



Outstanding Teacher Awards Ceremony



Monday, April 29, 2024

Chenery Upper Elementary Auditorium

Light refreshments will follow the ceremony

Award Ceremony Speakers & Guests

Dr. Jill Geiser

Superintendent, Belmont Public Schools

Lucia Sullivan

Assistant Superintendent, Belmont Public Schools

Senator Will Brownsberger

Massachusetts State Senator

Representative Dave Rogers

Massachusetts State Representative

Belmont Savings Bank Foundation

Representatives

Melissa McKenna

FBE President

A FOUNDATION FOR BELMONT
EDUCATION EVENT

Sponsored by



2024 Outstanding Teacher Award Recipients

Wendy Hurwitz, Burbank Elementary School, Grade K

Molly Quinn, Butler Elementary School, Social Worker

Kendra Nyanzi, Wellington Elementary School, Grade 1

Catherine Monnin, Winn Brook Elementary School, Grade 2

Sara Carson, Chenery Upper Elementary School, Music

Brenton Lussier, Belmont Middle School, Math, Grade 8

Joshua Streit, Belmont High School, Social Studies

2024 S. Warren Farrell Award for Educational Excellence Recipient

Gregory Bruce, Belmont High School, Special Education & Rugby Coach



"Ms. Hurwitz has a great sense of humor and makes learning fun! She is a really hard worker who seems to be thinking about how to help each of her students long after school hours are over, as evident from emails I gratefully received about my child's Kindergarten year, even past the usual work day. She both unobtrusively and actively matched up peers so that they could have a successful social experience during their first year of K-12 school. She really understands where these kids are developmentally and provides them with exactly what they need, both social-emotionally and academically, in Kindergarten. My own children felt seen, heard, respected and understood by Wendy, even while they learned their academics, explored friendships, and practiced how to be students. Wendy does an outstanding job!"

"Ms. Quinn is a rock-star in our building. Every student knows her and is always eager to give her a wave, fist bump or hug! She effortlessly supports students in learning vital social skills, leaving students feeling like they can do difficult things... Each lesson of Ms. Quinn's always aims to have students actively practicing the skill being taught through fun and interactive activities... It is no wonder that all students at the Butler school love and look up to Ms. Quinn. She respects them and has a soft and loving hand when problem solving an unpleasant situation with them. She effortlessly connects with students through shared interests, humor and understanding. Students always leave time with Ms. Quinn feeling respected and most importantly, heard."

"Ms. Nyanzi is amazing! She somehow manages to support each child where they are. If they are good or need help in an area, she is able to customize their curriculum while also balancing the emotional/psychological needs. Our daughter is very competitive so

I've seen Ms. Nyanzi coach her to focus on herself and her efforts not whether she is doing better/worse than her peers. This early coaching is so powerful and so important to support the development of a positive and supportive mindset. I'm thankful for how much effort she puts into balancing academic, emotional and psychological development."

"Ms. Monnin creates a classroom atmosphere that is founded on kindness and respect. That tone establishes the foundation for learning for all... the way she teaches, with her lessons, mini-lessons and hands-on work is very effective. Ms. Monnin has a great pulse on each child's needs and aspirations and she meets them where they are, with only encouragement and kind words. Her encouraging non-punitive style is wonderful."

"Ms. Carson believes every student develops a relationship with music. Regardless of a student's attitude or preconceived ideas, Ms Carson uses her magic and a classroom management skills to get all students on board! She runs the school musical and has devoted hours to it each year. She loves sharing her passion with the students, and participates in committees that impact our school culture such as Sunshine Committee and planning Community Block curriculum."

"Mr. Lussier is the teacher my son will always remember. We all need at least one of those. We are so lucky to have him... Mr. Lussier organizes all the 8th grade field trips, dances, contests...he makes it fun and gets the students all to go when sometimes they don't want to. Mr. Lussier came to my son, and his other student's, state championship hockey game on a Friday night after working all day, in a town far away. It meant the world to all of them. He truly goes above and beyond and it means so much to his students and their parents."

"Mr. Streit inspires a love of economics and an interest in how it relates to the real world. Every year that we have had a child taking his class, our dinner time conversations have been enriched by the discussions that follow up on topics covered in class. As a testament to Mr. Streit's legacy, my two college-aged sons are both majoring in Economics, because of the interest sparked in his class. Mr. Streit's desire for students is much more than getting a good grade on the AP exam- it is to have a love of learning."

"Mr. Bruce: When we think of Mr. Bruce and his classroom activities, we think of the core stated expectation of the student body and the greater school community of Belmont High School - Learn, Think, Create and Serve. We truly believe that he epitomizes these words & values; he is imbued with curiosity, kindness, demureness and sincerity, and he models these virtues to his students and co-workers daily. He encourages his students to grow every day and if they fall short of their own expectations that day, he is always close by as a shoulder to lean and cry on, and as a mentor to steady their ship and help reset their compass. He is truly an excellent educator, good man, and a credit to the Belmont community."

Outstanding Teacher Awards

The Outstanding Teacher Awards (OTA), sponsored by Belmont Savings Bank Foundation, recognizes the extraordinary contributions made by teachers in the Belmont Public Schools. Community members, including high school and middle school students, nominate teachers who they feel deserve this special recognition. A sub-committee of the FBE then selects teachers from the nominations, one from each of the Belmont Public Schools, to be recognized as the Outstanding Teachers of the Year.

S. Warren Farrell Award for Educational Excellence

The S. Warren Farrell Award for Educational Excellence recognizes one Belmont Public Schools educator for long standing dedication and leadership both in the classroom and in the larger community. This award honors the legacy of S. Warren Farrell for his many years of dedicated volunteer work in Belmont and in its schools.



The Foundation for Belmont Education gratefully acknowledges
Belmont Savings Bank Foundation for sponsoring the Outstanding Teacher Awards
and the S. Warren Farrell Award for Educational Excellence

The Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) is an independent, non-profit organization run by volunteers who are dedicated to improving educational opportunities for Belmont's students and teachers.

The FBE awards grants for a diverse array of projects, from small grants that benefit a single classroom to large programs designed to benefit students in an entire grade or school. Grants are awarded in all school curriculum areas, special initiatives, and professional development.

www.fbebelmont.org

