



DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AWARDS
Celebrating Excellence



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THE DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AWARDS CEREMONY



TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015
4:00 - 5:30 P.M.
CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL



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.

CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS

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



1990

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

1987

Esther Bushell
Christine Gunn
Jeanette Hotchkiss
George Mathes
Anne Modugno
Harold Trachtenburg

1989

Joel Adelberg
Dolores Kenny
Ralph Pettie
Richard Piotrkowski
Carol Rosenberg
Ardith Williams

1986

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

1988

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

1985

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

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Shelley Somers
Principal, Central Middle School

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

*Performed by Greenwich Public Schools Festival Orchestra
Conducted by Mercy Vaillancourt*

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION AND MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Sue Rogers
Chair, Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee

COMMENTS

William S. McKersie
Superintendent of Schools

COMMENTS

John Toner
Selectman of Greenwich

PRESENTATION OF 2015 DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS

Nominators of Recipients

COMMENTS

L. Scott Frantz
State Senator

CLOSING COMMENTS

Barbara O'Neill
Chairman, Board of Education

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

2014-15
**DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AWARDS
 COMMITTEE**

Sue Rogers, *Chair, Community, PTAC & Alliance*
 Angela Schmidt, *Vice-Chair, GOSA*
 Susan Batcheller*, *Secretary*
 Lauren Rabin, *Treasurer, Community*

Jennifer Dayton, *BOE*
 Trudi Durrell, *GOSA*
 Ellen Hawley, *Community*
 Bianka Kortlan-Cox, *Community*
 Brenda Macri*, *Community*
 Peter Mutino, *Community, Kiwanis*
 Victoria Newman, *Community*
 Barbara Oppedisano*, *Community*
 Adriana Ospina, *BOE*
 Charill Pierce*, *GEA*
 Cynthia Sherwin*, *Community*
 Blakely Stinebaugh, *Community*
 Janet Stroble*, *Community*
 Carol Sutton*, *GEA*
 Rosemary Thibeault, *PTAC*
 Judy Wren*, *Community*

Kim Eves, *Ex-Officio*

* Previous Recipients of the Distinguished Teachers Award

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

DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS 1985 - 2013

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

DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS 2015

CATHY BYRNE

Hamilton Avenue School
Grade 5

LUZ DESROUILLERES

Western Middle School
Spanish, Grade 8

RICHARD CRAWFORD

Western Middle School
Mathematics, Grade 8

MARYANN FRANCHELLA

Greenwich High School
Mathematics, Grades 9-12

MARYANN JAGODZINSKI

North Street School
Grade 5

DIANA WILLIE

Western Middle School
Social Studies, Grades 8

NOMINATORS OF RECIPIENTS

DARLENE ANGOTTO
NOMINATED CATHY BYRNE

KATI BENNETT
NOMINATED LUZ DESROUILLERES

TERRY McCABE
NOMINATED RICHARD CRAWFORD

OLIVIA SCHARFMAN
NOMINATED MARYANN FRANCHELLA

SCOTT FAHEY
NOMINATED MARYNN JAGODZINSKI

RONNY ALEXANDER IVERSEN
NOMINATED DIANA WILLIE

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

BARBARA O'NEILL
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
WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA
COS COB SCHOOL PTA
GLENVILLE SCHOOL PTA
HAMILTON AVENUS 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

informative, an example being “Willionaire”; a spin-off of the game show “Millionaire” which challenges students to complete harder and harder questions based upon their study guides.

Outside the classroom, Diana has been a force to reckon with. She ran the Student Council program for five years, during which she helped students to organize events to benefit the local and national community. They have collected funds for tsunami relief in Japan, participated in raising money and awareness for Heifer International and helped organized the annual Thanksgiving canned food drive. Four years ago, the Council collected over 800 pairs of shoes for the charity Soles4Souls. Three years ago she gave a presentation on bullying at the Connecticut Association of Schools Middle Level Leadership Conference.

