



DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AWARDS
Celebrating Excellence

THE DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS
AWARDS CEREMONY



THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

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

Central Middle School Jazz Ensemble

Welcome

Thomas C. Healy, Principal, Central Middle School

National Anthem

Central Middle School Jazz Ensemble

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION AND MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Judy Soto

Co-Chair, Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee

COMMENTS

Fred Camillo

First Selectman of Greenwich

Karen Hirsh

Chair, Board of Education

Dr. Toni Jones

Superintendent of Schools

Lillian Perone

President, Greenwich Education Association

PRESENTATION OF 2025 DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS

Nominators of Recipients

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

2024-2025
DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AWARDS
COMMITTEE

Linda Shirley, *Co-Chair, Community*
Judy Soto, *Co-Chair, Community*
Carolina Ahumada, *Secretary, Community*
Robert Moore, *Treasurer, Community*

Otis Bellamy, *Community*
Lindsey Eisenstein, *GOSA*
Angie Hartofilis, *Community*
Kristen Hawreluk, *PTAC*
Katie Hohl DeCarlo, *Community*
Marlene Gilbert, *Community*
Ryan Jones*, *GEA*
Laura Kostin, *BOE*
Marie-Elena Liotta, *Community*
Stacy Loveless, *Community*
Tyler Mecozzi*, *GEA*
Maria Merrill, *Community*
Anita O'Sullivan, *Community*
Lillian Perone, *GEA*
Valerie Rimmer *PTAC*
Johnna Yeskey, *Community*

Jonathan Supranowitz, *Ex-Officio*

* Previous recipient of the Distinguished Teachers Award

DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS 2025

FRANCES BITTMAN

Greenwich High School
English and AVID

ROBIN CHENOT

North Mianus School
Music

BETHANY FUSCALDO

Greenwich High School
Music

JULIA HAAS-GODSIL

Glenville School
Math Interventionist

RALPH MARMOR

Western Middle School
English

DR. BEENA RAMACHANDRAN

Greenwich High School
Chemistry

NOMINATORS OF RECIPIENTS

LILA MOOTABAR

NOMINATED FRANCES BITTMAN

SARAH HARRIS

NOMINATED ROBIN CHENOT

MELISSA DEVANEY

NOMINATED BETHANY FUSCALDO

CHRISTINA POVEMBA

NOMINATED JULIA HAAS-GODSIL

GASPARE LIPARI

NOMINATED RALPH MARMOR

MABEL ARTEAGA BALESTRA

NOMINATED DR. BEENA RAMACHANDRAN



FRANCES BITTMAN

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH AND AVID

Mrs. Frances Bittman teaches English 113, AP Literature, and AVID at Greenwich High School. She comes to the district by way of Darien, but got her start teaching in the New York City public school system.

Mrs. Bittman is a consummate leader in the English department and an unabashed bookworm. With an “infinite patience for young people,” she is doing the job she was born to do as she tries to impart her love of the written word to her students.

Mrs. Bittman’s students recognize and appreciate her fearless approach to teaching. Ms. Lila Mootabar, who recommended Mrs. Bittman for this award, wrote that “she does not simply teach— she listens, she challenges, she directs, and she inspires.” Students in Mrs. Bittman’s classes, from her freshmen in English 113 to her seniors in AP Literature, can not ignore the feeling that they are being challenged in the best way possible. She has an innate ability to meet students where they are and to inspire them to rise to their potential. Challenging works like *Crime and Punishment* and *As I Lay Dying* are tackled with enthusiasm and a deft hand. The work that is done by students in her classroom is meaningful and applicable to the real world. GHS English program chair Ms. Brigid Barry wrote that being in Mrs. Bittman’s classes has allowed her to observe some of the best lessons she has seen in her career.

