



## Elizabeth Public Schools Press Release

### 3 EPS Schools Named 2019 National School of Character

**Elizabeth, N.J., May 10, 2019** – Nicholas S. LaCorte – Peterstown School No. 3, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, and Frances C. Smith Early Childhood Center School No. 50 were among 92 schools to be recognized as a 2019 National School of Character by Character.org.

Each year, Character.org and its state affiliates select schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development, which has a true positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate.

Through an in-depth and rigorous evaluation process, the schools selected as National Schools of Character were found to be exemplary models in character development. Criteria for selection are based on Character.org's 11 Principles of Effective Character Education, a framework to assist schools in providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership and engaging families and communities as partners in the character-building effort.

State and National Schools of Character retain their status for a five-year period. School No. 29 and School No. 50 both earned their New Jersey School of Character recognition earlier this year. School No. 3 was eligible to apply for National School of Character status after being named a New Jersey School of Character in 2016.

In its 26th year, Character.org will honor all 2019 National School of Character at the 2019 National Forum to be held Oct 24-27, 2019 in Washington, DC. The forum is the largest character development conference in the world, drawing people from many countries to learn best practices and the latest research in character development from some of the most well-known and leading thinkers and experts in the field.

Elizabeth Public Schools is now home to seven district schools that have been designated as state schools of character, six of which received national school of character honors as well. In addition to School No. 3, School No. 29, and School No. 50 who have earned state and national recognition, past recipients include Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9 (2019); Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 (2018), which also was named a National School of Character; Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood School No. 51 (2016), which also received the National School of Character designation; and Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28 (2015), which received State and National School of Character honors.

“Our curriculum of instruction focuses on developing the whole child,” said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. “We want our students to leave our schools ready to compete for college and career opportunities as caring young men and women of high character. Our seven schools that have been recognized by Character.org, including School Nos. 3, 29, and 50 now on the national level, shows that we are continuing to successfully address character education.”

“Character is such an important aspect to being successful in life’s endless opportunities, including the college and career opportunities that our students are seeking,” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. “It brings out the best in us and motivates the best from others in all areas of life. I am so proud of the students and staff at School No. 3, School No. 29, and School No. 50 for the outstanding work they have put into becoming a National School of Character and for providing great inspiration to those around them.”

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