This year, she worked with other classes to create “Thank You” cards for the Greenwich Police Department to acknowledge all their efforts, an act of kindness recognized by both the Police Department and the Greenwich Time. Five students won awards of refurbished bicycles in appreciation.

Diana has been teaching for nine years; six years at WMS preceded by three years at Greenwich High School. She is the Learning Facilitator for the 8th Grade Team at Western. She attended Eastern Connecticut State University, graduating with a BA in History and Social Science. She added a Masters Degree in Education, with a Secondary Teaching Certification. She was a member of the Who’s Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges in 2004.

Diana’s nomination includes descriptions like “warmth”, “commitment”, “motivated” and “organized”. It is understandable that a fellow teacher states “Mrs. Willie is the type of teacher that inspires greatness in both her students and colleagues and is someone who elevates education in Greenwich.”



CATHY BYRNE

**HAMILTON AVENUE SCHOOL
GRADE 5**

“I believe all of my students can succeed and I work hard to instill this belief in them.” In one sentence, Cathy Byrne not only describes her steadfast belief in the ability of her students, but also the incredible work ethic and passion that she brings to the teaching profession. A twenty-five year veteran, the last twenty four of which have been at Hamilton Avenue, she has never lost her sense of imagination or desire to engage all of her students in learning. She has the ability to ensure that when students leave her classroom at the end of the year they will be entering the next grade well prepared for the challenges ahead.

Cathy Byrne is renown for her imaginative approach to teaching. Fellow Hamilton Avenue teacher and nominator Darlene Angotto describes that as a 2nd grade teacher, Cathy designed an immigration simulation for the students. She had the students dress as immigrants from their country of ancestry, created ship boarding passes for every child, a ship’s manifest, and fake money for each child to carry with them. Cathy then had the students “journey” multiple times around the school, carrying belongs, having to get pass immigration inspectors (parent volunteers) and fed them watery soup as if they were on board a ship, and bananas and warm milk as they would have been served in the Great Hall at Ellis Island. How could students not remember both the day they spent as immigrants but more importantly the lessons learned? Hamilton Avenue Assistant Principal Carmen Vargas-Guevara described Cathy as “an accommodating and versatile individual with the talent to develop inspiring hands-on lessons that will capture a child’s imagination and breed success.”

Cathy is also a teacher who never fails to give back to her peers. She has served as a mentor for seven new teachers and a cooperating teacher for six student teachers. During the past year, Hamilton Avenue School started the transition to a STEM Magnet School. Her colleagues have selected her as the face, the voice and spokesperson as the school continues to make this new change. Cathy has served on multiple committees at her school including STEM Exploration and Curriculum Resource Committee and School Data and Improvement Teams. Additionally, she has presented at the National Science Teachers' Convention for the last four years. Outside of school she is a Sunday school teacher, Girl Scout Leader and on the Board of Directors of the Science Education Center. Cathy graduated from Connecticut College with a Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, in Child Development/Education where she also was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. She subsequently earned her Master of Arts in Special Education from Fairfield University, again achieving Dean's List for her efforts.

In summary, there may be no better compliment or way to summarize her impact then to quote the words of former student Wyatt Radzin. "Some kids say that Ms. Byrne is strict. Others say that she gives a lot of work and has high expectations. She is strict and does give a lot of work, but it is all for our benefit. Whether it is phases of the moon or the Revolutionary War, everybody finds a way to love learning. No one would miss a word coming out of Ms. Byrne's mouth." For a teacher, no higher praise could be given or received.



DIANA WILLIE

**WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL
SOCIAL STUDIES, GRADE 8**

Diana Willie, 8th grade Social Studies teacher at Western Middle School, proudly states, "my lessons are rigorous, challenging and prompt my students to inquire, collaborate and investigate." Her high standards need to be understood within the context of "working successfully in some of the most difficult conditions present in the town of Greenwich, with some of the most challenging groups of students." Diana explains it simply; "It is my belief that respect is reciprocal and is given, not earned. This mantra is one of the reasons I have such a fantastic rapport with my students both in and outside of the classroom. My students are behaved, polite and, of course respectful, because that is the expectation that I set for them at the beginning of the year."

