

2016-2017 Teacher Of the Year Award Recipient Christina Amaral



2016 Teacher of the Year Christina Amaral with Middle School Principal Jason Lehmann (left) and Middle School assistant principal Christopher Sullivan (right)



2016 Teacher of the Year Christina Amaral with Superintendent of Schools Paul K. Smith

The East Hampton Teacher of the Year Program in conjunction with the State of Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program has as its purpose to recognize and honor teacher excellence. It does not attempt to select the “best” teacher; rather, to identify, from among our many outstanding teachers, one teacher to serve as a visible and vocal representative of what is best in the profession and best in the East Hampton Public Schools. Today we celebrate excellence in teaching by recognizing one of our many teachers who have inspired a love for learning in their students and who have distinguished themselves in the profession.

Re-establishing this program was important to me, because it did not take me long to realize that among this staff of teachers are some of the best teachers in the State of Connecticut. So to continue a tradition that has been on a short hiatus of 11 years, I would like to introduce you to the 2016-17 East Hampton Public Schools Teacher of the Year, Christina Amaral, Math Teacher at East Hampton Middle School.

Jason Lehmann, Principal of the middle school indicates that “Mrs. Amaral is a true professional, she has a tireless work ethic and humble demeanor. She takes her charge very seriously, never complaining or making excuses but instead looking for ways to improve and support her fellow teachers and students. Christina is a natural leader modeling exemplary teaching, assuming the position of team leader and constantly working to support the school system all with a smile.”

Former Principal of the middle school, Nancy Briere wrote, “When we were so fortunate to hire Christina we knew she came off of the ‘assembly line’ as a Cadillac. She has developed her expertise as a dedicated, compassionate, and skilled educator who has the needs of each of her students foremost in her mind. I am proud of all she has accomplished and honored to have had the opportunity to work alongside of her.”

In her nomination it was mentioned that “Christina connects with each and every student she has. She has high expectations of her students and herself. When her students’ meet a setback it is only a temporary one because Christina will do whatever is necessary to ensure that each of her students are successful. She is incredibly organized and digitizes her lesson for constant tweaking and revision. She recently complete her Masters in Educational Technology and will be perusing her degree in Educational Leadership. She is constantly innovating her use of Google classroom to develop a flipped classroom model. Christina loves to give students every advantage possible. Christina is a true professional.”

Beyond the skillful infusion of technology and her ability to have students joyfully engage in mathematics, Christina is also a highly reflective individual. From her application for Teacher of the Year, she noted her commitment to children and their success. She writes, “I do not accept ‘I don’t know’ as an answer. Every student will achieve success in my classroom and we as a class work together to make sure that everyone comprehends what we are working on. Through this belief, students become more confident in math, which in turn makes the student love to learn. I have seen, in

just five years of teaching, that there is a direct correlation between student success and having a positive relationship with them. Students who know you care about them will want to perform for you. With a supporting and motivating environment, creating positive relationships, and believing in the success of all students, learning does take place.”

In Christina’s classroom it is clear that there is a lot more than learning taking place.

As a school district we are proud that Christina will epitomize what is best in our staff of East Hampton teachers this school year, 2016-2017. She will be recognized at the Bushnell Theater at the annual State of Connecticut Teacher of the Year Celebration on Thursday, November 10 representing very well the teachers, schools, and community of East Hampton.

- remarks by Superintendent of Schools Paul K. Smith