DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence

The Distinguished Teachers Awards Ceremony



Thursday, May 9, 2024

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.

Distinguished Teachers Awards Program

Procession

Greenwich High School String Ensemble

Welcome

Thomas C. Healy, Principal, Central Middle School

National Anthem

Greenwich High School String Ensemble

Program Introduction and Master of Ceremonies

Marlene Gilbert

Vice-Chair, Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee

Comments

Fred Camillo

First Selectman of Greenwich

Ryan Fazio

State Senator

Karen Kowalski

Chair, Board of Education

Dr. Toni Jones

Superintendent of Schools

Lillian Perone

President, Greenwich Education Association

Presentation of 2024 Distinguished Teachers
Nominators of Recipients

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

2023-2024
Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee

Stacy Loveless, *Chair, Community*
Marlene Gilbert, *Vice-Chair/Secretary, Community*
Alejandra Fajardo, *Treasurer, Community*

Carolina Ahumada, *Community*
Cathy Brunetti, *Community*
Lindsey Eisenstein, *GOSA*
Kristen Hawreluk, *PTAC*
Katie Hohl DeCarlo, *Community*
Ryan Jones*, GEA*
Laura Kostin, *BOE*
Marie-Elena Liotta, *Kiwanis*
Tyler Mecozzi*, *GEA*
Maria Merrill, *Community*
Robert Moore, *Community*
Lillian Perone, *GEA*
Valerie Rimmer *PTAC*
Linda Shirley, *Community*
Judy Soto, *Community*
Johnna Yeskey, *Community*

Jonathan Supranowitz, Ex-Officio

* Previous recipient of the Distinguished Teachers Award

Distinguished Teachers 2024

ANA MARIA FALLS
New Lebanon School
Grade 3

JOHANNA KOLAR
Western Middle School
Mathematics Grade 8

LIAN LAM
New Lebanon School
Special Education

AUDREY MAURER
New Lebanon School
Music

ILENE RIETSCH
North Street School
Kindergarten

ALYSSA STACK
Greenwich High School
Social Studies

Nominators of Recipients

FRANCINE WILLIAMS
Nominated Ana Maria Fals

GABRYELLA CARVALHO
Nominated Johanna Kolar

ROWENA MACARAIG
Nominated Lian Lam

FERNANDA MORENO SOTO
Nominated Audrey Maurer

TOM CASAZZONE
Nominated Ilene Rietsch

DANIEL SILKMAN
Nominated Alyssa Stack



Ana Maria Fals

New Lebanon School
Grade 3

Ms. Ana Maria Fals has been teaching for more than two decades, spending the greater part of her career here with Greenwich Public Schools at New Lebanon School in second and third grades.

Ms. Fals believes at her core that each and every student can learn, will learn, and achieve at their highest potential. From the first day that students enter her classroom, she sets the bar higher than many have ever imagined, and year after year, they meet and exceed that bar. Once children leave her classroom, they take the bar with them. She spends the year modeling and coaching her students to persevere and true ownership of their learning. As a result, students continue to emulate the work ethic that continues to push their limits and boundaries throughout their entire school careers.

Not only is Ms. Fals dedicated to the students in her classroom, but she is determined to positively impact a broader scope of students at the school and district level. She has served for years on the Teacher Evaluation and Professional Learning committee, shaping this system and practice of continuous growth and development for teachers. She continues her impact as serving as a TEAM mentor and cooperating teacher for pre-service teachers in the field. It is no surprise that one of her former students will now be joining her for her student teaching experience in the fall of 2024 citing Ms. Fals as the reason why she wants to be a teacher.

In her own words, Ms. Fals advises the next generation of teachers that, “Being a teacher today means you are a parent, friend, social worker, referee, psychologist- all in one.” Any child, parent, colleague, or community member that has had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Fals, has shared that her interpersonal skills and ability to skillful adapt to the variety of roles she embodies in the classroom allows her to reach the **STUDENT** who is at the heart

of the teaching and learning.

From a parent perspective, they know that respect is a two way street. Ms. Fals knows that respect, connection, and partnership needs to be gently and carefully crafted in order to ensure student success. “She is considerate and thoughtful to everyone …she has mastered the very delicate balance of kindness and compassion with toughness and firmness. She is a role model to the students, parents, and staff at New Lebanon School.” Each and every action, thought, and decision is made fairly and with the students’ best interest at heart, something everyone can appreciate and respect.