Success with Diana comes through a great deal of hard work. Fellow Social Studies teacher Ryan Jones recalls working with Diana on a unit, "We vowed that this year we would push ourselves and our students even further. The pinnacle of our success thus far, came during our last unit, which was an in-depth look at what makes the United States Constitution successful. During this planning process, Diana demonstrated a tireless work ethic and unique creativity. I routinely found her buried in multiple volumes of texts that were written with student-centered learning in mind. She would come to school early every morning, bursting with new ideas that had kept her mind racing through the previous night." Student nominator R. Alexander Iversen attests to her creativity presenting the materials in such a way that they are interesting while still

a haunted mansion with a long table and twenty-four mystery guests, who present clues and keep their peers guessing. There is her famous Historical Wax Museum where students are dressed as different explorers and display maps and artifacts of their journeys. Upon insertion of a coin, the wax figure will come to life and present oral accounts of their experiences. A slogan hanging on the classroom wall reads “5J Helps, Not Hurts Each Other,” exemplifies her belief that social and emotional learning is a key component in her students’ education. She staunchly believes “to gain respect, you must offer respect.” Her daily interactions with her class were summed up by a student who said “I can talk about anything with Mrs. Jags. It’s never about her, she’s selfless. She always asking us about us and how we’re doing and what we need.”

Maryann was the driver behind the creation of a student council for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. She explains, “weaved throughout the day are opportunities to engage students in experiences that set values and foster good citizenship.” The council provides opportunities to “develop leadership skills and become contributing members of our school, local and global communities.” Maryann models leadership by serving on the Social and Emotional Learning Committee, Language Arts Committee, Crisis Team Committee, School Improvement and Data Teams and Math Assessment Committee.

Parent nominator Scott Fahey explains Maryann “embodies all the traits required to be an exemplary educator; professional skill, warmth, firmness, collegiality, strong communication skills, an ability to motivate and a limitless desire to continue learning and developing”. A colleague noted, “As a teacher, a mother, a mentor, or friend, Maryann lives her life for others and her mission is, without a doubt, to spread love and happiness everywhere she goes.”



LUZ DESROUILLERES

WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL SPANISH, GRADE 8

Luz Desrouilleres, 8th grade Spanish teacher at Western Middle School, enjoys having students eat lunch with her everyday to discuss a wide range of topics as varied as politics, personal dreams and aspirations. It is an example of someone who wanted to be a teacher so that she could create a welcoming learning environment, and this she has certainly achieved. Luz views herself as a strict teacher with high expectations of her students, but also prides herself on creating a risk-free environment in her classroom.

Parent nominator Kati Bennett describes her ability “to inspire her students to work hard to learn Spanish by setting high expectations for students and then helping them to do their best work.” Western Principal Gordon Beinstein praises her; “of the hundreds of middle school teachers I have worked with over the past 27 years, few have impressed me as Mrs. Desrouilleres has with her commitment to the students, the building, and the district, and none have done so with as little attention. It’s time she gets the recognition she has not sought, but so richly deserves.”

Her nomination reveals, “as a World Language teacher, Mrs. Desrouilleres has few peers. Her ability to connect to students and involve them deeply in the subject matter in an effort to engage them in their own learning is remarkable.” Luz takes the time and effort to infuse her lessons with real life scenarios in order to prepare students to use their Spanish skills in life - like situations. She describes the “ah-ha” moments students often experience while on vacations, in Spanish speaking countries, during which they were able to order food for their family and

themselves.

Luz's impact goes beyond the classroom. Being very proud of her Puerto Rican heritage, she looks to share it with her students and their families. She is the driving force behind engaging the Hispanic population at Western through family workshops. In addition, she runs an Arts & Crafts club and an after school support program, works with students at intramural sports, chairs the Diversity Committee and is Fundraising Coordinator for the school. She is the World Language Learning Facilitator for the school and is a consistent mentor to other teachers.

