

RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Ridgewood, New Jersey

TO: Students, Parents and Staff
Ridgewood Public Schools

FROM: Teacher Recognition Committee

DATE: February, 2017

RE: 2017 Ridgewood Teacher Recognition Program Information and Nomination Forms

Introduction

The Board of Education has approved the **Ridgewood Teacher Recognition Program**, continuing the annual tradition of recognizing some of the district's many fine teachers and educational services professionals. In addition to our own traditional recognition ceremony, honorees will also be afforded the opportunity to attend the Bergen County Teacher/Educational Services Professionals Recognition Program ceremony and luncheon. This annual event is organized by the Executive Bergen County Superintendent of Schools, the Bergen County Association of School Administrators and the Bergen County Education Association.

Nomination Process

The district has established a Teacher Recognition Committee, which includes members from each of the following groups: teachers, administrators, and parents. The panel will elicit nominations of teachers and educational services professionals from staff, parents and student. The Committee may recommend one non-administrative staff member from each school in the district. Teachers at the Glen School, along with special education staff assigned to more than one building, will be eligible for nomination as a separate category.

Nominated teachers, during the previous school year, must have:

- used effective, innovative instructional strategies;
- increased student achievement of the *New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards* in a student-centered learning environment;
- utilized educational technology in an effective and efficient manner;
- established a positive classroom climate and rapport with all students;
- contributed to quality professional development in the district; and
- developed feelings of self-worth and love of learning in students.

Nominated educational services professionals, during the previous school year, must have:

- interacted positively with students, staff and parents while functioning as a frontline advocate for the student between home and school;
- fostered an appropriate environment for learning, and explored creative alternatives to enable all students to achieve to their fullest potentials;
- supported student achievement of the *New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards* by addressing the educational, social and emotional needs of all students;
- contributed to quality professional development in the district; and
- interacted with students in ways that demonstrated professionalism while retaining respect, humor, compassion and concern for the whole child.

Nominated staff members must have received exemplary evaluation reports and have personnel records devoid of recent sanctions or deficiencies. The personnel records of all nominees will be reviewed by the Superintendent or his designee and only those nominees with positive evaluations and personnel records will be forwarded to the Committee. The panel will forward its recommendations to the Board of Education. The Board will approve the district's selections at a public meeting.

Your Involvement

We encourage you to share in making the Ridgewood Teacher Recognition Program meaningful by nominating a teacher or educational service provider from your school and returning the nomination form in a sealed envelope to the Ridgewood Teacher Recognition Committee, c/o Human Resources, Education Center. If you prefer, you may e-mail your nomination to: recognition@ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Please be thoughtful in your response and incorporate specific examples of the staff member's exceptional contributions to the district. **Nominations must be received by March 15, 2017.**