



Cherry Hill, New Jersey

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 26, 2019
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Joseph D. Sharp Elementary School Named 2019 National Blue Ribbon School

Joseph D. Sharp Elementary School today was named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2019 by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

"We recognize and honor your important work in preparing students for successful careers and meaningful lives" said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a video message to the honorees. "As a National Blue Ribbon School, your school demonstrates what is possible when committed educators hold all students and staff to high standards and create vibrant, innovative cultures of teaching and learning."

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award, this year awarded to 362 schools nationwide, affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

"We are thrilled to be recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School," said Sharp Elementary Principal Mr. Ric Miscioscia. "This speaks to the tremendous talent and commitment of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the support from our Sharp families."

Now in its 37th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed recognition on more than 9,000 schools. On November 14 and 15, the Secretary and the Department of Education will celebrate with 312 public and 50 non-public school honorees at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The Department recognizes all schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, student subgroup scores and graduation rates:

- ***Exemplary High Performing Schools*** are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- ***Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools*** are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students.

Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The Department invites National Blue Ribbon School nominations from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by The Council for American Private Education (CAPE).

NOTE TO EDITORS: Photographs and brief descriptions of the 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools are available at <https://www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbonschools>.

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