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Governor Christie Recognizes Mendham Township Middle School For Distinction As A 2014 National Blue Ribbon School

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Tags: [Education](#)

Mendham, NJ – Congratulating students, parents, teachers and school leaders for their commitment to excellence in education, Governor Chris Christie today visited Mendham Township Middle School to celebrate the school's 2014 National Blue Ribbon School award. Schools selected to be Blue Ribbon award recipients are honored for high levels of student achievement or growth in student achievement to high levels, with a particular focus on disadvantaged students. Blue Ribbon designated schools are universally praised for standout leadership, effective educators, and students who are driven to succeed.

In 2014, eleven New Jersey schools were named National Blue Ribbon Award recipients, serving as models for schools across the state and throughout the nation. Mendham Township Middle School is the first public middle school in Morris County to receive the designation. It has approximately 413 students in grades five through eight.

"New Jersey's Blue Ribbon schools illustrate everything that can be accomplished for our children when you have empowered and effective teachers, innovative and engaging administrators, and students and parents who respond to the call with a commitment to their own success. Together you're helping ensure that all children receive a high quality education that will prepare them for college and careers," Governor Christie said. "I'm proud to recognize and congratulate the students, parents, and educators here at Mendham Township Middle School for being the first public middle school in the county to ever earn the award, getting terrific results and serving as a model for our state and nation to follow."

In September, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan named nine public schools and two private schools in New Jersey as 2014 National Blue Ribbon Schools, in recognition of their high student achievement levels and the quality of their programs.

All 11 New Jersey Blue Ribbon Award winners, including Mendham Township Middle School, were recognized for distinction in the Award Category of Exemplary High Performing Schools.

In November, 290 public and 50 private schools from across the nation were honoured at an annual ceremony in Washington, D.C. As part of the designation, each school received a plaque and a flag as symbols of their status as a National Blue Ribbon School. Elementary and secondary schools are honored in alternate program years. The program recognizes schools in two categories:

First are those that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and have dramatically improved student performance to high levels in reading (language arts or English) and mathematics on state assessments or assessments referenced against national norms in at least the last grade tested.

Second are schools, regardless of their demographics, that are in the top 10 percent of schools in the state as measured by state tests of reading (language arts or English) and mathematics or that score in the top 10 percent in the state on assessments referenced against national norms at a particular grade in at least the last grade tested.

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