As the program associate of the English department, Mrs. Bittman serves as a beacon of strong pedagogy and positive attitude. Teachers, both veterans and those new to the profession, often turn to her for lesson planning input or classroom management strategies. Her creative approach to instruction is exemplary, and her colleagues marvel at her ability to bring literature to life. Her social studies teaching partner, Mr. Neal Schopick, counts himself lucky to work alongside such a talented educator. The pair

has committed to team teaching once per cycle to showcase an interdisciplinary approach to learning, a significant but worthy challenge. Mr. Schopick conveyed that Mrs. Bittman's commitment to her students is unwavering and that she brings out the best in everyone around her. Without fail, he said, students attribute their success in English to Mrs. Bittman's tutelage.

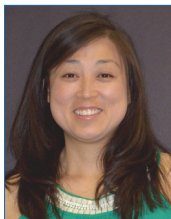
As a teacher leader, Mrs. Bittman articulates a vision for the direction of the English department and GHS while also helping to give a voice to those she represents. Her "can-do" attitude inspires many, and she has been described as "even-tempered yet enthusiastic." She does not simply excel when teaching higher-level students. Mrs. Bittman has been an AVID elective teacher for several years, and these qualities are essential in the program. Another AVID teacher, Ms. Missy Brown, marveled at how effortlessly Mrs. Bittman can motivate and guide this group of students. While she makes it look easy, it is actually the result of hours of planning after the final bell has rung each day.

And yet, Mrs. Bittman's contributions to GHS and the entire Greenwich community extend far outside the classroom. Aside from her beloved two book clubs, she has found time to publish several academic articles and even her own book. *Embracing Diversity: Teachers' Everyday Practices in Secondary English Language Arts Classrooms* was inspired by her work in the New York City schools and reflects her mantra of approaching learners in a variety of ways.

Her commitment to lifelong learning is evident through her attendance at multiple workshops, seminars, and lectures, including the Connecticut Writing Project and AVID Summer Institute. Her reading interests are both wide and deep, and she is famous for regaling her Folsom House colleagues with tidbits that she picked up from her latest book.

Mrs. Bittman received a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a Master of Arts in English Education from Columbia's Teachers College.





ROBIN CHENOT

NORTH MIANUS SCHOOL MUSIC

Robin Chenot has been teaching in the Greenwich Public Schools for more than 25 years. She currently teaches Music for grades K-5 at North Mianus School. Before arriving at NMS, she also taught K-5 Music at Glenville School. Prior to coming to Greenwich, she was a Music and Choral Conductor in the Norwood-Norfolk Central School District in Norwood, NY.

North Mianus School principal, Ms. Kathleen Ramirez states that, “One of Ms. Chenot’s most remarkable strengths lies in her ability to cultivate a sense of ownership and responsibility in her students’ learning. . . This approach not only promotes accountability, but also instills critical life skills such as self-discipline, perseverance, and intrinsic motivation.”

Ms. Chenot views music as a lifelong journey and she works with students of all abilities to ensure that music remains a part of their lives, long after leaving her classroom. She notes that the Benjamin Franklin quote, “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn,” inspires her and guides her teaching. Her commitment to engaging students and enhancing their learning are just some of the reasons she is so impactful in the classroom and beyond.

As a second grader and student Nolan Diana comments, “(Ms. Chenot) puts so much thought and effort into everything she does, and it shows. (She) does not just teach music – she inspires us to LOVE it.”

Robin Chenot regularly attends workshops and seeks out professional development opportunities in various areas of study to build upon the many unique skills she already possesses, to develop new techniques that inspire her students to be the best learners they can be. She serves on the School Climate Committee, which implements positive behavioral interventions in school and is a curriculum writing coordinator, working to align curriculum materials with best practices and educational standards.

Her nominator and colleague, fellow Distinguished Teacher Ms. Sarah Harris states: “To see herein action is simply to witness the highest level of dedication and achievement an educator can possess. Robin pushes her students toward excellence and makes performers out of the students who do not even know they have musical talent.”

Robin’s dedication to music education extends far beyond her music classes. She is the music director for the North Mianus School Drama Program as well as the Open Arts Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to the performing arts. She is also the co-conductor of the Greenwich Public Schools Honor Choir, a program for students in grades 5-8 who audition and perform at various engagements and often collaborate with a number of impressive artists. During the summer, she serves as the music specialist at Greenwich Country Club’s Summer Camp. She even collaborated with the Stamford Symphony to create the beloved North Mianus School song, with the lyrics composed by NMS students.

