

DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence

The Distinguished Teachers Awards Ceremony



Tuesday, May 7, 2019

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Central Middle School Auditorium



DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AWARDS

The Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee, Inc. is a nonprofit organization established to recognize and celebrate excellence among the dedicated teaching staff of the Greenwich Public Schools. The Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee has worked on the selection process for this year's recipients for the last eight months. The committee selects the Distinguished Teacher recipients from nominations made by colleagues, administrators, parents, students and/or community members. The committee reviews the nominations and selects a maximum of six Distinguished Teachers based on the criteria outlined in the Nomination Packet. To be eligible, a nominee must be a full-time Greenwich Public Schools staff member who is a certified teacher. A nominee must have completed at least five years of teaching, three of them in Greenwich. The criteria for identifying a distinguished teacher include, among others, that he/she inspires enthusiasm for learning and academic excellence, elicits a high level of achievement from students in relation to their individual abilities, encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning and demonstrates and continues to pursue a high mastery of subject matter and best practices for instruction. The six teachers selected this year personify the criteria of a Distinguished Teacher.

Program

Welcome

Tom Healy

Principal, Central Middle School

Musical Selection

Performed by Greenwich High School Violin Quartet

Joe Konno, Nicole Maloney, Lui Luangkhot, Jovita Li

Program Introduction and Master of Ceremonies

Blakely Stinebaugh

Chair, Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee

Comments

Ralph Mayo

Superintendent of Schools

Comments

Peter Tesei

First Selectman of Greenwich

Presentation of 2019 Distinguished Teachers

Nominators of Recipients

Closing Comments

Peter Bernstein

Chair, Board of Education

Please join the Distinguished Teachers in the Cafeteria after the ceremony for a reception in their honor.

2018-2019
Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee

Blakely Stinebaugh, *Chair, Community*
Gene Schmidt*, *Vice-Chair, GOSA*
Judy Wren*, *Secretary, Community*
Rosemary Thibeault, *Treasurer, Community*

Rita Baker*, *Community*
Cathy Fiorito-Brunetti, *Community*
Alejandra Fajardo, *PTAC*
Patricia Carey, *PTAC*
Christine Edwards, *Community - Kiwanis*
Sarah Harris*, *GEA*
Cindy Lyall, *Community*
Meghan Olsson, *BOE*
Allison Radzin, *Community*
Cynthia Sherwin, *Community*
De Sorese, *Community*
Carol Sutton*, *GEA*
Mike Trogni, *Community*
Lora Parisi, *GOSA*

Kim Eves, Ex-Officio

* Previous Recipients of the Distinguished Teachers Award

Special thanks to DTAC members
Rita Baker and Sarah Harris for the honoree profiles.

Distinguished Teachers 2019

SEAN HARRIMAN
Greenwich High School
Social Studies

CRYSTAL KITSELMAN
North Mianus School
Grade 3

KATHARINE MISEROCCHI
Parkway School
Advanced Learning Program

MEGAN OSTRUZKA
Greenwich High School
Grades 9-12/AVID/Social Studies

CHRIS ANNE POWERS
Cos Cob School
Grades K-5/Music and Band

KARRIE VALE
Parkway School
Grade 5

Nominators of Recipients

MANUEL ALEJANDRO LOPEZ

Nominated Sean Harriman

ELAINA WEAVER

Nominated Crystal Kitselman

LISA SMALL

Nominated Katharine Miserocchi

JERRY SACRAMENTO

Nominated Megan Ostruzka

JENNIFER DONAT

Nominated Chris Anne Powers

KARA PHILBIN SKIBO

Nominated Karrie Vale



Sean Harriman

Greenwich High School
Social Studies

Mr. Sean Harriman has worked at Greenwich High School since 2000, where he has taught American History, World History, AP Psychology, Civics, and Ancient Civilizations. In addition to his teaching, he is a Social Studies Department Learning Facilitator, liaising between staff and administration regarding curriculum, instruction and program goals. He has also been a TEAM mentor. Other professional contributions to the district include: Summer Institute participant, Faculty Mentor for GHS Senior Project Program, Member of Teacher's Advisory Committee, Stand By Me Assistant Coordinator, National Honor Society Faculty Council, Video Game Club Advisor, and Student Government Advisor.