For decades Ms. Fals has broadened her impact and scope on the world of education by teaching summer school and delving into data and trends on the school data team. She has committed herself to improving the school culture and climate in the PBIS and Safe School Climate teams for years. She has shared her creativity by planning and executing IB Curriculum Nights, Curriculum Carnivals, Bridge to K program and a variety of SBA English Language Arts preparation workshops and experiences.

Ms. Ana Maria Fals holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Biology from New Jersey City University with a Master’s in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from NYU. She is an Orton Gillingham and Wilson certified teacher who has taught in bilingual, general education, and special education settings. Prior to coming to Greenwich Public Schools, she taught in New York City.



Johanna Kolar

Western Middle School
Mathematics Grade 8

Mrs. Johanna Kolar teaches eighth grade math at Western Middle School. She has been teaching at WMS for nine years. She has been the director of the musical at WMS for 10 years, and is currently serving her ninth year as the learning facilitator for the eighth grade.

Mrs. Kolar is passionate about finding creative ways to celebrate her students' successes in her classroom. When students perform well on assessments, she proudly displays their accomplishments through her "A+ Club" bulletin board. She recognizes that this may miss some of her students, and so she finds creative ways to include those students as well, such as her "Keep the Quote" bulletin board and her "Math SuperStars" bulletin board. She establishes a strong home-school connection by opening up a consistent and constant line of communication with her families, highlighting positive behaviors and academic achievements.

While providing an academically supportive environment in her classroom, Mrs. Kolar also holds her students to high expectations in order to prepare them for high school. Part of her process is through goal setting, where she holds individual conferences with students following assessments so students can identify strategies in order to improve in the future. Western Middle's School's principal, Ms. Suzanne Coyne, commented "no matter what challenges a student may bring to her classroom, she expects the best of them and supports them in whatever way possible to help them reach their potential."

In an effort to grow as an educator, Mrs. Kolar continually pushes herself out of her comfort zone. Whether it is through training to use virtual reality, reading articles from NCTM and ATOMIC, or attending AVID trainings, she is in search of ways to elevate her teaching practice that will directly benefit her students. Her colleague, Ms. Alisha Barry, notes that in the several conferences she has attended, "each time she walks away with the desire to implement something that she is learning from the sessions. She is a lifelong learner who is always reflecting on her practices and refining her

lesson delivery and learning activities."

Mrs. Kolar demonstrates outstanding leadership skills in her role as learning facilitator for one of the eighth grade teams. She feels as though this gives her an opportunity to collaborate with other teachers and to problem solve to best support the students within the team. Additionally, she is able to facilitate conversations across subject areas and plan special activities for students.

One of the ways she is best known at Western is for the show stopping musicals she puts on every spring. Her passion for bringing musical theater into Western Middle School leads to the most wonderful performances each year. Between the immense fundraising she does for the show and the investment she puts into all of the students involved in the production, the students understand how much she cares about all of them. Her nominator, Ms. Gabryella Carvalho, describes her as a teacher who "believes in all her students" and recognizes that while "every student has a hard path they go through, academically and socially, Mrs. Kolar makes sure they know that these things will pass." Mrs. Kolar finds a place for every student to be involved if they want to be, including our special needs population who feel her love and support. This past year, Mrs. Kolar had 90 students audition to be involved, and she found a spot for all of them.

Mrs. Kolar's journey to education began at the University of New Hampshire where she majored in Technical Theater. She earned her Master's Degree from the University of Bridgeport in Elementary Education and continued her learning with a Sixth Year Degree in Mathematics Courses from the University of LaVerne.



Lian Lam

New Lebanon School
Special Education

The Greenwich Public Schools Special Education department has been fortunate to call Ms. Lian Lam one of their own for the past 16 years. Ms. Lam has been at New Lebanon School since 2019 and before that, spent 10 years at Old Greenwich School and one at Cos Cob School. Ms. Lam actively engages her students in hands-on active learning to bring the concepts to life for her students. In order to practice sight word recognition, students get on their hands and knees and crawl on large bear paw prints around the room to fully immerse in practicing this skill. Students learn through game and toy formats. Number recognition and sight word recognition are reinforced with Bingo games and Beat-the-Teacher card races. Children with limited attention are permitted to choose activities and often these include toys and fidgets to maximize engagement. Students act out books that they read together in class in order to increase comprehension and kindergarteners develop fluency with alphabet sounds with the challenge to say all the sounds in one minute motivated by the opportunity to celebrate with a customized class cheer.

