



MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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JANET WALLING - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

September 23, 2024

Mountainside Parents and Guardians:

I am very excited to announce that today, Deerfield School was recognized by the US Department of Education as a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School!!! Deerfield School is one of 9 public schools in New Jersey, and the only one in Union County, to receive this prestigious recognition this year, which highlights schools that excel in academic performance.

I am so incredibly proud of the efforts of all of the Deerfield administration and staff who maintain a daily focus on student achievement and emotional growth throughout our students' critical developmental years from 3rd through 8th grade. Through Mrs. Jenks' leadership, the efforts of the entire staff, and the support of the Mountainside community, we have been able to create a nurturing and inspiring environment for our students. I am thrilled that this important work is being recognized at both the state and federal levels and am confident in our District's continued success!

During today's announcement, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona recognized a total of 356 schools as the 2024 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools. "The National Blue Ribbon Schools Award is a testament to the exceptional achievements of students and educators at each of these schools," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "The 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools are raising the bar for our nation's students, serving as models for effective teaching and intentional collaboration in their schools and communities. As we celebrate their achievements, let us look to these schools for inspiration as we champion education as the foundation of a brighter future for every child."

Thank you to the entire district for their support of our students and their growth! The opportunities provided at Beechwood and Deerfield help to build a continuum of student success that spans across their full educational career.

Please see the attached link for more information about Deerfield and their accomplishments: https://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/awardwinners/winning/24nj109pu_deerfield_elementary_school.html

We are looking forward to celebrating this accomplishment more throughout this year with our students and staff!

Regards,

Janet Walling