

PRESS RELEASE

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**Demarest Board of Education
568 Piermont Road
Demarest, NJ 07627
201-768-6060 X 53428
Contact Person... Debra Rinaldi**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Demarest Superintendent wins Distinguished Service Award

The Demarest Board of Education announces with great pleasure and pride that Superintendent of Schools, Michael Fox, has been named this year's recipient of the Bergen County Association of School Administrators (BCASA) Distinguished Service Award. This honor is given to a Bergen County School Superintendent who has shown years-long commitment to students, staff, district families, as well as to the entire community. Alongside that, the recipient is recognized for his or her ongoing commitment to colleagues and to district-level leadership. Mr. Fox was a clear choice for this award as he continues to not only serve the Demarest Public School District but all members of the BCASA.

Presenting the award was Mr. Robert Lombardy, Superintendent of Hillsdale Public Schools. In his speech to honor Mr. Fox, he commented in part, "Mr. Fox is an influential leader for his school district and within Bergen County. He has positioned the Demarest Public Schools in such a manner that they are able to earn and maintain a statue of academic excellence and progress. The school system regularly ranks among the highest achieving school districts and he remains able to provide a learning experience that caters to the academic, social and emotional needs of his students. This consistently puts the children and community in a place allowing for them to successfully launch when arriving at high school and beyond."

Working alongside his colleagues and the Demarest Board of Education, Mr. Fox has helped to establish a new scheduling format to meet the individual needs of students. His progressive initiative of a 1:1 laptop program was a tremendous aide during the Covid-19 pandemic. Demarest has transitioned to standards-based instruction, which has led to academic excellence as noted in performance reports from both Bergen County and across New Jersey. This takes place while continuing to focus on a comprehensive character education program. Working with school administration and teachers, Mr. Fox spearheaded the development of a science technology engineering and mathematics integrated approach. This has enabled students to act as designers and creative problem solvers able to solve real-world challenges of today and tomorrow. In addition, Mr. Fox oversaw the development of a new preschool program for three and four year olds as well as managed the construction of a new band and performing arts room.

Mr. Fox partners with the community based organizations such as the Demarest PTO to accomplish an innovative learning environment including items such as a café style cafeteria and a middle school obstacle course style playground.

Middle School Principal, Mr. Jonathon Regan said, “During my 15 years at Demarest Middle School, Michael Fox has served as a source of constant guidance and has been a mentor to me, our teachers, and countless students. Michael Fox lives and works by his creed, *Learners Today... Leaders Tomorrow.*”

Joining in the accolades, Board President Diane Holzberg stated, “Throughout Michael's years of dedicated service, he has demonstrated his commitment to the children of Demarest. We have had to meet many challenges, then and now. It serves us all well to know that we can depend on the insights, the good judgement, and the leadership Michael Fox provides.”

He is the first Demarest superintendent to win this prestigious award.

Congratulations to Mr. Fox and to the entire Demarest Public School community.

The Demarest Public Schools are a highly regarded suburban school system located twelve miles west of New York City in Bergen County, New Jersey. Aptly known as the Home of the Wildcats, Demarest has received national recognition as a Future Ready School® and ranks near the top in student achievement among New Jersey's demographically-similar districts. The district serves roughly 720 students in three educational centers, County Road School (PK-1), Luther Lee Emerson School (2-4) and Demarest Middle School (5-8).

Media Contact: Debra J Rinaldi, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent, rinaldid@nvnet.org