Not only does Ms. Liam create a fun and engaging classroom environment for her students, but she also demonstrates a unique connection with her students by customizing her teaching for their specific needs. Ms. Lam embraces the opportunity to seek and develop strategies to best suit the needs of her students. Through her professional development, she has been particularly intrigued by the field of behavior management and working with students with comprehensive needs. She uses token boards, First/Then boards and visuals, but also has taken this interest to the next level by pursuing a Master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis. She taps into district resources and knowledge to seek best practices to use with her students. For example, for students with decoding and encoding goals, she has used the Orton Gillingham approach and district-approved, systematic and evidence-based reading programs to improve students' reading.

Ms. Lam has seen tremendous progress in her students. Within the

period of a few weeks, one student progressed from a 20 second attention span to 15 minutes through the utilization of several tools. Not only did Ms. Lam provide toys and fidgets and hand-over-hand support to the student, but she also realized that if she sang to the student while he was writing, he was able to maintain better focus. So sing she did! Ms. Lam, with the help of the school's speech therapist, also implemented the use of an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device to assist the student with making simple requests and was able to train his parents on using the device at home.

One parent of Ms. Lam's student spoke not only of her professional skills in helping her son to make tremendous strides, but also the fact that Ms. Lam "treated him like her own child" and portrays all the positive characteristics of a mother to her son while he is at school. Two character traits that she emphasized were Ms. Lam's patience and persistence. Ms. Lam was able to teach her son skills that eluded him for years by taking the time to focus on his attainment of these critical life skills over the years. He has been her student for four years and his mother feels Ms. Lam's passion for her role on a daily basis.

Ms. Lam is an engaged partner to the classroom teachers within New Lebanon. She approaches the teachers with ideas to support her students and the general education students in the classroom. She does not hesitate to include the general education students into her activities. Ms. Lam believes in preparation and is always organized and educated on each student's IEP and needs with large binders full of data sheets that she has analyzed. When she is short on time due to large caseloads, she meets with her students during lunch or her prep time. She is an innovator and open minded. Ms. Lam believes in actively seeking out the best solutions to help her students attain their educational goals. As her principal, Dr. Daniel Russo noted, "she has one goal and that is to see her students with varying abilities succeed".



Audrey Maurer

New Lebanon School Music

Ms. Audrey Maurer has been a Music teacher at New Lebanon School since 2007. She began as a core music teacher and choral director, and in 2012 she added band teacher to her responsibilities. Ms. Maurer interacts with all grade levels, from pre-K to fifth grade. She looks to bring out the best in her students by creating meaningful connections that build trust, provide open lines of communication, and promote a positive educational experience.

Not all of Ms. Maurer's students are able to become successful musicians through conventional means. Some students come to music class with the belief that they are not musical and are not capable. Other students may experience learning challenges, language barriers and physical limitations in their regular education classes. Ms. Maurer feels that "it is these very students who provide some of the most gratifying and joyful moments in my teaching day as we work together to prove that their lack of skill or their differences from other students do not define them nor limit what they can achieve."

Ms. Maurer goes above and beyond to create unique and special opportunities for the students at New Lebanon School. As New Lebanon is an IB school, she wrote an original musical called, "A Night at the IB Museum." She wrote original shows for kindergarteners and first-graders to correspond with their IB units. She is even creating a family folk-dancing evening for the students and their families.

One of Ms. Maurer's former students returned to her classroom to do her senior internship. This student explained that she was going back to her home country, Chile, for six months to volunteer at a school in an impoverished community. Ms. Maurer proposed a music-cultural exchange where the students in Chile would learn about American folk music and American culture, and New Lebanon students would learn about Chilean folk music and Chilean culture. She created a proposal detailing the vision of the program and the lasting impact it would have on students in both countries. The IB-centered curriculum she developed brought the program to life and

through Skype meetings, the students performed the traditional songs they learned for one another. Her impact has been felt by students in her classroom, but also by students 5,000 miles away.

