

# DUNELLEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Mr. Vincent J. Olivo  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary  
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**To:** All Parents, Guardians, Staff Members & Students

**From:** Pio Pennisi 

**Re:** 2011-12 New Jersey Teacher of the Year

**Date:** December 1, 2010

The New Jersey State Teacher of the Year recognition program was developed for the purpose of acknowledging teachers who exhibit outstanding performance. The premise of recognizing teachers is based on the following: (1) the success of our public schools is due to the quality and dedication of their teaching staff; (2) recognizing excellence will encourage all teachers to continue to strive for excellence; (3) by giving the teaching profession the stature and recognition it deserves, more capable people will be attracted to the profession; and (4) like other professions, outstanding performance should be acknowledged.

Each principal, using a committee consisting of administrators and teachers will select a "Teacher of the Year" for each of their buildings. **The District will then select a district "Teacher of the Year" from the three building representatives.** Each District Teacher of the Year then becomes eligible to compete for the County Teacher of the Year award. A State Teacher of the Year is then chosen from the 21 County Teachers of the Year and the State Facility Teacher of the Year. The individual selected as State Teacher of the Year becomes New Jersey's nominee for National Teacher of the Year.

Parents, students, and current district employees may nominate a teacher. On the back of this memo is the Nominating Form. Please use the accompanying criteria that comes directly from the state to nominate one teacher who you believe is deserving of this honor. Teacher of the Year can only be awarded to individuals who have not earned this title within the past five (5) years. Below is a list of recipients from the last five years.

JPF	LMS	DHS
2010 - Janice Kipnis	2010 - Jeffrey Murray	2010 - Sandra Pinheiro
2009 - Eileen DeNapoli	2009 - Allyson Timinski	2009 - Keith Boyle
2008 - Stacey Malinowski	2008 - Cuyler Tobin	2008 - Jayne Ricciardi
2007 - Jeanne DeSorbo	2007 - Rakhi Modi	2007 - Antonio Matheus
2006 - Sandra Mullen	2006 - MaryEllen Speciale	2006 - Lenore Hall

**All nominations must be returned to the appropriate Building Principal's Office no later than 3:00 pm January 10, 2011. Thank you for your participation.**

## New Jersey Teacher of the Year Nominating Form

The candidates must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a licensed, highly-qualified (if applicable) classroom teacher (pre-K through grade 12) in a public or charter school;
- Have teaching as the primary responsibility rather than administrative or supervisory responsibilities;
- Be a dedicated and skilled teacher leader who is **planning to actively continue his/her teaching career**;
- Demonstrate strong ability to foster excellence in education as evidenced by ongoing contributions to the improvement of student learning and the learning environment;
- Possess strong content area expertise and be able to deliver content in a meaningful and engaging manner that is age appropriate;
- Incorporate innovative instructional materials, curriculum or strategies, such as interdisciplinary instruction, project-based learning, research-based programs, or technology to support and enhance instruction;
- **Demonstrate leadership** in educational activities at the school, district, and/or state and national level that take place both within or out of the school setting;
- Show evidence of ongoing professional learning through completion of specific training and/or advanced degrees;
- Display exemplary interpersonal skills in communicating with students, parents, administrators, community members and professional colleagues;
- Participate in peer coaching and mentoring activities;
- Utilize research techniques in the classroom to improve the teaching and learning process;
- Engage parents/families as partners in the learning process to enhance student achievement;
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to creating a climate of caring and respect conducive to effective teaching and learning; and
- Demonstrate poise, eloquence and the ability to maintain a demanding schedule.

Based on the criteria above, I would like to nominate

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Why (attach sheet if more space is needed): \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Signed

Please return no later than 3 pm on January 10, 2011 to the appropriate Building Principal's Office