Trumbull Public Schools Recognizes Excellence

Trumbull, CT - Each year, Trumbull Public Schools is pleased to offer the opportunity for all stakeholders to nominate teachers and paraeducators to represent our district for the excellence they provide our students and school communities. Each of our ten schools met with their school-based committee to select one nomination to be considered for the 2025 Teacher of the Year and one nomination for the 2025 Paraeducator of the Year.

Trumbull Public Schools School-Based Teachers of the Year Awards for 2025

On Wednesday, May 22nd, Trumbull Public Schools brought all of our Teachers of the Year by school to a district celebration and recognition lunch. They were also asked for input in the 2024-2025 District Improvement Plan. We recognize that as outstanding educators, their perspectives and the work they do are at the core of maintaining excellence in Trumbull Public Schools.
Please join us in congratulating the following educators:

Trumbull School	**2025 School Teacher of the Year**
TECEC	Cara Micalizzi
Booth Hill Elementary School	Cheryl Pontonio
Daniel Farm Elementary School	Robyn Tedesco
Frenchtown Elementary School	Bethany Gambardella
Jane Ryan Elementary School	Katie Clyons
Middlebrook Elementary School	Jennifer Angelovic
Tashua Elementary School	Paige Pellegrini
Madison Middle School	Nicole Sherrick
Hillcrest Middle School	Brittany Clark
Trumbull High School	Kelly Ascone



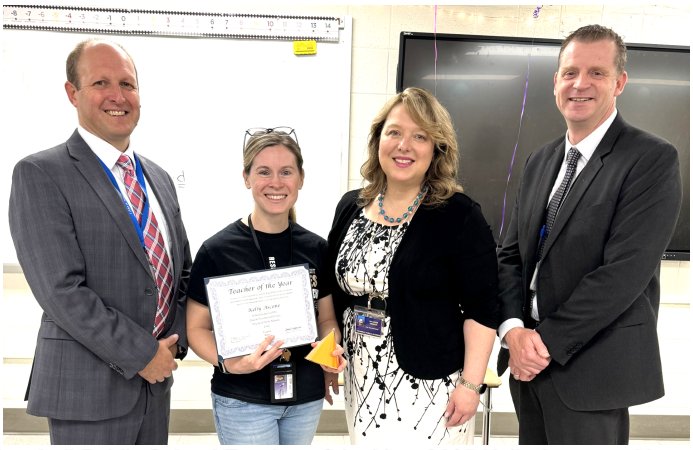
School-Based Teachers of the Year Were Honored on May 22nd at the Trumbull Public Schools District Teacher of the Year Recognition Luncheon

District Level Award Teacher & Paraeducator Award Recognitions 2025

After learning of their recognition, each of the above recipients completed short essays based on the state qualifications for Connecticut's state level *Teacher of the Year Award* and *Connecticut's Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award* for district level recognition. District committees of teacher representatives and paraeducator representatives then met to read their submissions with names redacted. After rating all applicants and engaging in rich discussions about the wealth of outstanding candidates, it is our pleasure to announce the 2025 Trumbull Public School district committee selections for the Trumbull Public Schools 2025 Teacher of the Year and the Trumbull Public Schools 2025 Paraeducator of the Year.

Kelly Ascone
Trumbull Public Schools Teacher of the Year 2025

Kelly Ascone has served Trumbull Public Schools for 8 years and has been teaching for 17. Currently a high school Math teacher at Trumbull High School, Ascone believes that “Being an educator is one of the most valuable and rewarding careers one can ever take part in.”



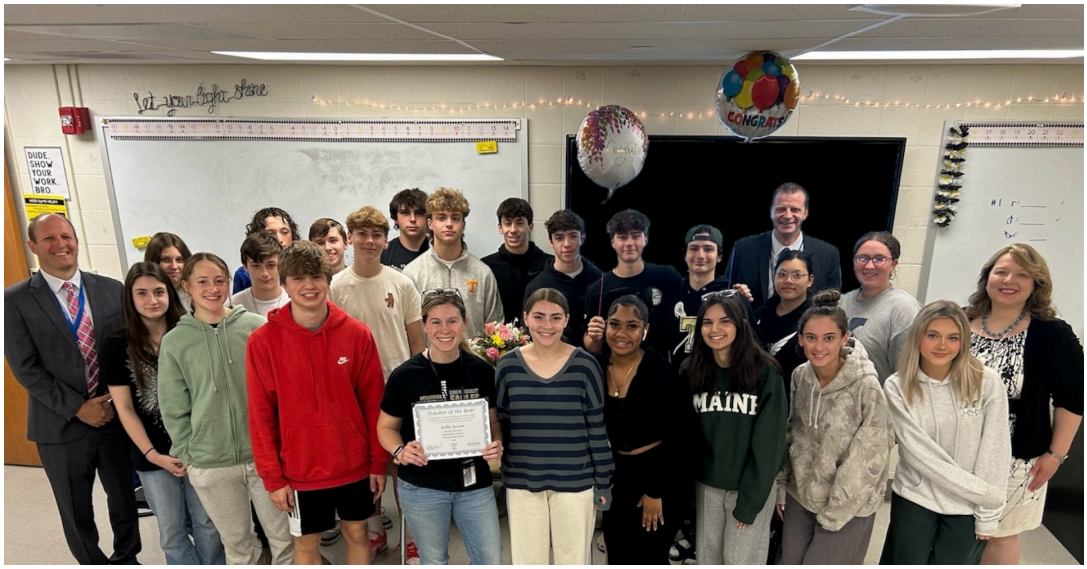
Trumbull Public School Teacher of the Year 2025 Kelly Ascone with Trumbull High School Principal Todd Manuel, Superintendent Marty Semmel, and Assistant Superintendent Susan Iwanicki. Ascone was presented with district recognition this Friday, May 17, 2024.