Ms. Maurer feels that "teachers cannot expect their students to be motivated and inquisitive about a subject if they do not make their own learning a priority." She has spent many summers immersed in a variety of pedagogies to strengthen her knowledge, skills and implementation of a wide variety of approaches. She has attended conferences of national music organizations. When Ms. Maurer took on the responsibility of band director, she spent her winter and summer vacation enrolled in "band camp" to sharpen and refine her instrumental teaching skills.

Ms. Maurer has made many contributions to the New Lebanon community. She is the director, writer and musical director of the annual fifth grade musical. She created and implemented a ukulele curriculum for fourth and fifth grade students, created a "Band Breakfast" program for before-school practice and remedial instruction, organizes a school wide sing-a-long before the holiday break, and is the arranger and conductor of the Holiday Chorus Concert at the Byram Shubert Library

Ms. Maurer received a B.S. in Music Therapy from New York University, and a Masters in Music Education from Kent State University.



Ilene Rietsch

North Street School Kindergarten

Mrs. Ilene Rietsch has been a teacher in Greenwich for 28 years. For the past 27 years she has taught kindergarten at North Street School and proudly displays class photos of all 27 of her classes. Her classroom has always been a welcoming place where students feel safe, comfortable, and become members of a community. From day one, Mrs. Rietsch creates the environment where her students want to be, want to learn, and want to be a part of a community. They know it is a place where they can take risks. As she notes, "It all starts in kindergarten; the ABCs–Academics, Behavior, and Character."

Mrs. Rietsch has an innate ability to connect with and establish a rapport with each child and views parents and teachers as partners in learning. Mr. Tom Casazzone, her nominator, feels she understands her students and knows what makes them tick. She works to give every child the tools they will need for learning, problem solving, and growing their independence. Her classroom is organized so children can begin taking responsibility for their own learning. Her classroom is inclusive and she will go to great lengths to incorporate visual and verbal instruction for lessons, along with adaptive technology to accommodate student needs. She encourages her students to reach their highest potential and develop a love for learning that will last for years to come.

Ms. Jill Flood, NSS principal, feels Mrs. Rietsch is only getting better as time goes on. She is just as full of energy, excitement and enthusiasm as when she first started. When you combine this with her incredible skill level and knowledge of pedagogy, it is an unbeatable combination. Parents trust Mrs. Rietsch and respect her as a fantastic teacher. They know she will advocate for what their child needs and she shares information with them in a most collaborative relationship. Students and families return to visit Mrs. Rietsch after they leave NSS

as they remember the impact she had on their lives.

Mrs. Rietsch also stays current and informed about innovative teaching methods. She has attended workshops like "Handwriting Without Tears", Applied Behavior Analysis, Orton-Gillingham Training and Teacher's College Readers Workshop. With flexible groupings, one on one conferring, and small group instruction she delivers a curriculum that meets individual needs. She confers with colleagues to discuss student progress, analyze data, share best practices and provide feedback on a student's learning experience.

Mrs. Rietsch is an integral part of the Greenwich Public Schools Community. As a GEA representative and member, she attends monthly meetings to advocate for the NSS community. Through the CEA and NEA, she stays current and informed. She participates in the annual PTA fundraiser, volunteers at Family Night at the bookfair, teaches after school activities, and works with students to create student driven activities to support service learning. Her commitment to her students is evident as she attends every GHS graduation ceremony since her first class made it to their senior year!

Mrs. Ilene Rietsch's ability to connect with her students, their parents and her colleagues has had a profound impact on the North Street School Community for 27 years.



Alyssa Stack

Greenwich High School
Social Studies

Ms. Alyssa Goulian Stack has spent her entire 24-year career at Greenwich High School. During this time, she has taught many of the social studies classes that the department offers. Her most cherished classes are Global Studies and AP European History and she serves as a pillar of the department in numerous capacities.

Ms. Stack is a lifelong learner and self-proclaimed history buff. In graduate school, she received the advice, "Never stop being a student," which has guided her ever since. Ms. Stack's reading list is extensive and varied and she is more than happy to pass on a recommendation to students and colleagues alike. Her love of history is infectious. Her student and nominator, Ms. Lara Olmsted related that Ms. Stack's AP European History class is an electrifying experience. Lara said, "We just can't help but be invested in the class when Ms. Stack is teaching it with so much excitement."

