

September 24, 2020

Dear Superintendent Forte

It is my pleasure to inform you that **Riverview Elementary School in Denville Township School District** has been recognized as an **Exemplary High Performing Schools** National Blue Ribbon School for 2020 by U. S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos.

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. Now in its 38th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed almost 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools, with some schools winning multiple awards. Schools are eligible for nomination after five years.

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

Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The U.S. Education 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).

The 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony will be held virtually Nov. 12 and 13. While we regret not having the opportunity to celebrate in person, given the current situation regarding COVID-19, we will celebrate all 317 public and 50 non-public school honorees in the ways that we are able, and they will each receive their plaques and flags via mail.

School profiles of all 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools can also be found at <https://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/awardwinners>.

Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to excellence in education for all children.

Sincerely,

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