Mr. Harriman's classroom is a place where you will feel the energy immediately as you walk in; his passion for subject content is contagious, and his students are often heard breaking into applause when a fellow student makes a positive contribution. He gives the students the flexibility to choose what and how to learn, and to demonstrate their understanding in the most personal and meaningful way to them. Examples of his students' creative expressions include, rap songs, cave paintings on stone, models of ancient villages, reenactment videos, and even a cake complete with Egyptian hieroglyphics that actually translated to "I Love Ancient Civilizations"! Mr. Tiedemann, a colleague of Mr. Harriman at Greenwich High School, states: "Enter Sean Harriman's classroom and you will immediately see evidence of enthusiastic learning. Adorning all of the surfaces, you will find that Sean's students have built models that require research, hands-on engagement and attention to detail." Ms. Dana Tulotta, Greenwich High School Assistant Headmaster, says: "From day one at GHS Mr. Harriman has elicited both a high level of enthusiasm and achievement for learning from his students."

Mr. Harriman recognizes that the main focus of a teacher's job is to teach, and to ensure that children learn what is required. However, he is acutely aware that all students are individuals, and that his job is equally about helping the whole child to grow. He notes: "Grades,

statistics, or data do not reveal the reality about our profession, which is that we are not creating products or making profits, but are teaching individual people and helping them grow."

A role model for life-long learning, Mr. Harriman studies history and psychology continuously in order to remain "one step ahead of [his students]," recognizing that the high school has many gifted and intellectually curious students. If he cannot answer a question, he immediately guides the student into an exploration to find the answer, providing an outstanding example of a "lifelong learner whose curiosity and thirst for knowledge and understanding has not diminished." He also makes himself available to support his colleagues; providing resources and instructional strategies, and acting as a TEAM Mentor. Additionally, as a Learning Facilitator for the Social Studies Department, Mr. Harriman has proposed assessment and curriculum changes that enhance students' learning experiences.

It is a testament to Mr. Harriman's effectiveness as a teacher that his nominator was a former student (Manuel Alejandro Lopez), who is now in college. Manuel states that when he moved to Greenwich from Venezuela, he was a little behind in English and was concerned about how he would get by in his Social Studies class. Through gentle coaxing and guidance, Manuel was able to access the curriculum fully. Mr. Harriman made sure that Manuel was given plenty of opportunities to participate, and always provided "respectful feedback", making sure that Manuel knew that his opinions mattered. Manuel states that Mr. Harriman took the same consideration for all students. He did not limit the care of his students to the arena of subject matter only; he was equally sure to engage the students in other interests. Manuel states, "He was always willing to talk about the latest football game, video game, or news event. I felt that I was being taught by a friend and, as a result, I had the confidence to succeed." He sets the bar high for his students: "He never let me off easy and always insisted that I could do better. It made me want to do better. And, I did."

Mr. Sean Harriman received his Bachelor's Degree in History from The University of Connecticut in 1999, and his Master's Degree in Education in 2000.



