



Red Bank Borough Public Schools

Dream BIG... We'll Help You Get There!

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For Immediate Release

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Four Red Bank Borough Educators Recognized by the NJDOE

The Red Bank Borough Public Schools are a proud participant of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Governor's Educator of the Year Program. Each year, the NJDOE recognizes Teachers and Educational Services Professionals throughout the State and honors educators based on the following criteria. Candidates must:

- be exceptionally skilled and dedicated licensed classroom teachers where teaching is the primary responsibility OR an educational services professional (ESP)
- have the latest summative rating of at least effective
- be an expert in the field who inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn
- actively collaborate with colleagues, students, and families to create a strong culture of respect and success
- demonstrate leadership and innovation in educational activities
- have the respect and admiration of students, parents and colleagues

We are honored to highlight one teacher from Red Bank Primary School and one from Red Bank Middle School, as well as one Educational Services Professional for the District.

Special Education Teacher **Jennifer Rigby** is the **2025 Governor's Educator of the Year for Red Bank Primary School**. The snippet below is from a parent which is quite possibly the highest form of recognition!

The progress that we have seen in our child (both academically and behaviorally) has been incredible. Ms. Rigby was able to identify the appropriate learning tools for him, and knows how to communicate with his therapists or with us at home to figure out the best methods for him to learn and succeed in the classroom. She BELIEVES in our children. Ms. Rigby has an amazing ability to make things fun and meaningful for the students while still pushing them to reach their full potential. When my child sees Ms. Rigby outside of the classroom, he lights up with pure joy, which proves to me how much he loves her and what a wonderful teacher she is! Ms. Rigby attends numerous extracurricular school functions and can be found spending a Friday night serving popcorn with her husband.

Art Teacher **Diana Archila** is the **2025 Governor's Educator of the Year for the Red Bank Middle School**. The snippet below is from a staff member who took the time to nominate a colleague, a true testament to their ability to inspire others!

Diana is without a doubt both exceptionally skilled and dedicated. Every student who walks into her classroom is treated the same, no matter their perceived ability. She makes every student feel seen and

valued, ensuring the room is a space of unconditional respect and growth. Her unique talents are a part of larger school events, with her contributions to the school community showcased at various activities. Diana lends her bilingualism to conferences, assemblies and events. As a resident of Red Bank, she understands the community at large and as such, has been able to form a dynamic relationship with students, parents and staff. Spending time with students to provide them with time to prepare for the rigorous expectations of the Red Bank Regional academies highlights her dedication to the success of our students. With some of her work displayed in and around Red Bank, you could say these areas have become an extension of her classroom.

School Psychologist **Joanne Fiore** is the **2025 Educational Services Professional** for the **Red Bank Borough Public School District**. Below is a snippet from the nomination letter submitted.

Joanne is simply one of the most exceptionally skilled and dedicated professionals. What makes her so invaluable is her deep, historical knowledge of our students, their families, and their needs—she remembers and applies the longitudinal information that keeps our team highly effective. What's most impressive is that she never settles; she constantly seeks out professional growth, diving into complex topics like anxiety and behavioral supports and taking the lead on mastering new systems. Joanne's approach is always thoughtful and reflective, showing a profound, personal commitment to clinical excellence and compliance. She's an absolute asset, and her dedication shines through in everything she does. And of course, the students admire her most for the genuine joy she shows when connecting with them through Girl Scouts and Lego Club.

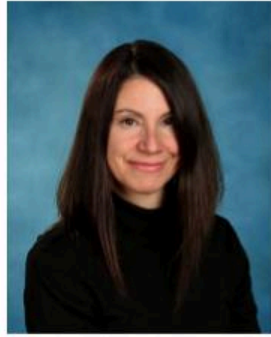
In addition to these honors, we also received more exciting news from the NJDOE – one of our staff members was recognized as a 2025 Exemplary Secondary Educator. This year's recipient is Middle School Teacher Kristen Smith. Every other year, the New Jersey Department of Education recognizes outstanding educators throughout the state with the Exemplary Secondary Educator Award. Through a rigorous selection process, the program identifies educators who are valued by their school and community and have exhibited strong knowledge and skills, an inspiring presence, and a clear vision for quality teaching and learning. We are fortunate to be the home of 17 Exemplary Educator Award winners here in Red Bank since 2016!