Ms. Stack has also benefited from teaching a wide range of learners at GHS. In fact, she is the only member of the social studies department that has taught all levels of Global Studies. While she appreciates the chance to engage at a high level in her AP Euro class, she also excelled at teaching Global Studies 112, a college preparatory class. She frequently applies her thirst for knowledge to pedagogy and knows that a good teacher must use diverse methods to reach all students. Her standards are high but her students describe her as warm and approachable, with their best interest always in mind. Ms. Lucy Arecco, the social studies department chair, views Ms. Stack as irreplaceable. Ms. Arecco said, "Because she instills in them and nurtures self-confidence and a can-do attitude, her students are successful and meet her expectations." Nominator Mr. Daniel Silkman seconded this sentiment, calling Ms. Stack the "north star" of the department.

Ms. Stack's creativity in the classroom makes her a go-to for her colleagues. When the district began to emphasize teaching "playlists" to give students more voice and choice, she embraced and then spearheaded the effort. Not only did she develop outstanding playlists, but she also was knowledgeable about the teaching philosophy behind them. She presented this teaching technique at the district level during a full-day professional development seminar.

The only thing she loves as much as learning new material is sharing her learning with others.

Countless teachers across several departments have benefited from Ms. Stack's thoughtful and generous collaboration and guidance. Although she does this in her official capacity as the department's instructional coach, her generosity is an innate part of her character. She introduced the "Coffee with the Coaches" as a way to invite all members of the social studies department to pick her brain about any topic. Colleagues appreciated the chance to workshop a new lesson, tweak existing lessons, and become more efficient in delivering feedback. Each department member has met with Ms. Stack at some point and felt supported.

Whether she is writing curriculum, helping a new teacher, or sharing book recommendations with her students, Ms. Stack is a vibrant and essential member of Greenwich High School and the Social Studies Department. When faced with a challenge, she doesn't blink an eye and relentlessly pursues excellence.

Outside her classroom, she has advised numerous clubs including YNET, Big Sister/Little Sister, and Neighbor to Neighbor. She serves as a TEAM mentor and works closely with the AVID program at GHS. She has worked as adjunct faculty for both Fairfield University and UCONN. Additionally, she has attended numerous professional development seminars and lectures and would be happy to share her reading list with you.

Ms. Stack received her Bachelor of Arts in History from Cornell University and her Master's in Social Studies Education from Columbia University. She also holds a sixth year in history.

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)
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 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:

Martha Awdziewicz
Karen Boyea
Vikki Cappiali
Charles DiSapio
Cricket Dyment
Anne and Robert Gilhuly
Sarah Goldin
A. Ray Hamilton
Laurie Hamilton
Lois Hebert
Beth Hughes
Marj Klar
Harry B. Kropp
Martha and Phil Nobile
Barbara O'Neill
Judy Petersen
Lauren Rabin
Marcie Schoenfeld
Janet Stone McGuigan
Judith Wren
Joanne Zammit

Distinguished Teachers 1985 - 2024

2024
AnaMaria Fals
Johanna Kolar
Lian Lam
Audrey Maurer
Ilene Rietsch
Alyssa Stack

2023
Erin John*
Gaspare Lipari
Aaron Lofaro
Joan O'Day
Carol Pugliano-Martin
Maria Woodward

2022
Libby Craig
Ryan Jones
Alison Kistler
Tyler Mecozzi*
William Ronk
Darcey Zygmont

2021
Jennifer Bresler
Jennifer Dunn
Allison Fallon*
Bruce Johnson
Jane Martellino
Susan Zerman

2020
Dace Ashcraft
Barbara Bartlett
Colleen Drumm
Jessica Keller
Erin Montague*
Lori Mulligan

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

^ In Memoriam
** GPS Connecticut Teacher of the Year Representative (2002-2023)*
 # National Teacher of the Year (2002-2023)

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

^ In Memoriam
** GPS Connecticut Teacher of the Year Representative (2002-2023)*
 # National Teacher of the Year (2002-2023)

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

^ In Memoriam
** GPS Connecticut Teacher of the Year Representative (2002-2023)*
 # National Teacher of the Year (2002-2023)

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



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