



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

Hollis Mendes
Principal
Christina De Simone
Vice Principal

Dear Joseph Battin School No. 4 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.

The school is proud to announce that the 2018 Governor's Teacher of the Year for Joseph Battin School No. 4 was awarded to Mr. Drew Thomas. Mr. Thomas has served Elizabeth Public Schools since 2000. He is currently the technology teacher as well as the part-time computer tech. His decision to become a teacher was a result of his mom's example as a teacher and his determination to help others. Mr. Thomas' early career path trying to find a job in law enforcement somehow led to an opportunity in teaching and the adventure began here at Battin. Mr. Thomas brought his technology skills from the business world and these skills became the building blocks to creating E-Learning for the students and helping the teachers enhance their computer skills. He has also become involved in the school community as a baseball coach and union officer. These all come secondary to helping the kids and making sure the school is a fun and safe place to learn. He is an asset to our school and we are proud that he has been recognized as the 2018 Governor's Teacher of the Year.

This year's Educational Service Provider of the Year for Joseph Battin School No. 4 was awarded to Ms. Ellen Hess. Ms. Hess joined the School No. 4 team in 2008 as a speech language specialist. Besides her dedication to helping children with their speech and language, she actively participates in school committees and makes an extra effort to enhance classroom lessons by incorporating visual, tactile, and experiential elements to her instruction. Some of these experiences include creating books from recycled and used books from the library, creating a multicultural quilt that is displayed in the main hallway, and making moccasins and learning native beadwork during lessons about Native Americans. Through her dedication and belief in her students, she has enriched their understanding of things in the world around them, and has encouraged a sense of curiosity, discovery, and enthusiasm that she hopes will stay with them through their educational careers.

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,

Hollis Mendes

Joseph Battin School No. 4