Crystal Kitselman

North Mianus School
Grade 3

Ms. Crystal Kitselman has been working in the Greenwich Public Schools for 13 years, serving at both Parkway and North Mianus Elementary Schools. She is beloved by students, colleagues, and parents alike. Not only is she a highly effective teacher academically, but she also connects deeply and personally with all of her students, and regardless of their intrinsic abilities, she sets the bar high. Ms. Kitselman is a reflective teacher. In fact, it was her reflection of a math lesson three years ago that set her on a path of discovery that would change forever her life as a teacher, and the lives of her students as active learners. Ms. Kitselman had a vision, which she named "Pathways." The vision was for Pathways to replace whole group instruction. Ms. Kitselman recognized that her students had differing abilities and learning styles, and so she created four different pathways to mastery for each of the math standards. Students were able to choose the best pathway for their learning style, and having mastered a standard, they were encouraged to demonstrate their understanding in a way that was meaningful to them. Students were transformed as learners through their participation in the design of their own learning, and consequently, Ms. Kitselman's role as the teacher shifted completely; she had become a participant alongside her students, rather than the leader. Her discoveries were so powerful that the District adopted this way of teaching and learning – Ms. Kitselman's "Pathways" were renamed "Playlists", and are now an integral part of Personalized Learning in the Greenwich Public Schools.

Ms. Kitselman is trained in the Orton-Gillingham reading instruction model, a language-based, multisensory program. She was also a participant in the Lone Pine Educational Foundation Team, which trained with Greg Tang, the math specialist, for two years. She firmly believes in collaboration not just with her grade level colleagues, but across grade levels too.

Ms. Kitselman is an expert at reaching marginalized students. If she receives word that an incoming student is going to pose problems,

she will immediately begin to find ways to reach that child, no matter what it takes. Ms. Kitselman will not rest until every child in her class is accepted for who they are. A special education teacher at North Mianus once told her: "Do you know the difference you've made for (name of student) and how much she trusts you?" The child in question was able to recognize that her behavior was different when she was in Ms. Kitselman's room, because she felt safe. She says: "Teaching is about taking time to make the personal connections and creating a safe environment." A parent noted that she is able to reach all students: "Crystal's ability to connect with all of her students was amazing to witness. Every time I visited the classroom, I watched as she commanded their attention without raising her voice, spoke with calmness and kindness, treated them like the small adults that they are, with respect and understanding, and always assured them by her actions that she had their backs." A colleague says of Ms. Kitselman: "Crystal's hallmark quality of teaching is she not only inspires her students, but humbly inspires her colleagues every day. Her dynamic personality embraces the journey of being a student herself; never stagnant, never settling, and always having the drive to explore which mountain she can climb up next, with the help of her students of course. Crystal embodies the meaning of a teacher, a teammate, and a true leader who leads by example." Angela Schmidt, Principal at North Mianus, states: "Crystal is a teacher whose enthusiasm never wanes. She is a true innovator, always seeking to improve her instruction and that of her colleagues. She is the foundation of her team and one of the most talented and passionate teachers I have ever met."

Ms. Crystal Kitselman received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from The University of Bridgeport.



Katharine Miserocchi

Parkway School
Advanced Learning Program

Ms. Kate Miserocchi has been teaching in Connecticut for 20 years, the last 11 of which have been at Cos Cob, Riverside and Parkway Schools, where she has taught in the Advanced Learning Program (ALP). Professional contributions to the district include presenter at Professional Development Days, School Improvement Team member, Teacher Advisor and Coordinator, TEAM mentor, Curriculum Development participant, and Professional Accompanist for the Greenwich Public Schools Honor Choir, and North Mianus and Cos Cob schools.

Ms. Miserocchi's guiding principle is that of a "growth mindset", as opposed to a "fixed mindset", where effort and attitude determine everything. Teaching a student who was struggling with the steps of long division, she encouraged him to work through his difficulties until a moment of clarity appeared. This was his "revelation". Ms. Miserocchi has an "Inspirational Quotes Blackboard" in her room, where the student in question wrote the following words: "When you don't have any ideas, or you need to overcome an obstacle, but you can't yet, all you need is a spark, a spark to light the flames of the fire of confidence."

