

Trumbull Public Schools Recognizes Excellence

Trumbull, CT - Each year, Trumbull Public Schools is pleased to offer the opportunity for all stakeholders to nominate teachers and paraeducators to represent our district for the excellence they provide our students and school communities. Each of our ten schools met with their school-based committee to select one nomination to be considered for the 2024 Teacher of the Year and one nomination for the 2024 Paraeducator of the Year.

Trumbull Public Schools School Based Teachers of the Year Awards for 2024

On Friday, May 26th, Trumbull Public Schools brought all of our Teachers of the Year by school to a district celebration and recognition lunch. They were also asked for input in the 2023-2024 District Improvement Plan. We recognize that as outstanding educators, their perspectives and the work they do are at the core of maintaining excellence in Trumbull Public Schools.

Please join us in congratulating the following educators:

Trumbull School	2024 School Teacher of the Year
TECEC	Jessica Thom
Booth Hill Elementary School	Sue Velez
Daniel Farm Elementary School	Stacy Weinstein
Frenchtown T Elementary School	Michelle Cretella
Jane Ryan Elementary School	Suzanne Spielman
Middlebrook Elementary School	Allison Ebert
Tashua Elementary School	Kristen Smeraglino
Madison Middle School	Jody D'Addario
Hillcrest Middle School	Rebecca Ardito
Trumbull High School	Nicole Trommelen



District Level Award Teacher & Paraeducator Award Recognitions 2024

After learning of their recognition, each of the above recipients completed short essays based on the state qualifications for Connecticut's state level *Teacher of the Year Award* and *Connecticut's Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award* for district level recognition. District committees of teacher representatives and paraeducator representatives then met to read their submissions with names redacted. After rating all applicants and engaging in rich discussions about the wealth of outstanding candidates, it is our pleasure to announce the 2024 Trumbull Public School district committee selections for the Trumbull Public Schools 2024 Teacher of the Year and the Trumbull Public Schools 2024 Paraeducator of the Year:

Jody D'Addario
Trumbull Public Schools Teacher of the Year 2024

Jody D'Addario has served Trumbull Public Schools for 27 years. Currently an 8th grade Science teacher and team leader at Madison Middle School, D'Addario believes that "Each student has a unique approach to solving problems," and that giving her students a chance for their "revelations to expand, grow, and shape existing background knowledge... [allows] students to learn from collective past knowledge and apply new knowledge and skills to future problems..."

As one Madison teacher shared, "She is passionate about Science and is able to communicate this passion to her students. Jody genuinely works at making her classroom a place where learning is fun and exciting, so as to get the best out of her students." She expanded "Although she may not agree with students all of the time, she keeps an open mind, values all kinds of different students, is respectful of different thoughts, views and suggestions and is open to considering new ideas- a key component of good science teaching. She knows students' learning styles and achievement levels and adjusts science lessons and assessments to ensure success."

Over the years, D'Addario has also served as an advisor for multiple clubs and activities. From advisor for the Student Council and the 8th grade class to clubs such as the Cross Country Club and Run Club, D'Addario operates under the premise that "Small contributions make a difference when we work together." She has been known to help organize service initiatives such as the Toys for Tots and feels that allowing students the responsibility to plan, collect, count, and distribute funds fosters "empathy and generosity." "It makes [the students] appreciate their own lives when they learn about the lives of others with far more challenging circumstances."

Representing the many exemplary educators in service of students and families across our school communities, Trumbull Public Schools recognizes, honors, and celebrates Jody D'Addario for her teaching excellence and selection as Trumbull's teacher ambassador for the 2024 Teacher of the Year Award.



Trumbull Public School Teacher of the Year 2024 Jody D'Addario with Madison Principal Peter Sullivan, Superintendent Marty Semmel, and Assistant Superintendent Susan Iwanicki. D'Addario was presented with district recognition this Friday, May 26, 2023.



Trumbull Public School Teacher of the Year 2024 Jody D'Addario with Madison 8th Graders after Receiving Her Award

Robin Bova
Trumbull Public Schools Paraeducator of the Year 2024



Robin Bova has spent the last 17 years serving the students of TECEC. Robin Bova has worn many hats during her tenure at TECEC. First as a parent, speech and language pathology assistant and most recently a Specialized Resource Program (SRP) paraeducator.

Her kindness, compassion, and tenacity to assure each child, parent and team member's needs were met are only few of the reasons she earned this prestigious award. She never let her illness affect her critical work with the children that she knew needed her support. The needs of all she was in contact with were secondary to her own.

Robin's love of children and their families went beyond the walls of TECEC. If she heard there was a need in the community she was the first to volunteer. Parents trusted her and there is no higher compliment

According to one TECEC teacher, "[Robin] is very dedicated, caring, and nurturing, always puts the kids first, and never hesitates to offer support to her colleagues as well." According to another nominator, "The patience she possesses and the skills she demonstrates in handling tough situations is commendable. Parents, students, and staff adore her. She is simply the best!"

Representing the many exemplary paraeducators in service of students and families across our school communities, Trumbull Public Schools recognizes Robin Bova as Trumbull's 2024 Paraeducator of the Year Award.



Robin Bova's husband, Kevin Bova and son accept her award for Trumbull Public School Paraeducator of the Year 2024, joined by Superintendent Marty Semmel and Principal Matthew Wheeler



The Faculty and Staff at TECEC join in recognizing the 2024 Award Recognition for Robin Bova