Kristen Smith is a Grade 8 English Language Arts Teacher at Red Bank Middle School. She has been an integral member of Rocket Nation since 2019, and in her time here, she has consistently demonstrated the professionalism, innovation, and leadership that make her a model teacher. She has been instrumental in the development and refinement of our curriculum using the EL Education framework. Her commitment to inclusive education is evident in her collaborative work with special education and ESL teachers, ensuring that all students, regardless of background or ability, are engaged and supported in their learning. Kristen is an active member of our AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) site team fostering a college- and career-ready mindset in her students. What sets Kristen apart is her leadership beyond the classroom. As a Grade Level Leader, she has helped shape team goals, support colleagues, and serve as a liaison between staff and administration. She leads with grace, empathy, and clarity—qualities that elevate the entire school community. Her past experience advising student groups and writing curricula in other districts shows the depth and breadth of her professional abilities. Kristen is not only a strong educator but also a reflective practitioner who continues to grow through professional learning. She is trained in various technology platforms, is a Google Certified Educator Level 1 and brings a high level of organization and creativity to her planning and instruction. Her calm demeanor, thoughtful communication, and unwavering dedication to student success make her a beloved teacher among students and a trusted colleague among staff.

We are proud of our staff for so many reasons, but especially for striving to be the best in America so that we can rest assured we are the best for Red Bank. Our educators exemplify that mindset by continuing to inspire

our students to Dream BIG and then helping them get there. Visit our website www.rbb.k12.nj.us for more information.