Ms. Chenot states that the work she does is not just a profession, it is her passion, commenting: “(My students’) journey does not end with me; it is just the beginning.”

Ms. Chenot holds a bachelor’s degree in Music from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and a masters in Music Education from the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford.





BETHANY FUSCALDO

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC

With a career spanning nearly two decades in music education, Bethany Fuscaldo has built a distinguished legacy as an educator, conductor, and musician. After earning a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Maryland, Bethany went on to receive a Master of Music in Music Education from the University of Michigan.

Since 2012, Mrs. Fuscaldo has served as the Director of Orchestras at Greenwich High School, leading award-winning ensembles and cultivating a dynamic and inclusive music program for students in grades 9 through 12. Prior to that, she directed middle school orchestra at Central Middle School (2010–2012) and elementary strings in several Greenwich schools (2007–2015). Her commitment to nurturing young musicians has remained constant, evolving with each grade level and musical challenge.

As a professional cellist, Bethany performs with the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra. With that connection she is able to provide opportunities for her students to work and perform with Greenwich Symphony musicians. This exposure not only helps them develop their skills as musicians, it also gives them insight and inspiration into what it takes to be a professional musician.

“I am acutely aware of the importance of building upon my relationships with students and their parents,” said Mrs. Fuscaldo. “One of my strengths in the classroom is understanding the fine line between maintaining my high level of performance expectations and having fun while doing so. The relationship that I share with my students is one built on trust and mutual respect, forming a dynamic rapport that fuels both their growth and my own.”

Mrs. Fuscaldo remains actively engaged in state and national music education organizations such as the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) and the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). Under her leadership, GHS consistently sends the highest number of students to the CMEA Western Region Music Festival, with

many advancing to All-State, All-Eastern, and even National levels.

Bethany has organized and led student performance trips to California and Florida, with ensembles earning top ratings and first-place awards at festivals. Her dedication to showcasing student talent has resulted in prestigious honors, including leading the GHS String Ensemble to performances as a “Showcase Ensemble” at the CMEA All-State Conference (2016) and at the All-Eastern Conference in Hartford (2025). Throughout her career, Mrs. Fuscaldo has been recognized for both performance and pedagogy, being asked to present at music education conferences in Connecticut and New Jersey, and to attend the prestigious Juilliard Conducting Workshop for Music Educators in 2013.

Mrs. Fuscaldo also played a foundational role in launching the Greenwich Public Schools String Festival in 2009, directing it through 2019. The event continues to stand as a district-wide celebration of string education. Her contributions extend to curriculum development and leading professional development sessions for her colleagues. Her influence ensures consistent, high-quality instruction across the district’s string programs.

The following are quotes from individuals who nominated and supported Bethany’s application for Greenwich Distinguished Teacher Award:

“Mrs. Fuscaldo is one of the most exemplary music/strings teachers that I have had the privilege of working with in my 15 years as a music educator. The energy, passion, and warmth that Mrs. Fuscaldo infuses into every rehearsal inspires her students to work hard and have a positive view of themselves as both musicians and human beings.”

“Bethany Fuscaldo is one of the most exceptional teachers I’ve encountered in all my years as a GPS parent. She models a commendable work ethic as she guides her students in the beautiful, life-affirming art of ensemble playing and performing.”

“Amazing communicator.”

“Without exception, her students are playing some very difficult music at the highest levels.”





JULIA HASS-GODSIL

GLENVILLE SCHOOL MATH INTERVENTIONIST

How does one become a math person? Step 1: Be a person. Step 2: Do math.

This is the formula you will find above the door to Ms. Julia Hass-Godsil's door. As a math interventionist at Glenville School, she provides high-quality math instruction to students who have not met grade-level benchmarks. Assistant Principal Ms. Cara Vitolo explains: "Julia works with some of our most vulnerable students, many of whom have struggles with math and often lose hope and confidence in their abilities."

Julia believes "that all people need to feel seen and see purpose before making lasting change."

