

Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame



Thomas Di Ganci

Principal, Social Studies Teacher, Coach

Except for the seven years he spent as principal of grades 5-8 at Valley View School in Watchung, Dr. Thomas Di Ganci spent his entire 40 year career as an educator at Watchung Hills Regional High School. It is no exaggeration to say that this well-regarded, even beloved educator has been instrumental in shaping Watchung Hills into the educational institution it is today.

His scholarly qualifications were fully deployed when he came to Hills in 1972 as a teacher of social studies. Over the years his influence extended beyond the classroom as he coached wrestling, girls track and cross-country, became advisor to the All School Council and the Grade Level Council, and more, represented Hills in educational circles. He was deeply involved in the Somerset County Interscholastic Athletic Association and his knowledge of athletics, coupled with his quick wit, caused him to be selected for ten consecutive years as master of ceremonies for the annual event which honors the county's high school academic/athletic achievers.

Tom was no-behind-the-desk administrator. From very early in the morning, before the school doors opened, he was preparing a daily bulletin, to late afternoon or evenings, when he was attending athletic events and extracurricular activities. His presence was felt by students and teachers alike. Uppermost in whatever he did as teacher, coach, leader, supervisor, his genuine affection and concern for those he mentored was obvious.

In turn, he was regarded and respected by colleagues, students, and contemporaries alike. Gracious, thoughtful, humble, hard-working, and passionate are all terms his colleagues used to describe him. His retirement commemoration in June of 2012 was attended by representatives from all 40 years of his career.

Tom Di Ganci is truly the model for Watchung Hills' Warrior.