



Northeast School Principal's Newsletter

December 8th, 2023

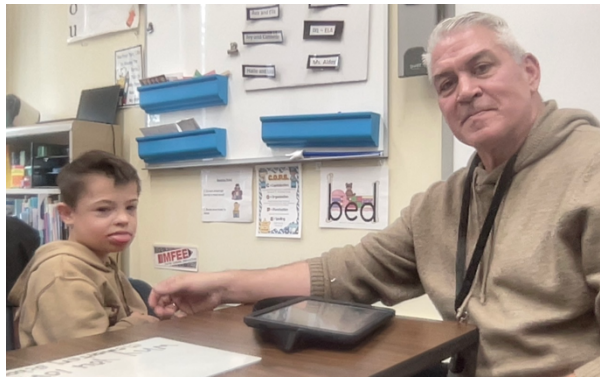


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Governor's Educator & Educational Service Professional of the Year

The State of New Jersey hosts an annual process of recognizing amazing educators and professionals who work in schools. Each year schools receive instructions from the governor's office guiding the nomination of an educator and educational service professional of the year. The directions ask the building principals to solicit prospective candidates from our community and staff. Northeast has sent out the nomination form to our community through the month of November. We had a great show of support and received nominations for 10 Educators and 8 Educational Service Professionals!

All our nomination forms were reviewed by our internal committee and put to a vote. We are more than excited and proud to announce that our **Governor's Educator of the Year is Mrs. Kristen McCann!** And our **Governor's Educational Service Professional is Mr. James Crawford!**



While many of you know these two awesome professionals, I would like to take a moment to share some highlights about their career.

Mr. James Crawford

Mr. Crawford serves as a paraprofessional at Northeast. While the role of a para can take on many responsibilities, Mr. Crawford qualities of selflessness, compassion and consistency mixed with an unmatched work ethic, has led him to be assigned to one of our most demanding positions.



Why do you like
Elementary School?

I missed being around
young kids excited
about learning. There
is no place I'd rather
be!

-Luca

Mr. Crawford graduated from Ramapo College in 1995. He began his teaching career at Snyder High School in Jersey City. Mr. Crawford's heart has always led him to work with populations who needed his dedication and compassionate style of instruction. He has worked with struggling teens and even adults in G.E.D. programs. He found this work rewarding and helped foster his role as an advocate.

Who inspired you?

My mom always taught me if work hard you can do anything.

-Haile

Can you do a cartwheel?

It's been a while, but I think I still remember.

-Elenore

When his own children grew into their teen years, Mr. Crawford missed younger students and found his way to Northeast Elementary School.

We had some of Mr. Crawford's students interview him to shed some light on what they love about his support.

Do you like working in a school?

I was one of those kids who couldn't wait for the summer to end so I could get back to school!

-Ava

Mrs. Kristen McCann

Mrs. McCann started her teaching career at Northeast School in 2006. During her student teaching, an opening for the technology teacher position became available. She started as the technology teacher at Northeast in December of 2006, and the rest is history. Believe it or not, she was our school technology coordinator and teacher for about ten years. However, when returning from her maternity leave in 2016, Mrs. McCann was ready for a change. She wanted to be in the regular classroom and capitalized on an opportunity to teach fifth grade. In 2016, fifth grade was not departmentalized, so she taught all the core subjects. About five years ago, when Northeast switched to a departmentalized model, she was able to focus on and share her love of math. She loves showing students why we solve problems the way that we solve problems! It brings her joy to see the "ah-ha moment" when students get the concepts, she is teaching them and their growth from September to June.

Mrs. McCann always has appreciated our community's support and is humbled and honored to be selected as Northeast School's 2023 Educator of the Year.

Fifth Grade students, Maisie Mills and Zevin Task interviewed Ms. McCann. Here are a few of their questions.

What teaching tools do you suggest using?

Hands on materials and giving directions both visually and verbally.



How do you see your students improve?

I see them being stronger and more confident in solving Math problems. directions both visually and verbally.

Why do you like teaching?

I love seeing the light turn on when a student gets a concept that they didn't understand at first.

When did you start wanting to be a teacher?

I always wanted to be a teacher. I used to play school as a kid with friends and my sisters.

How do you think your students will use the math you have taught them?

When I teach 5th Grade concepts, I try to make connections to things that will be used in their world such as with food, shopping, banking, baking or cooking!

How long have you been doing this?

I have been teaching for 17 years, and I even did my student teaching at Northeast!

Have you worked in other school?

No, I have always worked at Northeast but, before becoming the 5th Grade Math Teacher, I was the Technology Teacher.

How do you feel about your colleagues?

I absolutely love my colleagues! I couldn't do what I do without them!

Where did you go to college?

I have an undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware and a master's degree from William Patterson University.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

**End
Trimester 1
December 13th**

**Early Dismissal
(1:10pm)
December 22nd**

**School Closed
Winter Recess
December 25th -
January 1st**