



**Olga Hugelmeyer**  
Superintendent of Schools

April 1, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of Elizabeth Public Schools, I am deeply saddened to share that two beloved teachers of our school community from Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy have passed away. The exact causes of their passings are unknown at this time but are believed to be unrelated.

Joseph Tintle, a team member of Elizabeth Public Schools since 2001, and Michelle Torruella, a team member since 2004, both admirably served the Edison Career and Technical Academy English Department. Countless students enhanced their writing skills and were introduced to classic literary works while in Mr. Tintle and Ms. Torruella's classes. Furthermore, Mr. Tintle and Ms. Torruella both inspired their students to strive for excellence both in their academic and life pursuits.

Their passings are great losses not only to the Edison Career and Technical Academy learning community, but also the Elizabeth Public Schools community as a whole. We will recognize their long careers and many contributions to our school community at a future date when we are all able to gather.

In order to support our team members and students, we have arranged to have grief counselors available to our school community remotely throughout the week.

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of Mr. Tintle and Ms. Torruella as they navigate this difficult time. May God bless each of them and our entire community.

Sincerely,

**Olga Hugelmeyer**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**