Ms. Miserocchi believes firmly that students should be directly involved in the design of their learning. This was evident in the way the students tackled the end of year Shakespeare performance. Rather than determining the play herself, Ms. Miserocchi allowed the students to explore a number of abbreviated versions and to debate amongst themselves which one they should perform. She says: "The students were genuinely invested in the outcome, and had the experience of delving far more deeply into Shakespeare from the beginning than if I had provided a pre-designed outline or had made the choice myself." Her experiment was so successful that she was invited to speak about it at the Creativity Conference sponsored by CT Association for the Gifted in October 2018.

Ms. Miserocchi believes that her job as ALP teacher stretches beyond

those identified for the ALP program. This year she reached out to her 5th Grade colleagues, and invited all 5th Graders to participate in the Word Masters challenge. To stimulate engagement and learning, she designed exciting ways for the students to learn the words – playing games with synonyms, acting out word relationships, brainstorming creative stories using the words, and other innovative tasks. The results were remarkable and unexpected – all students, including those receiving reading intervention and English Language Learners, benefitted from the novel instruction.

Ms. Miserocchi graduated with a music degree, and she uses her skill as a pianist to benefit others. In the summer of 2017 she traveled to Munich in Germany, where she led a music workshop for the sons and daughters of refugee families from war-torn towns in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Her experience was so moving that on her return to Greenwich, she determined to educate and connect her students to global issues. In particular, she taught a unit of study on refugees to her 5th graders, using real life stories, non-fiction resources, and novels. She arranged for the author of "Inside Out and Back Again" to Skype with her 5th graders, telling them about how she had to flee Vietnam with her family. Ms. Miserocchi notes, "Helping children find their voice as they learn about issues of injustice and inequality has become a driving force in my work as an educator."

Students, parents, and teachers are all deeply impressed by Ms. Miserocchi's gifts. A parent at Parkway School describes her as "that extraordinary teacher who always goes above and beyond the norm." A student describes her as possessing "an aura of kindness, positivity, and enthusiasm." Perhaps the most important thing any teacher can do is to get to know their students – one student stated, "Ms. Miserocchi knows me better than I know myself." This is praise indeed! Another student said, "I always feel like I am walking into a big hug – I can think, learn, and do my best when I feel so safe." A colleague said, "Kate Miserocchi creates sunshine that her students walk into daily." Mary Grandville, Principal at Parkway School said, "There is a vibe that makes you feel like magic is happening all around you."

Ms. Kate Miserocchi received a Bachelor's Degree in Music from Yale University in 1980, and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Bank Street College in 1993.



Megan Ostruzka

Greenwich High School
Grades 9-12/AVID/Social Studies

Asking students to take responsibility for their own learning and to achieve at a high level is something that Megan Ostruzka works toward on a daily basis. Whether it be Global Studies 112, AP Government or AVID, she believes that if she holds her students to a high standard while supporting their efforts to reach that standard, they will rise to the challenge. But that is just part of the equation. She also believes that engaging her students and inspiring them to learn are equally as important, and to that end she strives to help students "connect to the content". "I believe that the application of class content to real life experiences is what generates enthusiasm and a love of learning. Students need to see relevance, which leads them to become curious about the content and to seek to learn more." This is the philosophy which leads Megan Ostruzka to help students of all levels and backgrounds succeed in her classroom and beyond as lifelong learners.

Several students from Ms. Ostruzka's classes wrote about what sets her apart as a "distinguished teacher." An AVID student remarked that, "Over the past four years, Mrs. Ostruzka has proven to me that she is fully invested in my life, as she is in all her students. She is aware of every student's talents and helps them use that to pursue their passions. Day by day she shows us that it is up to us to put effort into our work and she does what she can to be a catalyst for our success." A freshman in Global Studies said, "Ms. O. teaches me more than history, she teaches me about life," while an advanced placement student remarked how getting an award from Ms. Ostruzka was the highlight of her GHS career. Her colleague added, "to gain such praise from a student is extraordinary. This is a laudable achievement that Megan makes look innate. She connects with kids because they see her for who she is, a person of passion and integrity."

