

# *Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame*



**Edna Mae D'Elia**  
**Related Arts Department Chairperson;**  
**Founder of Cooperative Education Child Development Curriculum**  
**1967-1985**

Edna Mae D'Elia served as a chair of the Related Arts Department, but even more far-reaching was her founding of the Cooperative Education Program at Watchung Hills Regional High School in 1973. The "play school" she established within the high school provided learning experiences for the sending community's pre-school children and at the same time gave high school youth who were interest in teaching at that level an authentic experience.

The curriculum she developed inspired many Hills graduates to become early childhood professional themselves, and the on-site preschool became recognized beyond Watchung Hills at county and state levels, as well as by educators and professional journals. The Edna M. D'Elia Preschool was subsequently emulated by several other school systems.

Besides being named a Teacher of the Year by her Watchung Hills colleagues, Edna was also recognized by her peers in her field, home economics, and was active with the Lionesses and the Business and Professional Women of Bernardsville, New Jersey.