First she forms meaningful connections with her students. It is her first priority when teaching to connect to the human being in front of her. She also makes significant efforts to communicate and connect with families engaging them in the educational journey of their child.

Another priority of Julie's instructional philosophy is the connection to purpose. Her students will always know why their learning is important and how it connects to the world outside their classroom.

"She provides explicit, systematic modeling of skills, ensuring that each student understands the process and feels empowered to tackle new concepts. By aligning the content with students' interests, she encourages them to dive deeper into math, fostering a more engaged and motivated classroom," observed Ms. Vitolo.

The numbers show her method works as her students achieve their goals. Last year, 100% of first graders achieved the rigorous goal she set for them growing more than grade level as measured by their IXL math diagnostic. In the four years she has been a math interventionist at Glenville, she always had more than 85% of her students meet their intervention goals.

Ms. Vitolo is reminded of Julia when she thinks about the quote, "The

same voice that says ‘give up’ can also be trained to say ‘keep going?’”

Ms. Christina Povemba, a parent of Mrs. Hass-Godsil’s student, shares: “She gave [her daughter] a spark of confidence and interest in math that we had not seen in her before. She was impacted by Mrs. Hass-Godsil in a way that changed her as a student and how she felt about herself in the classroom when she was with the rest of her peers. We watched her blossom and her confidence grow in math.”

It is clear that Julia creates changes in the person themselves as well as in the subject area they are approaching.

Julie has been a math interventionist at Glenville School for four years and at North Street School two years before that. For the eight years prior to her working closely with students, she served as an elementary instructional coach as well as an elementary science instructional coach. She entered our district as a first grade teacher at Parkway school where she taught for four years.

Ms. Haas-Godsil has an extensive list of professional experience and contributions to the district. She is a lifelong learner and one who makes every effort to share that knowledge with others for the benefit of all students. A few highlights across our district include: Next Generation Science Standards administrator training, coaching remote school teachers in the time of COVID, inquiry-based learning in the elementary classroom and using science notebooks in a student-centered classroom.

Julia not only works her magic in the classroom, but she has made significant impacts across the district as well.

Julia has developed and delivered countless professional development sessions for colleagues and administrators on curriculum, instruction, assessment, classroom management, technology, data analysis and more. She would meet before, during, and after school hours with teachers across all disciplines to implement and refine best instructional practices that lead to increased student achievement and confidence.

Co-worker Ms. Elizabeth Cotter explains: “Julia was particularly passionate about integrating inquiry approaches. She identified instruction practices that highlighted both the practices and concepts which were a new way of teaching science in GPS.”





RALPH MARMOR

WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH

Mr. Ralph Marmor is a sixth-grade English Language Arts teacher at Western Middle School. With more than 25 years of teaching experience—11 in New York, and 16 in Greenwich—he has taught sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Throughout his career, Ralph has served on numerous school committees and led a wide range of initiatives that support both the school and the broader community.

In leadership roles, Ralph has worked as a learning facilitator across all three grade levels and has contributed meaningfully to teams including the AVID Site Team, the Diversity Committee, and the Safe School Climate Committee. He is one of Western’s most dedicated contributors to community service and student character development. Ralph has organized impactful events such as canned food drives, Valentine’s cards for veterans, Holocaust speaker visits, toy drives, and the Make-A-Wish Club. As Ralph puts it, “Teaching is not only about shaping minds, it’s about helping students grow to be caring and kind adults,” underscoring his belief in nurturing the whole child—not just the ELA learner.

Ralph is known for his creativity and commitment to student engagement. His innovative projects and writing assignments not only build ELA skills but also ignite curiosity and enthusiasm. He often connects classroom lessons to real-world experiences, such as giving students the unique opportunity to contribute artifacts to museums or write letters to authors and historical figures. Within his classroom, Ralph fosters a culture of collaboration, helping students develop critical interpersonal and teamwork skills in a supportive and inclusive environment. He also instills a strong sense of civic responsibility, inspiring students to serve others and pursue lives rooted in compassion and contribution.

