



**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 2018 Governor's Teacher of the Year for Victor Mravlag School No. 21 was awarded to Ms. Gabrielle Richa. Ms. Richa has been employed by the Elizabeth Public Schools for the past five years as a music teacher at Victor Mravlag School No. 21. Ms. Richa is a dedicated and passionate educator who is deeply committed to the academic success and artistic development of her students. As the leader of our music department, Ms. Richa teaches general music classes to students in grades K-8, choir enrichment classes to students in grades 5-8, and theater enrichment classes to students in grades 5-8. Ms. Richa has directed numerous plays, concerts, and recitals during her tenure at Victor Mravlag and has played a significant role in having musical instruments donated to our school. She is also responsible for establishing our Little Kids Rock Modern Band program and the Battle of the Bands afterschool program. As a result of Ms. Richa's vision and persistence, our students have been able to perform at American Young Voices and attend inspiring field trips to Broadway shows, museums, and plays. Ms. Richa also serves as our school's AVID program coordinator and schedules speakers and field trips to local colleges and universities for our AVID students. Our school is fortunate to have such a talented educator as Ms. Richa to call our own.

This year's Educational Service Provider of the Year for Victor Mravlag School No. 21 was awarded to Ms. Sarai Aleman. Mrs. Aleman has been employed as a Child Development Associate (CDA) in the Elizabeth Public Schools for the past fifteen years. Mrs. Aleman brings positive energy to the classroom with her good nature and strong understanding of child development. Mrs. Aleman possesses a keen awareness of her students' academic needs and works diligently to support and advance their learning in an appropriate and loving manner. Mrs. Aleman can seamlessly take over the classroom at any time and provide students with meaningful learning activities and experiences. Students' social and emotional needs are also met by Mrs. Aleman, who models patience, kindness, and empathy for her three- and four-year-olds. No task is too trivial for Mrs. Aleman, who routinely cleans and sanitizes tables, heats student lunches, and helps students pick up toys following work time. Ms. Aleman works hand-in-hand with Ms. Felson to maintain a warm and welcoming classroom environment for all stakeholders. Mrs. Aleman is the consummate "team player" not only in the classroom, but also in the school as a whole, as she has provided numerous colleagues with assistance in obtaining and/or renewing their CDA certification. Mrs. Aleman's positive attitude and collegiality make her a valuable asset to Victor Mravlag School No. 21 and a most worthy candidate for this award.

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