



Clark Public Schools Valley Road School

150 Valley Road • Clark, New Jersey 07066
732-388-7900 (Telephone) • 732-388-6209 (Facsimile)

Joseph Beltramba
Principal

Edward Grande
Superintendent of Schools

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To Whom it May Concern:

Mrs. Petela is so deserving of the Governor's Educator of the Year Award. She is well respected in the school community by current and former students, parents, colleagues, and administrators. Anytime her name is brought up, nothing but positive comments are made. Some words commonly used to describe Mrs. Petela are: patient, understanding, inspirational, knowledgeable, warm, and helpful. Parents of students share that they are comforted knowing she truly cares for their child and looks out for their best interest during the school day. They also share that their children come home enthusiastic and excited about the learning done in school, under her guidance.

Daily, Mrs. Petela inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn by utilizing various learning strategies to engage them. Furthermore, all students are treated equally. When students are having difficulties, she takes their various needs into account and finds a way to help them. Mrs. Petela makes learning fun and motivates her students by engaging them in meaningful activities.

When parents need assistance, no matter what day or time, Mrs. Petela is readily accessible through the Remind App or email. Issues or questions that might seem tedious to some, she listens and helps the situation. Mrs. Petela also share photos and information on the Remind App.

Mrs. Petela is not just involved with her students during school hours, she also makes appearances at her students' sporting events, parades, and other after school and community activities. It is amazing how happy a child is when they see their teacher cheering them on from the sidelines. Just by interacting with her, one can tell that she truly LOVES being a teacher!

As a staff member, Mrs. Petela is quick to help others. She helps staff members, parents and students. She serves on the CRT Committee, is a co-leader of the Social Committee, and volunteers to be a case manager for students in I&RS. She has also been known to go out to the drop off curb at arrival, to help calm an emotionally upset child and help get them into the building. Mrs. Petela also helps mentor new staff members.

Mrs. Petela makes a lasting impression on her students and prepares them for the future. Beyond teaching core subjects, she creates a community of learners where students become a *family*. As a *family*, they learn to communicate, collaborate, problem solve, and treat each other with respect. They learn each other's likes and dislikes. They learn about each other's families. Mrs. Petela cultivates a community of learners as well as a community of respectful and caring young individuals who start to see the world beyond one's self, to appreciate diversity, and to establish





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a mutual respect for each other. The enthusiasm the students display for school is a direct result of the community created in Mrs. Petela's classroom.

Beyond the actual curriculum being taught, the way a child feels about school, also matters. Mrs. Petela is in tune with the social-emotional needs of her students, and she shares this with parents. She recognizes that parents have needs and often have worries about their children. One parent said, "We will be forever grateful for all of her extraordinary powers in positively influencing the lives of her students and their families, especially ours."

Sincerely,

Joseph Beltramba
Principal