



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

MICHAEL CITTA

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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To our Toms River Regional Schools staff members:

So much of the outside discussion regarding “Toms River teachers” over the past several years has been in the context of our district’s budget concerns, and how factors largely out of our and especially *your* control are impacting you, our educators.

This has been valid, in some regard, because it implies the importance of teachers. But it also, in my opinion, undersells the impact of each individual staff member, and incorrectly casts teachers in a discussion that is, broadly speaking, negative and aimed to spark concern.

I want to reframe that discussion today, National Teacher Appreciation Day, and talk more clearly about what it means to be a “Toms River teacher.”

To be a Toms River Regional Schools teacher means to be among the best at your profession, in a class that includes the New Jersey State [Teacher of the Year](#), “[Teachers Who Rock](#),” community [leaders](#), [grant winners](#), [innovators](#), and [so many more](#) who are doing incredible things. It means to be an integral part of this close-knit community, crucial to what makes Toms River tick, an unrelenting, positive, and positively indispensable force for good. It means your work is never done, whether it’s beyond school hours or summer, and whether that means grading, reviewing, coaching, communicating, or actively participating in community events, which is something you don’t begrudge but embrace.

And yes, it means doing all of this, throughout the past several years, under an umbrella of uncertainty, but nevertheless remaining steadfast and positive, embodying everything we strive to teach our children to be and to become.

I speak for everyone here when I say we could not be prouder to work among “Toms River teachers,” to call them our friends and colleagues, or more grateful for everything you do. May this letter serve as but a small token of our appreciation for your efforts and for what you mean to us and this community. And may all of us honor the work of our teachers and staff members today, throughout National Teacher Appreciation Week next week, and each and every day. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Michael Citta
Superintendent of Schools