On top of all that, Luz is organizer of WMS's highly popular and successful International Night. Four hundred students and their families most recently attended the annual event. Luz advertises the event, collects RSVPs, arranges entertainments, works with the PTA to organize supplies and then ensures that there are adequate volunteers to set up, serve food and clean up. She also oversees the menu to ensure variety and representation of all the nationalities present at the school, which is no easy feat at a school as diverse as Western. The annual celebration of the WMS community all happens because of her efforts.

A graduate of Iona College with a BA in Secondary Education with a Concentration in Spanish, Luz also has an MS in Education from Western Connecticut University with a Concentration in Curriculum and currently is working on her second Masters in Educational Psychology. She explains that her current course in Multicultural Education exposes her to topics such as Biracial Identity, Global Competence, Human Rights and Identity Development, all topics she seeks to apply in her daily life as a teacher at Western.



MARYANN JAGODZINSKI

**NORTH STREET SCHOOL
GRADE 5**

Don't be shocked if you walk into Maryann Jagodzinski's North Street School(NSS) 5th Grade class and find a student standing on their chair, fake microphone firmly in hand, ready to share something they believed they did well on so that the class can recognize their accomplishment. In 5J, students taking turns to "shout it from the mountaintop." This is just one example of how "Mrs. Jags" ensures celebration of success in order to build enthusiasm for learning. According to Maryann, "everyone in my classroom is made to feel special and a valued member." It's not surprising that her classroom slogan is "Yes, I Can," delivering the message that there is nothing students cannot accomplish.

NSS Principal Jill Flood describes how Maryann's students are welcomed into a warm, inviting, positive, supportive environment where all students can thrive. "Through humor, personal anecdotes, technology, the use of visuals, and engaging activities, Mrs. Jagodzinski makes learning fun and exciting."

Maryann graduated from Southern Connecticut State University with a BS in Elementary Education and later received her MA in Special Education from Fairfield University. Even with over 25 years of teaching experience, she consistently looks to advance her knowledge of curriculum content and strategies. What makes her an outstanding teacher is how she applies her own learning to help her students, in turn, learn in a variety of ways. Students may be asked to take part in a biographical "Meet and Greet" where they dress and act as historical characters. Or on Halloween, her classroom is transformed into

Most importantly, Maryann instills a combination of discipline and passion for learning in her students. In describing how Maryann taught the properties of a gradient vector and why it is perpendicular to the counter of the surface, as well as always pointing in the direction of largest positive direction derivative (this is a student's description of the subject!) "instead of lecturing, she gave students the opportunity to formulate their own understanding and share them with the class. This collaborative environment fosters understanding and a love for the pure beauty of the subject." Maryann is demanding, "she challenges us with her tests in a way that most of us have never previously been academically challenged before." She is also truly motivating. "As crazy as this might sound, I often find myself actually enjoying her tests."

While she pushes her students, she "cares so much for them that she is constantly available for extra help." She has taught Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, Pre-Calculus and various levels of Calculus. The last subject is one of incredible success. Her student nominator pointed out "the results of her challenging questions and excellent teaching are abundantly clear. Almost every single kid in BC Calculus last received a perfect 5 on the AP exam, and many didn't need to study because we had truly learned the material and understood it at a depth and breadth beyond what was expected of us by the exam. She made us want to expect that understanding from ourselves". The average AP score from Maryann's class has consistently been 4.5 or above with many years at 4.9.

"A natural leader", "smart, animated", "amazing and passionate teacher", "favorite teacher", "a successful female leader" and "one of the best teachers ever" are just some of the terms seen throughout her recommendations. However, the quote that may sum it up best is, "though this nomination is coming from me, it is on behalf of all of Ms. Franchella's very grateful students. We say thank you to her for everything she has given us."



