



May 13, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

This year has been challenging to say the least. Our school community has lived through three iterations of schedules, health department regulations, quarantines, and struggles within our own families. Throughout these challenges, every member of the Riverfield community has risen to the occasion, especially Mr. Gennaro Gelsi. He positively contributed to the social and emotional health of our students and families, all while continuing to support their physical health.

While our students were engaged in hybrid learning, Gennaro's physical education program was fully online. He worked diligently to create authentic, rigorous, and engaging lessons for students. He worked with our Language Arts Specialists and Mathematics Resource Teacher to connect academics into his activities. He also asked them to provide him with age-appropriate math problems and words to incorporate into his virtual learning. He created a YouTube Channel with all of his work and willingly shared it with other district physical educators.

Gennaro is also the official greeter at Riverfield. He is at the front loop every day, opening car doors, greeting students, and providing safety measures to get students into school safely and efficiently. Although this is not part of his job description, it is vital in building relationships with students. Often you can hear him asking students about their sporting and weekend events.

This year, Gennaro was stellar at mentoring a new physical educator. He provided support for this individual while he was teaching our APE students. Gennaro is an expert at APE, having taught it for the past 14 years, and has been guiding and teaching his colleague about the best practices related to this important instruction. All of our students can successfully engage in Physical Education because Gennaro does everything possible to accommodate their needs and attends to their I.E.P. goals. He pushes students to maximize their skills while supporting them through his coaching tips.

Gennaro serves on the district Physical Education committee and this year was instrumental in presenting a revised Physical Education program to the Fairfield Board of Education. Gennaro is also active in the school community by participating in P.T.A. events, being a member of the crisis team, completing Mindfulness training, and incorporating that training into his program.

I have been a public educator for 29 years and have never worked with a physical educator who is more deserving of this award. I wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Gennaro Gelsi to receive this recognition as he is passionate and a positive role model inside and outside the classroom. He is a superstar who represents your profession with excellence!

If I can do anything additionally to support his nomination, you can reach me at 203-255-8328.

Sincerely,

Ms. Brenda Anziano, Principal