



Thomas Jefferson
Arts
Academy

Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent

Michael Ojeda, Principal

Alexandra Mickens, Vice Principal

Danny Ortiz, Vice Principal

Cheryl Ann Popielarski, Vice Principal

Dear Thomas Jefferson Arts 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 2018 Governor's Teacher of the Year for Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy was awarded to Mrs. Rubina Saghir. Mrs. Saghir has served as a science teacher in the Elizabeth Public Schools since 2002, bringing to our school community both her undergraduate studies in the UK and teaching experience in Pakistan. While serving at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy since its opening in 2009, Mrs. Saghir has devoted countless hours to both engaging science instruction and supporting the school community beyond her own classroom. Mrs. Saghir has served as a collaborating teacher in our school's Academy for Leadership Science Instruction team, while also serving as both a class advisor and student government advisor. In these roles, she has led professional development and inquiry for her department, developed a supporting partnership between our student government and local senior citizen residences, and devoted countless hours to chaperoning, tutoring, and volunteering for student events. Mrs. Saghir's extraordinary dedication to her students and our school community make her a model Teacher of the Year for Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy.

This year's Educational Service Provider of the Year for Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy was awarded to Mrs. Antoinette Murphy. Mrs. Murphy has served as media specialist at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy since its opening in 2009, bringing to our school community years of previous service at Jefferson House of Elizabeth High School. In her tenure at Jefferson Arts, Mrs. Murphy has served as students' and teachers' go-to-person for questions about research and educational technology. That notwithstanding, she continues to cherish the opportunity to manage one of Elizabeth Public Schools' most actively used libraries, and live out one of her greatest passions: connecting young people with powerful literature. Mrs. Murphy's dedication and commitment to our students, team-members, and families are among the many reasons that we are proud to recognize her as Educational Service Provider of the Year for Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy.

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 Ojeda