



September 24, 2024

In my opening letter to parents for the 2024-2025 school year I likened my pride in our district to the nation's pride in the medal count for the USA during the Summer Olympics and today is the day Forrestdale School steps on to the podium. Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Education announced that Forrestdale School is recognized as a **2024 National Blue Ribbon School**.

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona recognized 356 schools as the 2024 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools. This prestigious recognition highlights schools that excel in academic performance or make significant strides in closing achievement gaps among different student groups.

“The National Blue Ribbon Schools Award is a testament to the exceptional achievements of students and educators at each of these schools,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “The 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools are raising the bar for our nation's students, serving as models for effective teaching and intentional collaboration in their schools and communities. As we celebrate their achievements, let us look to these schools for inspiration as we champion education as the foundation of a brighter future for every child.”

National Blue Ribbon Schools are led by leaders who articulate a clear vision of instructional excellence and uphold high standards. These schools serve as models of effective and innovative practices for educators across the nation. They showcase effective teaching methods and offer robust professional development for their staff. Data-driven instruction is a hallmark, and there is a concerted effort to ensure every student succeeds. Collaboration among families, communities, and educators is a key component of their success.

The Department recognizes all schools based on student performance data including assessment results, student subgroup performance and graduation rates. Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The Department invites nominations for the National Blue Ribbon Schools award from the top education officials in all states. For more information visit:

- https://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/awardwinners/winning/24nj112pu_forrestdale_school.html
- <https://www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbonschools>
- <https://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov>

While I have always been proud of our faculty, administration, staff, students, and community, it is wonderful to receive the recognition for our daily strive to ignite the potential of our district and “do education the right way”! Additionally, we must acknowledge that while this award status is for Forrestdale School, we certainly include Deane-Porter School, as it is they who have built the foundation for our students' success in fourth grade and beyond. Under the principalship of Mrs. Jennifer Gibbons, the support of her dedicated fellow administrative team, the talents and commitment of our amazing faculty and staff, the partnership of our parents and community, and, of course, the hard work and efforts of our students, our purple bulldogs can proudly go blue and wear this recognition with pride.

With pride,

Dr. John E. Bormann, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools