



ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Instructional Resources and Media Services

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Kimberly Clark-Dixon
Director

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of an outstanding individual, Mr. Lou Greco, Media Specialist/Librarian extraordinaire, for Gamble Rogers Middle School, in St. Augustine, Florida. Mr. Greco's work ethic, character, commitment, ability to succeed and passion for teaching, students, and literature, make him an ideal candidate for the National School Library of the Year Award.

Lou is a "go-getter". Not only does he excel in the library/media center, he seeks opportunities to impact students, staff, and the community, above and beyond expectations. As a member of the Leadership Team at Gamble Rogers Middle School, he leads professional development for the entire staff, provides modeling and support, and allows guests to visit his library from other schools and districts to observe his highly effective teaching strategies. Most notable is Mr. Greco's rapport and relationships with students. Adept at utilizing high effect strategies to increase academic achievement, he is even more skilled at providing a safe and welcoming escape for students who are often seen as difficult, different, or disinterested. It is not unusual to find struggling students building worlds in Minecraft, producing movies connected to classroom content, or competing for prizes during GRMS Jeopardy in the media center, with connections to classroom curricula. Lou's media space provides multiple opportunities and modalities for the diverse population that attends Gamble, including students that are often underrepresented, disadvantaged, and minority. Mr. Greco exemplifies empathy, sympathy, caring and concern, and acts as a wonderful role model for both students, staff members, and the community. He understands the importance of building effective relationships and bridging the gap between school and community. He regularly partners with the local public library to build and support programming and help students make connections to other librarians in the community. His library/media program has been an outstanding example for our teachers, students and community partners.

Lou is the consummate learner, always seeking to improve and grow. This, of course, is evident in his participation in local, state, and national conferences and trainings. As a regular attendee, he is a learning sponge, soaking up pedagogy to utilize and share. Both knowledgeable and inspirational, he always uses what he learns to influence and support other librarians, classroom teachers, and school support staff. For example, Lou collaborates with grade level teams during Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings at Gamble Rogers, a Model PLC school. He seeks and provides support, input and modeling from the literacy coach for academic initiatives, and actively engages in self-study. During weekly meetings, the faculty utilize data to determine areas of focus, and Lou ensures connections to the media program are evident, activities are scheduled, and data supporting his involvement is aggregated and discussed. Mr. Greco also fully supports other administrative initiatives. Lou has been instrumental in providing college and career experiences within his library, a direct connection to the college and career readiness goals of the AVID College Readiness System at Gamble Rogers. It is not unusual to see an author discussing an award-winning book via Skype or in person, a Disney animator sharing tips and tricks with visual arts and other interested students, or a presentation with archaeologists, displaying authentic artifacts in the media center.

Congratulations on having such a wonderful and worthy individual apply to receive the National School Library of the Year Award. Mr. Greco's leadership qualities and the excellent library/media program he has built at Gamble Rogers Middle School, make him and his program worthy of this honor. If you'd like to discuss Mr. Greco's merit, I can be reached at (904) 547-3948 or (904) 501-2921.

Sincerely,


Mrs. Kimberly Dixon
Director, Instructional Resources and Media Services
St. Johns County School District

"The Instructional Resources and Media Services Department will develop, implement, and improve district wide instructional technology, resources and media services that enhance teaching, foster learning, and develop essential life skills for all students."