RICHARD CRAWFORD

**WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL
MATHEMATICS, GRADES 9-12**

How do you describe a teacher who flips the classroom on its edge by using web-based technology to move learning out of the classroom and into the home? Innovative? Integrative? Western Middle School 8th grade mathematics teacher Richard Crawford refuses to accept the status quo and is always looking to push the envelope. Utilizing a series of free educational online videos, he has moved the learning of content to the home and improved the students' educational experience. Students are able to review material at their own speed and come into the classroom with more focused questions, personalizing their learning experience.

Rich combines the teaching of math and real world skills. For example, students design their own three-question Geometry quizzes using jsFiddle, a web-based editing tool. The students take each other's quizzes and provide feedback to their peers. Rich reflects, "the students were 100% on task, engaged in content learning, and collaborating with each other to identify coding bugs." The project was a unique mélange of math and life skills. Learning how bits of code can create different colors, fonts, text and even cursors provide beneficial skills in an ever-advancing world.

Outside the classroom, Rich has been the International Baccalaureate Coordinator for the school for the past five years and led the school through the authorization process. He describes it as "my greatest professional achievement."

Rich has not had a typical path into teaching. After graduating from SUNY Geneseo with a BS in Business Management, Rich held a series of jobs in the technology field. He was also a

volunteer English as a Second Language teacher in Costa Rica, Peru and New York City. He started teaching in 2006 and went on to acquire a Masters of Secondary Mathematics Education from St. John's University. He attended a year-long Data-wise Institute at Harvard, and is due to receive his second Masters in School Building Leadership from Mercy College this June.

Rich explains, "middle school is a critical time in the life of a student because they can either build the skills necessary to become highly responsible students or they can become overly dependent on others to keep track of their workload and supplies." He believes in work ethic and ownership. "Ask any of my current or former students and they will tell you that I do not give pencils or loose leaf paper. I do not have a pencil sharpener and I expect them to enter my classroom prepared to learn." There's more than meets the eye than just a tough teacher. "It is important that teachers speak with students in an age-appropriate manner. I infuse humor and wit in my classroom discussion and I teach the students the importance of enjoying math class. I have a strong sense of how to balance humor with respect and I believe my students follow my directives because they value my leadership."

Western colleague and nominator Terry McCabe describes him as one who embodies a distinguished teacher with his "innovative instructional practices, inspirational enthusiasm for learning, and tireless dedication to support improved educational outcomes for Western Middle School." Students James Heavey and Joe Konno praise him; "Overall, Mr. Crawford is one of the best teachers that we have had. He leaves a legacy of fun and learning with his students. In fact, whenever an alumnus of Western Middle hears a student in is the eighth grade the first question asked is, "Do you have Mr. Crawford? He's the best, right?"



MARYANN FRANCHELLA

**GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL
MATHEMATICS, GRADES 9-12**

"She is incredibly charismatic and exciting to listen to, explaining difficult-to-visualize concepts with sweeping gestures, even going so far as to lie on the ground to get a point across." This is how student nominator Olivia Sharfman described Maryann Franchella, Mathematics teacher at GHS. Maryann herself explained that she truly throws herself into her teaching; literally and physically flailing her arms and rotating her body to demonstrate surfaces of revolutions. Maryann admits to have "stood on my desk to demonstrate particle motion on a line and zoomed into the board from the back of the room to demonstrate function local linearity."

Maryann has 20 years of teaching experience. She graduated with a BS in Mathematics from SUNY Albany, Summa Cum Laude, and received a MS in Computer Science, with distinction, from Pace. Not surprisingly she is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Maryann is a proud life-long learner. "I take my own mastery of mathematical content very seriously. While I consider myself a skilled Mathematician, I practice my skills and advance them on a regular basis." For example, the summers before teaching AB AP Calculus or BC AP Calculus, she attended a weeklong immersion course at TAFT Educational Center. When she started teaching Multivariable Calculus, she gave up one of her non-instructional periods during an entire school year to sit in the Multivariable class taught at GHS by a colleague. She also enrolled in a Calculus III class at a local college (she got an A+) and again attended TAFT.