Red Bank, NJ – January 13, 2026



CONGRATULATIONS

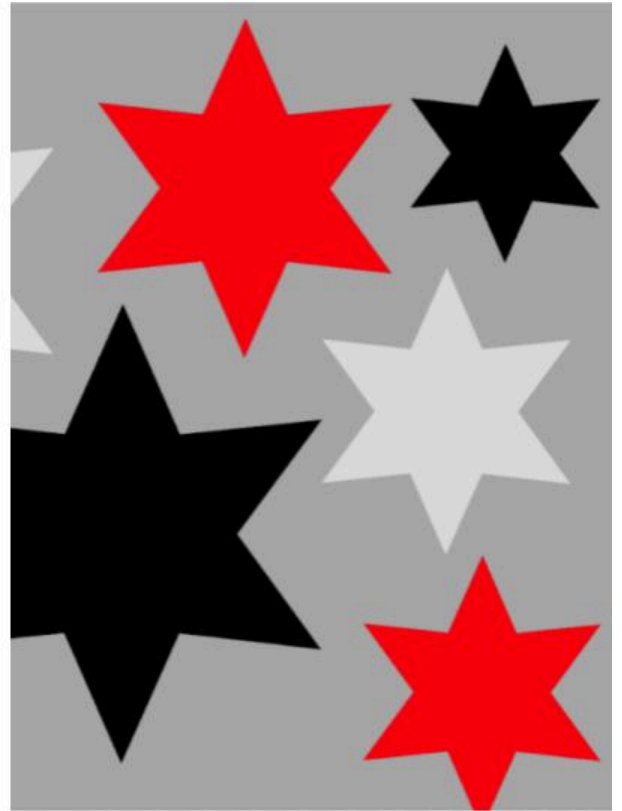
Diana Archila

Red Bank Middle School - Art Teacher

2025-2026

Governor's Educator of the Year

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CONGRATULATIONS

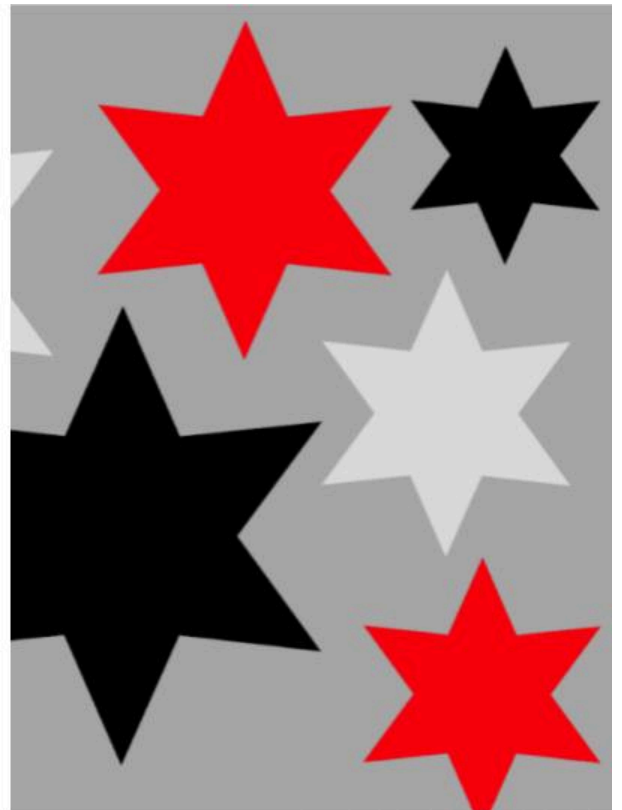
Jennifer Rigby

Red Bank Primary School - Special Education Teacher

2025-2026

Governor's Educator of the Year

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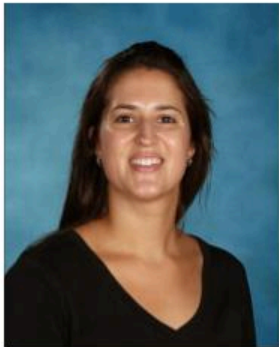
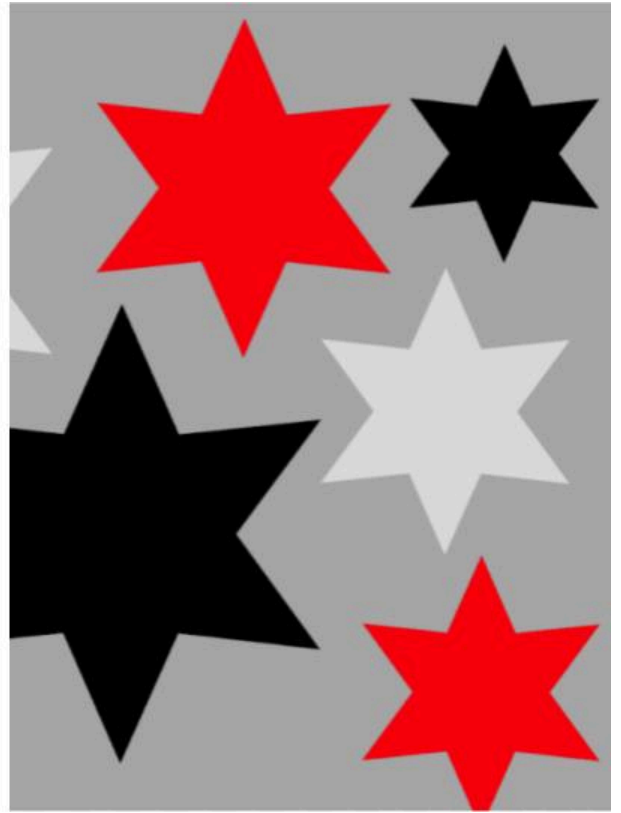
CONGRATULATIONS

Joanne Fiore

School Psychologist

**2025-2026 Governor's Educator of the Year
District Educational Services Professional**

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CONGRATULATIONS

Kristen Smith

Red Bank Middle School - ELA Teacher

**2025 NJDOE
Exemplary Secondary Educator**

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