Ms. Ostruzka not only goes above and beyond for her students but also for her colleagues. Her teaching partner wrote, "Collaborating with Megan has been the highlight of my professional career." She has co-authored the curricula for Global Studies, AP US Government,

and AP Comparative Government making the themes of global politics and history real and applicable to all students. She was one of three teachers who successfully collaborated for almost two years to bring to fruition the Global Studies curriculum that replaced the 30-year-old World Themes curriculum. She presented a workshop on GRIT during professional development days which received rave reviews for its content and engaging presentation. Ms. Ostruzka's housemaster noted, "I have frequently paired her with newer teachers as I know she is always willing to share her ideas and resources, is interested in helping new teachers, and works well with anyone. Her collaborative nature combined with her creative ideas for boosting student achievement has been an awesome and helpful combination for the social studies leadership team."

Ms. Ostruzka began her teaching career at Greenwich High School in 2006 and has taught Honors Civics, AP US Government and Comparative Government, Global Studies, Honors Contemporary America and Sociology. For the past four years, she has been an AVID elective teacher for which she was trained at several AVID training events as well as three intensive summer institutes. From 2016 to the present, she has served as a Social Studies Department Learning Facilitator and as such has served as a member of the schoolwide Learning Program Council where she makes her voice heard on behalf of students and teachers. She is also a TEAM mentor who coaches and supports new teachers and works with student teachers. Ms. Ostruzka has also been the club advisor for Habitat for Humanity and the class advisor for the Class of 2012. As her housemaster says, "Overall, Megan is someone who sees her purpose as advancing the educational goals of the Greenwich Public Schools not only within, but also beyond the classroom. She continually proves herself capable of achieving this purpose every day."

Ms. Ostruzka received a bachelor's degree in history from Fairfield University where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa (Arts and Sciences), Phi Alpha Theta (History) and Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science) honor societies. She also holds a master's degree in history and a sixth year in building leadership.



Chris Anne Powers

Cos Cob School
Grades K-5/Music and Band

"JOY. Kids can feel it. Parents can detect it. It's something that can't be faked and Chris has got it running through her entire being. She is perpetually joyful about her music classes, students, concerts, and school plays." That is how a parent described Cos Cob School's music and band teacher Chris Powers, a one of a kind teacher of boundless energy who gives of her time and talent freely for the betterment of her students, colleagues and for the school district as a whole. A colleague noted, "Chris is a master teacher. She is a leader in our school. She goes above and beyond in all she does and inspires all of her colleagues and students to do the same." Ms. Powers co-chaired the committee that planned the 25th anniversary celebration of the Cos Cob reopening after the devastating fire, only to have the school closed by a flood a week later. It was Ms. Powers' classroom that was hit the hardest by massive amounts of water that completely destroyed her storage closet and everything inside of it. Since she directs the school play every year, the closet was not only filled with musical supplies but also with years of costumes and handmade sets. It was a tremendous loss. Yet it was Ms. Powers' positive attitude that pulled together the entire staff and helped everyone make it through this most difficult time. Ms. Powers is equally as positive with her students, as she "takes the time to find the glimmer inside of each student, nurtures them to help them see it for themselves, and then she watches them shine." That is why everyone who comes into contact with her feels special, valued and respected. No matter what their level or ability, Chris Powers inspires each of her students to be a "shining star."

In and out of the classroom, Chris Powers embraces her favorite quote, "Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching." While working on her master's degree, she studied theories of multiple intelligences. One of the main principles of the program was to expose students to different educational modes of learning, taking the graduate students out of their comfort zones to understand how students feel in their classrooms. As a final project the professors asked them what made them feel the most uncomfortable. For Ms.

