

**Scope Awards 2021
Sayville Union Free School District**

Jennifer McDonald

Ms. McDonald's professionalism and dedication are admirable. Arguably, there has never been a more challenging time in public schools to be a school nurse. Despite these unprecedented challenges, Ms. McDonald has cared for our entire school community with poise and dignity. Her calm demeanor is reassuring and her expertise benefits all members of our high school.

Jenn is the consummate team player. She is continually looking for ways to contribute to the greater good and is always willing to do what works best for the group. This is her personal philosophy and she has a work ethic to match.

We are tremendously fortunate to have Jennifer McDonald as part of our high school family. She is our 'health care worker hero.'

Jennifer Riviello

Ms. Riviello is a proven asset to our high school's staff, faculty and students. Her empathic disposition makes everyone she cares for feel comfortable and safe. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and competent nurse providing such a high level of support for our Nurse's Office and team.

Jennifer demonstrates a great deal of compassion when working with the students at Sayville Middle School. Students feel comforted when going to her for help. She has a wealth of knowledge in her field and explains things in terms that our students can understand. She has made positive connections with our families and has earned their trust.

Jennifer works in the Nurse's Office during our lunch hours and in the afternoon, which are extremely busy times, but she always maintains a calm demeanor. She has assisted us in handling COVID testing, quarantines, isolation procedures, and analyzing medical documentation.

We are extremely fortunate to have Jennifer with us at Sayville Middle School and we look forward to working with her in the future.

Donna Brown

Donna is incredibly kind, caring, and supportive to all students, faculty, and staff at Sayville Middle School. She has cultivated an atmosphere of trust with our students and their families. While she is adept at making sure protocols are followed, she also has a natural way of comforting a nervous parent when having a dialogue about their children. Her vast experience as a Registered Nurse is valued by her colleagues. Donna is always available for advice or guidance with all health related questions and medical matters; in fact, other nurses in the district often look to Donna as a confidant and a leader within the department. This is precisely why Donna is on a number of district wide committees - her insight is needed and desired.

This has been a very challenging and busy year for our nurses and Donna's professionalism is a major reason why things have run smoothly and effectively. She has a wealth of expertise dealing with vaccination issues, COVID-19 response, athletic physicals, concussion protocols, and a variety of other questions and concerns. She handles stressful situations with patience and grace. We are extremely grateful to have her in our building and would be lost without her.

Donna is an invaluable team member! We cannot say thank you enough.

Teresa Lotito

Ms. Teresa Lotito has been a nurse at Cherry Avenue Elementary School for the past five years. During that time, especially during the pandemic, Ms. Lotito has been an integral member of the building upholding health and safety protocol to ensure the well-being of all stakeholders. Her commitment to detail, collaboration, familiarizing herself with the latest CDC/State guidelines, and thorough communication skills have been second to none. Students, families, and staff alike benefit from her patient, caring, and approachable demeanor. Ms. Lotito has helped the building navigate through these unprecedented times by keeping health and safety as the number one priority. We would be lost without her leadership, care, support and medical expertise!

Mrs. Kathleen Nolan has been the school nurse at Lincoln Avenue Elementary School for over 20 years. Mrs. Nolan's professionalism, compassion, diligence, and willingness to work with faculty, staff, students and families have always been her strengths. This year, more than ever, she has been called upon to support not only the health needs of students and their families, but she has become a reliable resource for everyone in our school community in helping allay the fears and questions surrounding living through a pandemic. Mrs. Nolan has shown incredible patience, understanding, and kindness while helping students, staff, and families navigate CDC and health department guidance, as well as personal health concerns. Her knowledge and understanding have been invaluable in maintaining a safe and healthy school environment for our entire community.

Kathleen Nolan

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Susan Rende

Susan Rende provides so much more than just health care on a day to day basis. Ms. Rende has been the School Nurse at Sunrise Drive Elementary for 14 years and a part of Sayville Public Schools since 2006. Over that time, she has provided day-to-day health and wellness care for our students and staff. Big or small, Ms. Rende is always steady and calm in all medical decisions. Both students and staff never leave without the care they needed and also a smile. Over the past year, Ms. Rende has truly displayed her unfaltering ability in the face of a pandemic. Parents, staff, and students are more comfortable and feel safe because of the remarkable care Susan Rende has displayed. It is a true gift to work with such a passionate and dedicated professional!

Kara Alcabes

Mrs. Kara Alcabes fills in daily for the building nurses at both Lincoln Avenue and Sunrise Drive. Mrs. Alcabes manages to run the nurse's office efficiently during one of the busiest times of the day; student lunch and recess. Mrs. Alcabes is kind and caring in her approach to assessing student needs. She makes sure to keep the building nurse apprised of student visits, as well as parent and staff concerns. As has been the case for all nurses this year, Mrs. Alcabes' expertise and counseling have been invaluable in helping our community navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Her calm presence and diligence has provided our nursing staff with the peace of mind needed when they cannot be in their office. There is never a student that leaves her office without the care they needed and a smile.