One of Ralph’s most widely recognized strengths is his kindness. His

classroom is a safe, welcoming space where students feel comfortable sharing ideas, taking risks, and expressing themselves authentically. One of his students describes him as a teacher who “shows everyone respect no matter what.” His positive and constructive communication style—whether with students, families, or colleagues—creates an atmosphere where learning thrives and there is unwavering support felt by all stakeholders. A colleague of 15 years shared that the students in his classroom “work hard out of respect and admiration for him, pushing themselves to achieve their personal best, and because he offers students a safe, comfortable, and nurturing learning environment where they know the teacher cares for them.”

Committed to lifelong learning, Ralph constantly pursues professional development opportunities to refine his practice. During his time at Western Middle School, he has sought out opportunities to develop projects with other English Language Arts teachers as well as teachers in other disciplines. He has pursued many opportunities to receive professional development and attend workshops to continue to refine his practice. He collaborates readily with colleagues, embraces new ideas, and continually evolves as an educator dedicated to student success.

The strong relationships Ralph builds with his students lie at the heart of his teaching. These connections inspire students to strive for excellence, follow expectations, and take ownership of their learning. Western Middle School Principal Suzanne Coyne remarks, “He sets high expectations for each individual, encouraging them to take ownership of their learning. By establishing clear goals and offering personalized support, Ralph challenges his students to push past their limits and discover their true potential.”

Ralph Marmor’s impact extends far beyond his classroom. He is a mentor, role model, and leader who empowers students to become thoughtful, engaged citizens. His unwavering commitment to academic excellence, character development, and community service makes him an invaluable part of the Western Middle School community.





DR. BEENA RAMACHANDRAN

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY

Dr. Beena Ramachandran's fundamental belief that education transforms lives guided her personal educational pursuits and inspires her daily in her vocation as a Chemistry teacher at Greenwich High School. Despite societal expectations in Beena's childhood, she persevered and attained two MBAs and a PhD in order to achieve her life goals. Dr. Ramachandran has been teaching Chemistry at Greenwich High School since 2005 - for over 19 years - while also serving on the Adjunct Faculty at the University of Connecticut teaching math and statistics.

Dr. Ramachandran views teaching as much more than a career choice and truly as her life's calling. Sparking curiosity in young minds and witnessing the moment a student grasps a complex idea are profoundly fulfilling and inspirational moments in her journey of guiding Greenwich High School students. She relishes her role in contributing to the shaping of young minds, building confidence levels and, importantly, igniting a lifelong love of learning.

The challenge of teaching the curriculum to each unique student combined with the potential reward of contributing fundamentally to academic success likely inspires Dr. Ramachandran to develop strategies and pathways for each student to guide them through the Chemistry curriculum. Her creativity and dedication in working with a twice exceptional student was one factor that truly distinguished her. Dr. Ramachandran custom tailored the class periods to allow for one-on-one time with the student and in the process of implementing unique teaching solutions in the classroom, the bar was raised such that the whole class received a better learning experience. She also spent countless hours outside the classroom with the student and support staff to ensure that the best educational experience was delivered, and implemented unique delivery methods from teacher to student and also from the student to her to ensure mastery and comprehension. Dr. Ramachandran spent the year continually evolving and customizing his educational experience based on her own observations and learning and, importantly, by soliciting feedback from the student, his parents, and his educational team. Her insightful observations gained by spending quality time with the student led to his team and parents making broader educational changes to best serve the student.

Dr. Ramachandran was instrumental in transforming the chemistry curriculum into full alignment courses with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and in this process also paid special attention to ensure that the instruction would be accessible to all learners. Her focus was to “not only prepare students for standardized assessments but also help them understand and apply scientific concepts in real-world contexts.” To this end, her students have shown notable increases in their NGSS scores.

With a keen eye to the importance of creating a supportive learning environment, Dr. Ramachandran has dedicated time outside the classroom to several Greenwich High School initiatives. She has served as the Coordinator for Names Day, a program for freshmen that fostered community and cultural understanding. In 2017, she received the Ally Award for outstanding support and advocacy and fostering a respectful and welcoming environment for all students. Dr. Ramachandran has also served as an AVID tutor, providing academic support to students enrolled in the Advancement via Individual Determination college preparatory program. When not focused on science, Dr. Ramachandran serves as the faculty advisor to the Alternative Investments Club which encourages students to explore careers in finance and promotes a deeper understanding of alternative investing.