Powers the answer was reptiles. The professor then suggested she work at a zoo to put herself in her students' shoes. So, what did she do? She got a job at Steve Irwin's zoo in Australia, and for two weeks immersed herself in everything that frightened her—snakes, lizards and crocodiles! Although the method may have been a bit draconian, the point was made, the lesson learned, and Ms. Powers can now freely walk around with a boa constrictor around her shoulders! Music may not be in every student's comfort zone, but every student comes out of her program musically literate and encouraged to become confident and independent musicians.

Chris Powers began teaching music, band and chorus in the Stratford Public Schools. She then transferred to Cos Cob School where she has taught for 21 years. She has been the conductor of the annual Cos Cob Band/Chorus winter and spring concerts and the director of the annual 5th grade play. From 1998-2012 and then again from 2018 to the present, Ms. Powers served as co-conductor of the Greenwich Public Schools Honor Choir, an auditioned choir with students representing the finest singers from the town's eleven elementary and three middle schools. She organizes the annual Veterans Day Celebration, the Cos Cob Chorus holiday performance at the Cos Cob Tree Lighting ceremony, as well as the annual first grade Salute to Community just to name a few. In her "spare" time, she helped to organize a fundraiser to raise money for the Lymphoma Society and Alex's Lemonade Stand to raise money for childhood cancer.

Chris Powers holds a Bachelor of Music degree summa cum laude from the University of Hartford Hart School of Music and a Masters in the Art of Learning from Sacred Heart University. She completed 30 hours of graduate study beyond the masters at the Hart School of Music where she received Kodaly and FAME certifications to teach music literacy to young children. She is a founding member of the Feierabend Association for Music Education and currently its Vice President of the Board of Trustees.



Karrie Vale

Parkway School
Grade 5

If asked to give advice to a former student who is considering a career in teaching, Karrie Vale would gladly give her T.H.O.U.G.H.T.S.

Trust: You become a child's confidant—a teacher, a psychologist, a friend, even a parent. Embrace those roles fully.

Honesty: Don't be afraid to make mistakes and own them! Model resilience, compassion and forgiveness.

Optimism: Be the light! Help each student to see the world and to consider the hardships of others.

Uniqueness: Celebrate as often as you can the diversity of every individual, their special qualities and successes.

Grit: Remind your students that life is not one size fits all and that we are always growing, evolving and collaborating.

Heart: Love your students, go the extra mile, listen to their stories, give second chances.

Tenacity: Your passion will help you persevere through five subject areas of instruction, parent meetings, consults with colleagues, and even moments to put on a Band-Aid.

Self-Discipline: Great learners need to listen, absorb, and think. A careful balance between student excitement and helping to foster patience is necessary as a teacher.

Karrie Vale embraces her T.H.O.U.G.H.T.S. every day with every student in her classroom, and this is what has made her the distinguished teacher we are honoring today.

Project-based learning, meaningful tasks for students to apply their understanding, and authentic experiences make learning come alive in Ms. Vale's classroom. She helps students set goals, develop pathways to achieve these goals and then holds the whole team responsible for helping each other reach those goals. Thus, students feel valued, understood and supported by one another. In Ms. Vale's classroom, success is not measured by test scores but "by the way we embrace failures." A student summed up the 5V spirit, "I won't rest until my good becomes better and better becomes my best." Many students carry the lessons learned in Ms. Vale's classroom to high school and beyond. One such student had struggled in math before having Ms.

Vale as her teacher. She credits her A+ in Honors Pre-Calculus to the "patience, diligence and kindness of Ms. Vale" who made Math her favorite subject. An English language learner credits his success to Ms. Vale who frequently stayed after school to give him extra instruction. "She helped me believe in myself and took extra time to help me stand up for my education." Karrie Vale will do whatever it takes to bring out the best in each and every one of her students and her influence stays with them way beyond their time at Parkway School.

