

Press from:

The New Providence School District
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Subject: Kathy Yanni named 2025 Counselor of the County for Union County

The New Providence School District is proud to announce that Kathy Yanni, a school counselor at Allen W. Roberts and Salt Brook Schools, was selected as the 2025 Counselor of the County for Union County by the New Jersey School Counselor Association (NJSCA). School counselors are nominated by their colleagues and are selected by their own county's School Counselor Associations for this award. The NJSCA says "Candidates are selected because of their ability to deliver an effective school counseling program which focuses on academic development, career counseling, and personal/social support. They further distinguish themselves by proving to be leaders of systemic change, advocates for students, and collaborative professionals who seek the success of the "whole" student in school and in life."

"My favorite part is working with the kids! I love working with them individually, in small groups and within their whole classes. It's an incredible feeling to help today's children grow both socially and emotionally. Another perk is being able to work with so many students and staff members across both elementary schools! In many ways, my school family has doubled and I feel welcomed and appreciated everywhere I go!" described Mrs. Yanni.

Mrs. Yanni graduated from Rowan University with a B.A. in Sociology and Psychology and subsequently from Montclair State University with a M.A. in Counseling. After 9 years in the Tenafly Public Schools, Mrs. Yanni joined New Providence School District in 2021 as a shared elementary school counselor.

Allen W. Roberts School Principal, Mr. Jay Richter, stated "Mrs. Yanni is a kind, compassionate, and dedicated school counselor. She works closely with our students and staff to ensure that students receive the support that they need to be successful, both academically and socially. She contributes to the overall wellness of the school community through the development and support of character education, mental health, and social-emotional projects and programs. We are fortunate to have such a caring and hardworking colleague in New Providence schools." Mrs. Jean Drexinger, Principal at Salt Brook School, added "We are incredibly proud of Mrs. Yanni for being recognized as the 2025 Union County Counselor of the Year by the New Jersey

School Counselor Association. Her dedication to supporting the academic, social, and emotional growth of our students at both Salt Brook and Allen W. Roberts Schools is truly exceptional. This well-deserved honor reflects her commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of our students and school community every day."

Mrs. Yanni was recognized with her peers at the "Counselor of the County" Awards Program on Friday, March 21, 2025 at the College of New Jersey, and honored at the New Providence Board of Education meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2025.



(Photo from March 2025 Union County awards.
L-R Kathy Yanni, Stephanie Kwiatkowski, Assistant Principal at Salt Brook School)