



Elizabeth High School

Frank J. Cicarell Academy

Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent

Michael Cummings, Principal

Thomas O' Donnell, Vice Principal

Dear Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy Community,

The Governor's Educator of the Year Program highlights educational innovation, student achievement, exemplary teaching, and important services outside the classroom environment that lead to student success. This celebratory program recognizes our state's best teachers and educational services professionals who will be recognized at the Union County Office of Education.

We are proud to announce that the 2019 Governor's Teacher of the Year for Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy was awarded to Ms. Maria O'Keeffe. Ms. O'Keeffe has been on staff at Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy since the program's beginning at Upper Academy in 2006. Ms. O'Keeffe views art as a subject that teaches the whole child. In AP Art History, enormous cross curricular experiences connect abstract concepts in art with historical periods, culture, story, and personal meaning. In Drawing and Painting as well as Ceramics, students are involved in the highest order of thinking – creation. As students breathe life into their projects, they bring together mental and physical aspects of learning that touch the spirit. Indeed, her students' works decorate the school, complementing our aesthetic architectural design with passion and voice. We are proud and honored to have such a leader and teacher on our staff.

This year's Educational Service Provider of the Year for Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy was awarded to Ms. Sivia R. Lieberman. Nurse Lieberman has been on staff at Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy since the program's beginning at Upper Academy in 2006. She is on the front line of issues that concern us most at FJC – those related to student safety and well-being. Her office is a busy place where student concerns are addressed with respect and urgency. She touches all aspects of the school community, leading our Crisis Team, scheduling drills, and providing important feedback that makes our school a healthier and safer place. Nurse Lieberman goes above and beyond with her care of students and staff and her office is a place of refuge, caring, and kindness. We are very proud and honored to have such a high level example of excellence on our staff.

Please join us in celebrating these two amazing professionals for the work they have done, and continue to do, for our school community and district.

Sincerely,

Michael Cummings