



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Michael Wansaw
Principal

Dear Victor Mravlag School No. 21 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 Victor Mravlag School No. 21 was awarded to Mrs. Ewelina Mendez. Mrs. Mendez has been employed by the Elizabeth Public Schools for eight years and has served as a middle school mathematics teacher at Victor Mravlag School No. 21 for the past six years. Mrs. Mendez is a dedicated and passionate educator who is deeply committed to the academic success and well-being of her students. Mrs. Mendez provides her seventh grade pre-algebra students with fun and engaging lessons that challenge them to apply the mathematical concepts and skills they are learning to real-world situations. Her students' misconceptions are identified and discussed in detail to ensure that they develop a solid understanding of the content. Mrs. Mendez's commitment to her students' academic success extends beyond the regular school day as evidenced by her active participation in our afterschool and lunchtime tutoring programs. Mrs. Mendez is the consummate team player and serves as the chair of our eighth grade graduation committee – a highly demanding volunteer position that takes up much of her personal time. The students, faculty, and administration of Victor Mravlag School No. 21 are truly blessed to have such a talented and committed educator as Mrs. Mendez to call their own. I cannot think of a more deserving candidate for this award.

This year's Educational Service Provider of the Year for Victor Mravlag School No. 21 was awarded to Mrs. Meghan Lewandowski. Mrs. Lewandowski has served the Elizabeth Public School District since 2004, starting her educational career as a resource teacher, and shortly transitioning to a self-contained special education teacher. Working with the special education population taught Mrs. Lewandowski the importance of understanding the diverse needs of her students, and how imperative social and emotional well-being is in relationship to academic success. Ultimately, this understanding, coupled with her passion for working with children, led her to pursue her Masters in School Counseling at Kean University. Upon taking the role as a school counselor, Mrs. Lewandowski has worked hard to cultivate a positive school climate where students will thrive, both emotionally and academically. She works in close collaboration with staff and strives to maintain open lines of communication with families. Mrs. Lewandowski makes a continuous effort to develop a positive rapport with her students and hopes to provide them with a solid foundation of skills that they can utilize along their journey to becoming successful, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow.

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. Michael Wansaw

Victor Mravlag • School No. 21