Dr. Ramachandran is an active member of the American Chemical Society to stay current with advancements in the field of chemistry and expand her industry connections. Her deep understanding of the chemistry subject matter was noted often as a remarkable attribute. This core comprehension allows her to break down complex concepts into accessible and engaging lessons thus making chemistry come alive and allowing students to connect with the subject matter. Her personal passion for continuous learning, improvement and growth inspires her students to approach Chemistry with curiosity and eagerness.

Mr. Shawn Hoyt, the Greenwich High School Science Administrator, encapsulates his observations and experience with Dr. Ramachandran with, “I have had the opportunity to witness firsthand her exceptional leadership, deep expertise in science education, and steadfast commitment to student success. Dr. Ramachandran embodies the highest level of integrity, is a masterful educator, and consistently demonstrates an unparalleled work ethic.”



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
AMERICAN ONLINE GIVING FOUNDATION
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:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| CHRISTINE ANDERSON | A AND J MADOFF |
| RITA BAKER | JANET STONE MCGUIGAN |
| KAREN BOYEA | ALICE NEAL |
| VIKKI CAPPALI | BARBARA O'NEILL |
| ALICE DI VINCENZO | BARBARA OXER |
| LAURA ERICKSON | LAUREN RABIN |
| ANNE AND ROBERT GILHULY | JENNIFER ROCKWELL |
| SARAH HARRIS | MARCIE SCHOENFELD |
| MR. AND MRS. JAMES JOGODZINSKI | DENISE SORESE |
| MARJ KLAR | KARRIE VALE |

DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS 1985 - 2025

2025

Frances Bittman
Robin Chenot
Bethany Fuscaldo
Julia Haas-Godsil
Ralph Marmor
Dr. Beena Ramachandran

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 Zygmunt

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 Kitzelman*
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

^ *In Memoriam*

* *GPS Connecticut Teacher of the Year Representative (2002-2024)*

National Teacher of the Year (2002-2024)

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

2002

Margot Bittenbender
 Jean Di Vincenzo*
 Mariko Iwai
 Georgia Tedla
 Curtis Tipton
 John Whalen^

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 (2002-2024)*

National Teacher of the Year (2002-2024)

2001

Michael Batcheller
 Alisa Lewis
 Jane Niwa
 Kathryn Onofrio
 Susan Whalen
 John Yoon

1995

Daniel Barrett
 Anne Gilhuly
 Chris Kazanas
 Susan Lickwar
 Judith Petersen
 Caralliene Westbrook

1992

John Boyton
 Jane Carlin
 Susan Hart
 Dena Phelps^
 Carmel Signa^
 Martha Taylor

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

^ *In Memoriam*

* *GPS Connecticut Teacher of the Year Representative (2002-2024)*

National Teacher of the Year (2002-2024)

1997

Emma Oberheuser
 Susan Valenzi
 Dwight Wall^
 Erica Wiberg
 Joanne Zammit
 Robert Zapor

1994

Frank Arnone
 Lissa Bentley
 Victor Mazmanian
 Paul Rosenblum
 Marcie Schoenfeld
 Jerry Snyder^

1991

Brigid Barry
 William Bechem
 Elinor Carr^
 Richard Kohn
 Jane Kahn
 Camilla Rogers

1988

Martha Awdziejewicz
 Carmelita Brooks^
 Marjorie Klar
 Harry Kropp
 Kenneth Lyon
 Lorraine Termini

1985

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

1996

Christine Anderson
 Joan Beiser
 William Dinnean
 Carolyn Gilbert
 Barbara Gotch
 Carol Sutton

1993

Jory Lockwood
 Gail Montgomery^
 Philip Nobile
 Sara Reilly
 Candace Robinson
 Janet Stroble

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 Trachtenberg^

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



DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence