



**Olga Hugelmeyer**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Dr. Mari Celi Sanchez**  
Principal  
**Melissa Kulick**  
Vice Principal

Dear Elmora School No. 12 Families,

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 2018 Governor's Teacher of the Year for Elmora School No. 12 was awarded to Dr. Anna Kroik. Anna Kroik holds Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD degrees in Music from St. Petersburg's Pedagogical College and Music University of the former USSR. Her family and she immigrated to the United States where she was able to overcome her language barrier and continue her passion of teaching music. She completed her teacher certification program at Kean University in 1998, Master of Education program at Marygrove College in 2007, and the Walden University EdD program in 2010.

Dr. Anna Kroik has dedicated her life to teaching music to children of all ages. She believes that music helps students to gain self-esteem, confidence, and an ability to share their talents and elevate inner capacities. Through her lessons, she instills a sense of leadership while developing life skills. Dr. Kroik has received the Golden Circuit Teachers Award for preparing students for competitions and, most recently, several of her students were invited to perform at the renowned Carnegie Hall as winners of the Little Mozart National Competition. Anna's passion for spreading music knowledge extends beyond the formal education setting as she also holds the positions of organist and Assistant Music Director at the Linden Presbyterian Church as well as Program Director at Rhapsody Academy of Music and Arts for All, Inc.

This year's Educational Service Provider of the year for Elmora School No. 12 was awarded to Ms. Lisa M. Gentile. Ms. Gentile started her career as a School Nurse for Elizabeth Public Schools in 1999. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience caring for the medical and health needs of students of all ages and developmental levels. The students have found a trusting resource in Ms. Gentile. Her 18 years of experience, empathetic spirit, and desire to assist students is evident as they seek her out for her medical opinion and advice for health concerns. She also is very knowledgeable and helpful in assisting families to access various available community resources. She views every student interaction as an opportunity to empower and educate her students on self-care, healthy habits, and health promotion.

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,

Dr. Mari Celi Sanchez

**Elmora School No. 12**