



DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Press Announcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



DERBY – Derby Irving School Fourth Grade Teacher Frank Briganti is the Derby School District’s choice for 2016 Teacher of the Year.

Briganti was chosen for the top honor from among a group of teachers from each of the district’s four schools who were nominated by their peers for their excellence in teaching and extraordinary contributions to Derby’s students, families and educators. Briganti has been a teacher in the district since 2013.

“Mr. Briganti is an outstanding educator,” said Irving School Principal Jennifer Olson. “His lessons always include a real life application of a math skill, the integration of technology, and small group work. Students in his class made significant gains in their ability to solve complex problems, and improved their fact fluency.”

According to Olson, Mr. Briganti has filled a myriad of responsibilities on a regular basis. His primary responsibility has been as a classroom teacher, however, he is member of the Irving School’s Leadership Practice Improvement Team (LPI), he volunteers his time to tutor students after school, and piloted a school-wide Invention Convention. This year he secured funding to launch a Robotics Club which will begin in the fall. He also worked on the committee to select a new math program for the elementary schools, and has led several professional development sessions for teachers on math instruction, assessments, and technology use. Briganti is also a committee member for the Derby B.E.S.T. 5k Race.

Derby’s 2015 Teacher of the Year Christina Guerra said of her colleague, “Frank incorporates protocols and routines that engage even the most reluctant students. Students are excited to enter his classroom and held to high expectations. He is an outstanding teacher to represent Irving School and Derby Public Schools.”

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Matthew Conway said that Mr. Briganti was chosen for Teacher of the Year because he is an outstanding educator who is always willing to go above and beyond for his students, parents and school. “Mr. Briganti engages every student, every day, identifying lessons and activities to meet each student’s needs,” Conway said. “His performance as a teacher is professional and conscientious. Mr. Briganti is a valued asset to the Derby School district.”

Mr. Briganti will be honored at a ceremony on August 24, 2015 when the district’s teachers return to school for professional development activities. He will also be honored at the annual statewide awards ceremony to be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford. Also to be honored at the events are the three other teachers who were chosen as Teacher of the Year at their individual schools. Those teachers are: Lisa Detoro, Grade 4 teacher at Bradley Elementary School; Greg Murphy, Special Education Resource teacher at Derby Middle School and Rebecca Syombathy, a 9th grade teacher at Derby High School. In addition, we will be honoring our Paraeducators of the Year. Those Paraeducators are: Cheryl Shea, Bradley School; Mary Lou Victor, Irving School; Alicia Proscino, Derby Middle School and Pamela Queen, Derby High School. Pam Queen has been chosen as the District’s Paraeducator of the Year.