



Derby Public Schools Press Announcement

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The Derby Public Schools has selected Joshua Dydyn as the 2023 District Teacher of the Year.

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program is one of the oldest and most prestigious recognition programs to focus public attention on excellence in teaching. Joshua is part of the Derby Middle School family teaching physical education to students in grades 6-8. Derby Middle School Principal, Rachael Caggiano said, "Joshua has a tireless work ethic, impeccable attitude, and his ability to teach all skill levels is unmatched. He goes above and beyond his typical duties and is an active participant in programs like Unified Sports. He is a basketball coach and continuously works to help student athletes become their best both on and off the court, holding all students accountable for their actions and attitudes. Mr. Dydyn always lends a helping hand, whether he is passing by in the hallway or on for a

duty. He is in consistent communication with parents and ensures students in his class are successful. He is an excellent coach and mentor. Josh is beloved by all, students and staff included. His positive attitude is infectious."

Once hearing about his selection as District Teacher of the Year, Mr. Dydyn said, "I am honored to have received the District Teacher of The Year award for Derby Public Schools. I want to thank everyone for this award especially my colleagues, my family, administration and of course my students who inspire me every day."

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Matthew J. Conway, Jr. said, "Mr. Dydyn is so deserving of this recognition. Mr. Dydyn exemplifies how to connect with kids. How to make every child feel they are a member of the class, a member of the team, the school; a member of this family. It is evident through Mr. Dydyn's own family just how much family means and he has certainly brought that love and support to our Derby family. Mr. Dydyn's commitment and care extends well beyond the classroom and gym. His commitment, his care, has opened doors and exposed

kids to positive and engaging experiences they otherwise may never have had if not for Mr. Dydyn.” We extend an enormous heartfelt thank you to our school level Teachers of the year Mrs. Conlon, Mr. Iannotti, and Ms. Grendzinski, who define and model for all of us what it takes to impactfully reach kids and create a positive environment for everyone fortunate enough to be in their presence.”

Jim Gildea, Chairman of the Board of Education said, “On behalf of the Derby Board of Education, we would like to congratulate Joshua Dydyn, for being selected as District Teacher of the Year. In a short time, Josh has certainly made an indelible mark on the Derby school system. He quickly engaged with all he interacted with and built strong and deep relationships with his students and his peers. In a profession that requires connecting with students, Joshua has proven day in and day out that he possesses the ability to do just that. The Board also acknowledges and congratulates all of the Building Level Teachers of the Year; Drew Conlon from Bradley School, Kelsey Grendzinski from Irving School and Joseph Iannotti from Derby High School and thank them for their efforts and the amazing work that they do in their respective schools.”