

2026 YOU MATTER AWARD WINNER



Dean DelloBuono



Merion Elementary School



Mr. Dell embodies what it means to ensure students and their families feel supported and valued, not just academically, but as whole individuals. One of the most impactful aspects of Mr. Dell's approach is the strong sense of community he intentionally cultivates within his classroom. From proactively partnering with parents to coordinate meaningful events like the fall party and even a weekend volunteer event at Cradles to Crayons, he creates experiences that go beyond the academic day. These thoughtfully organized opportunities strengthen relationships among students, families, and the school, helping children associate learning with connection and joy. Beyond events, Mr. Dell demonstrates genuine care through consistent, personalized communication with families. He took time to reach out several times about my child's progress, not only celebrating strengths, but thoughtfully identifying areas for growth and offered constructive support. His outreach is proactive rather than reactive, which made me feel like true partners in my child's education. For my child, knowing that their teacher believes in them and communicates regularly with home has built both confidence and accountability. In the academic and social environment he builds within his classroom, fostering community, celebrating childhood, and inspiring academic excellence. He goes above and beyond, not for recognition, but because he truly cares about giving his students a positive elementary school experience that they will carry with them for years to come.