As a Trumbull High School parent shared, “Mrs. Ascone goes above and beyond for her students. She teaches with enthusiasm and passion, making geometry fun and accessible for all her students...We have experienced wonderful teachers in math and other subjects at THS in the last 5 years, but no one has touched our hearts and made more of a difference in our child’s life than Mrs. Ascone.”

Another parent stated, “Mrs. Ascone is truly invested in her students and their learning. She is kind, supportive, patient and understanding. She meets all students on their level and inspires them to do their best.”

When asked about her inspiration to become a teacher, Ascone stated “My greatest inspiration comes from my family who always encourages me and my colleagues who hold the same belief system that I do – we push each other daily to help our students learn, grow, and maintain an overall positive attitude.

Representing the many exemplary educators in service of students and families across our school communities, Trumbull Public Schools recognizes, honors, and celebrates Kelly Ascone for her teaching excellence and selection as Trumbull's teacher ambassador for the 2025 Teacher of the Year Award.



Kelly Ascone celebrates with students in her Geometry Class as she receives her award as Trumbull’s Teacher of the Year 2025.

Keysha Evans
Trumbull Public Schools Paraeducator of the Year 2025



Keysha Evans accepts her award for Trumbull Public School Paraeducator of the Year 2025, joined by Superintendent Marty Semmel, Assistant Superintendent Sue Iwanicki, and Tashua Principal Jennifer Neumeyer

Keysha Evans has spent the last 5 years serving the students as a paraprofessional and this year, received an incredible amount of nominations to be paraprofessional of the year. When reading her nominations, the district committee was inspired by the multiple nominations from her colleagues and teachers. “Keysha Evans is a wonderful and inspiring coworker. She has an incredible ability to see what is possible for each student and then help make what might be a ‘reach goal’ into reality” wrote one colleague. She furthered, “ Keysha has helped support continual incremental growth, both socially and academically in her students, which has boosted their confidence as well as independence. It is truly inspiring to see.”

A teacher shared, “Keysha effortlessly handles [student] schedules while she works hard to take notes to catch students up on content so they are prepared for the next lesson. She knows exactly how to push students to the next level and when to take a step back to foster independence…If content is not modified enough, she is able to think on her feet a way to make that learning accessible. On the other hand, if material has been modified too much, she is not shy about asking for more so that her students can show off their knowledge. As a result, the growth Keysha's students have made in math is out-of-this-world.” Another teacher wrote, “Keysha has consistently demonstrated exemplary education and performance as a paraeducator. Her positive energy adds to the welcoming environment of our classroom…In addition to her extreme support with academics, Keysha is also there for both students and staff when it comes to being an ear to listen. Keysha just naturally knows what to say in order to problem-solve and build up confidence in others.”

When asked about her inspiration to become a paraeducator, according to Evans, “there are many factors that contributed to me becoming a paraeducator. I have always worked in fields that required patience, integrity, and compassion… I was told that they were in need of substitute paraprofessionals who could assist the kids as they transitioned back to school…. After my first week, the teacher I worked with pulled me aside and told me that this was exactly where I belonged. I am here to report, she was right.”

Principal Neumeyer was so pleased to be able to honor the qualities that Keysha represents. In the words of another colleague “If we all had a little more Keysha in us, our world would be a brighter and more inspiring place.”

Representing the many exemplary paraeducators in service of students and families across our school communities, Trumbull Public Schools proudly recognizes Keysha Evans as Trumbull's 2025 Paraeducator of the Year Award.



Keysha Evans surrounded by students at Tashua Elementary School as she receives her award.