Parents, colleagues and administrators alike praised Ms. Vale as "the consummate professional, truly deserving of the distinguished teacher recognition. One administrator said she is a "trailblazer, a creative thinker, who brings joy and positive attitude to her children. She engages and encourages her students to be deep, creative thinkers and to advocate for their own learning." A colleague wrote of the pleasure she had watching Ms. Vale interact with her students. "There is a magic that fills the room. It is as if she sprinkles fairy dust of achievement and confidence over each of their heads and they absolutely love her for it and rise to the occasion." It is no wonder that according to several parents, "Ms. Vale is the teacher students and parents hold their breath to get."

Ms. Vale began her teaching career as a second grade teacher at Hamilton Avenue School and after three years moved to Parkway where she has been teaching fifth grade for six years. There with her colleagues she has organized the Family Writing Night, Family Math Night, STEAM Night and Family Digital Learning Night as well as being the coordinator of the Fifth Grade Play. At the district level, she is a member of the Curriculum Council, the Teacher Evaluation and Professional Learning Committee, the Digital Learning Advisory Committee and the District Teacher's Advisory Council. She has led numerous professional development workshops and has given several lectures and presentations across the state. Most notably, she was the keynote speaker at the 2015 Connecticut State Department of Education conference delivering an address entitled Teachers as Self-Directed Learners: Personalized Professional Learning System.

Ms. Vale holds a bachelor of science degree from New York University in Culture and Communication, a master's degree from Manhattanville College in Elementary and Special Education and a sixth year from Mercy College in Building Leadership.

The Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee wishes to thank the following for their generous contributions:

ORGANIZATIONS:

Greenwich Education Association (GEA)
Greenwich Organization of School Administrators (GOSA)
Kiwanis Club of Greenwich
Members of the Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee
Greenwich PTA Council
Greenwich High School PTA
Central Middle School PTA
Eastern Middle School PTA
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Cos Cob School PTA
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Hamilton Avenue School PTA
International School at Dundee PTA
Julian Curtiss School PTA
New Lebanon School PTA
North Mianus School PTA
North Street School PTA
Old Greenwich School PTA
Parkway School PTA
Riverside School PTA

INDIVIDUALS:

Anonymous
Joel Adelburg
Cecilia Aita
Steve Anderson
Sue Moretti Bodson
Karen Millard Boyea
Jennifer Dayton
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Anne & Robert Gilhuly Ttee
Ardith Williams

