant

Amy Costa has an unparalleled ability to foster genuine partnerships with families, creating a bridge that strengthens understanding and collaboration. Whether she is counseling a student, guiding a teacher, or engaging with a parent, Amy brings energy and focus to every moment.

UMS



Teacher: Karen Kevorkian, 8th grade Language Arts Teacher

Karen Kevorkian has dedicated twenty-two years of service to our district and has been an inspiring educational force. Her unwavering commitment to academic excellence and her talent for building strong relationships make her a cornerstone of our school community.



Educational Services Professional: Allison Doyle Smith, School Counselor

Allison Doyle Smith has fifteen years of dedicated service as an 8th-grade UMS school counselor. As a passionate advocate for students, she brings a deep understanding of the unique needs of our school, consistently fostering a supportive, inclusive, and nurturing environment where all students can thrive.

MHS



Teacher: Matt Flug, World Studies Teacher

Matt Flug exemplifies excellence in education; his impact on our school community and his students are profound and far-reaching. His lessons are filled with vivid examples and analogies tied to current, real-world applications, making complex historical concepts relatable and memorable.



Educational Services Professional: Kelly Apel, School Counselor

Kelly Apel is an extraordinary school counselor whose unwavering dedication to students, staff, and the broader school community makes her an invaluable asset to our school. She cares deeply about every student, encouraging them to explore their potential and grow into the best versions of themselves.

Congratulations to all of our nominees! They will all be honored at a future Montgomery Township Board of Education Meeting and at the Somerset County Governor's Educator of the Year breakfast. Each teacher is also eligible to be named the Somerset County Teacher of the Year, which will be announced in the spring.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to help us formally recognize our amazing staff members—we greatly enjoyed reading through each submission!

Sincerely,

Mary E. McLoughlin | Superintendent of Schools