

MAYOR MINUTES



Pleasant Valley School named the 2017 New Jersey School to Watch

Dear Fellow Residents,

It is with great pride that I am able to share this exciting news with you regarding PVS being named the **ONLY New Jersey School to Watch for 2017**. This is a nationally recognized program and the prestigious accolade is a three-year designation. Currently only 7 out of the 2,522 schools across the state are recognized. Even more impressive, the award is given to middle schools, grades 6-8, and as many of you know PVS only has a 6th grade. It is unbelievable that PVS could compete with just a single grade for consideration. Let alone be the ONLY school awarded this year!



The New Jersey Schools to Watch® Program recognizes overall excellence in education. High-performing schools, named Schools to Watch®, maximize student growth, support learning for all students, and prepare students for success in high school, college, and careers. The research-based program seeks schools that are continuously improving student achievement and it requires schools to engage in significant reflection about how they operate, the vision for their work, and the outcomes of programs and services. [PVS is one of the elite schools](#) to have met the criteria and we are now part of a state and national network.

As you might imagine the process to be awarded this designation was significant. Not only was there a lengthy application, but also a nine-hour onsite visit that included interviews with faculty, staff, students and parents. Upon completion of the process, it was determined that PVS excelled in the following areas:

- **Strong Academics**
- **Respect for Student Needs and Interests**
- **Equal Access to a High-Quality Education**
- **Support for School Improvement**



This honor is a reflection of our community and the dedication to education that we all share. From the Board of Education to the PTA, from the teaching staff to the parents that instill the values that prioritize learning, we are blessed to share a common bond. On an individual level it is important to recognize and thank our administration and teachers that championed this effort:

- **Dr. Missy Peretti**, Superintendent of Schools
- **Dr. Andrew Davis**, Chief Academic Officer
- **Jennifer Hackett-Slimm**, Supervisor of Curriculum at PVS
- **Lisa Heenan**, Principal, PVS
- **Valerie Cline**, Interim Principal PVS
- **Annalisa Rodano**, English/Language Arts Coordinator
- **Chad Flexon**, Academic Innovations and STEM Coordinator

Harrison Township continues to take the lead in being progressive, forward thinkers, and a role model for other communities. This award only further illustrates what we already know – being a part of this community is special.



Together For Harrison Township,

Lou Manzo

Your Mayor

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