Distinguished Teachers 1985 - 2019

2019
Sean Harriman
Crystal Kitselman
Katharine Miserocchi
Megan Ostruzka
Chris Anne Powers
Karrie Vale

2018
Karen Ball
Lisa Giometti
Michele Giorlando DeRosa
Frank Kovac
Eleanor Ritch
Meagan White

2017
Stephen Babyak
Victoria Cappiali
Michael Galatioto
Erin Randall
Bridget Suvansri
Diane Taylor

2016
Ana Chejin-Danielsen
Julie Cofone
Sarah Goldin
Sarah Harris
Jeannine Madoff
Ian Tiedemann

2015
Cathy Byrne
Richard Crawford
Luz Desrouilleres
Maryann Franchella
Maryann Jagodzinski
Diana Willie

2014
Mara Adelsberg
Cheryl Iozzo
Sheri McGowan
James M. Micik
Robert Walsh
Lin Yuan Young

2013
Cecilia Aita
Jennifer Benoit
Melissa Macchio Brown
Stephen Kinner
Esra Murray
Mary Beth Smith

2012
Christine Begole
Andrew Bramante
Richard Kurtzman
Elizabeth Manning
Barbara Brennan Oxer
Cynthia Sherwin

2011
Karen Boyea
Meredith Daniels
Laura Donnelly
Karen Foster
Nan Nelson
Jennifer Preli

2010
Alison Allerton
Jessica Baker
Rita Baker
Charill Pierce
Kathleen Steiner
Sheri Lyn Wollard

2009
Gretchen Crandall
Kathleen Harbort
Anne Haymon
Aaron Hull
Susan Tracey
Judith Wren

2008
Karen Anderson
Rita Clair
Camille Fusco
Arianne Haley-Banez
Christine Kovac
Anthony Mullen

2007
Phyllis Dale
Karen Maher-Cochran
Mary Ann Murray
Christina Shaw
Gloria Sprigg
Dana Tulotta

2006
Nan Barrett
Liz Black
William Bogardus
Charles DiSapio
Karen Harris
Robert Wilson

2005
Mary Fike
Diane Garofalo
Cathy Mayo
Gene Schmidt
Patrick Taylor
Julie Wang

2004
Andrea Abbott
Rae Baczek
Elaine Casale
Karen Nagy
Alice Neal
Jonathan Smith

2003
Donna Conway
Mark Epstein
Courtney Hawes
Brenda Macri
Karen Riordan
Medard Thomas

2002
Margot Bittenbender
Jean Di Vincenzo
Mariko Iwai
Georgia Tedla
Curtis Tipton
John Whalen

2001
Michael Batcheller
Alisa Lewis
Jane Niwa
Kathryn Onofrio
Susan Whalen
John Yoon

2000
Susan Batcheller
Valerie Bolling
Barbara O'Neill
Francis Pierce II
Susan Striker
Louise Williamson

1999
Kenneth Alcorn
A. Ray Hamilton
Patricia Kohn
Frederic Stewart
Carole Tierney
Doreen Zahn

1998
Nancy-Anne Fitzgibbons
Ledell Mulvaney
Mary Pierce
Barbara Schutzman
Steve Rosenberg
Judith Fell Woods

1997
Emma Oberheuser
Susan Valenzi
Dwight Wall
Erica Wiberg
Joanne Zammit
Robert Zapor

1996
Christine Anderson
Joan Beiser
William Dinnean
Carolyn Gilbert
Barbara Gotch
Carol Sutton

1995
Daniel Barrett
Anne Gilhuly
Chris Kazanas
Susan Lickwar
Judith Petersen
Caralliene Westbrook

1994
Frank Arnone
Lissa Bentley
Victor Mazmanian
Paul Rosenblum
Marcie Schoenfeld
Jerry Snyder

1993
Jory Lockwood
Gail Montgomery
Philip Nobile
Sara Reilly
Candace Robinson
Janet Stroble

1992
John Boyton
Jane Carlin
Susan Hart
Dena Phelps
Carmel Signa
Martha Taylor

1991
Brigid Barry
William Bechem
Elinor Carr
Richard Kohn
Jane Kahn
Camilla Rogers

1990
Joan Lowe
Terrence Lowe
Julie Machen
Mary Seitzer
Lee Spong
Steve Wallerstein

1989
Joel Adelberg
Dolores Kenny
Ralph Pettie
Richard Piotrzkowski
Carol Rosenberg
Ardith Williams

1988
Martha Awdziewicz
Carmelita Brooks
Marjorie Klar
Harry Kropp
Kenneth Lyon
Lorraine Termini

1987
Esther Bushell
Christine Gunn
Jeanette Hotchkiss
George Mathes
Anne Modugno
Harold Trachtenberg

1986
Elizabeth Hughes
Shirle Jankowich
Mary Livezey
Marilyn Maxwell
David Ross
Lynn Washington

1985
Ellwood Autuori
Kathy Barnes
Josephine Frame
Lois Hebert
Barbara Lewis
Betsy Perna-Smith

Criteria for Identifying Distinguished Teachers

- Inspires enthusiasm, expects students to take responsibility for their own learning and elicits a high level of achievement from students in relation to their individual abilities
- Demonstrates and continues to pursue a high mastery of subject matter and best practices for instruction
- Earns the respect of students, parents and colleagues
- Communicates effectively with parents and students
- Collaborates and makes contributions to improve overall student achievement within the classroom
- Makes contributions to improve the school and/or the District beyond the classroom



DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence