

**EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING**

# Meet Delco's top teachers

**NAME:** Alex McKnight  
**SCHOOL:** Garrettford Elementary  
**SUBJECT:** 5th grade  
**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 21  
**GREATEST TEACHING SATISFACTION:** When a student is struggling to grasp a concept and then, through my instruction, finally understands. The expression on the student's face is priceless.  
**NAME:** Chris D'Esposito  
**SCHOOL:** Unionville Elementary  
**SUBJECT:** Health and Physical Education  
**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 13  
**GREATEST TEACHING SATISFACTION:** Seeing my former students return to our elementary school and hearing about all the exciting things they are doing in their lives.  
**NAME:** Jennifer Abernethy  
**SCHOOL:** Alexis I. DuPont HS  
**SUBJECT:** English Language Arts  
**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 11  
**GREATEST TEACHING SATISFACTION:** The relationships that I create and build with students. I've been awarded the school mom superlative for a couple of years, which I feel reflects the unconditional love I have for my "kids."  
**NAME:** Persia Ali  
**SCHOOL:** Overbrook High School  
**SUBJECT:** Special education  
**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 4  
**GREATEST TEACHING SATISFACTION:** The relationships I have built with my students. I have some that come back to visit after graduation and

tell me how much they miss me. It makes everything I do worthwhile.  
**NAME:** Candy Jakubowski  
**SCHOOL:** Henderson High School  
**SUBJECT:** Intervention Specialist (counselor)  
**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 15  
**GREATEST TEACHING SATISFACTION:** When I get to see students reach their goals. Seeing their emotional growth and maturity over four years; having students come to me because friends said they could trust me; and receiving cards from students after graduation saying how they appreciated my support.  
**NAME:** Kevin Carlos Williams  
**SCHOOL:** Springfield High School  
**SUBJECT:** German/Spanish  
**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 14  
**GREATEST TEACHING SATISFACTION:** Creating a language/cultural exchange with my school district and a public school in Germany. We have yearly exchanges with our partner school. We also have students who go to our partner school for a semester abroad.  
**NAME:** Andrew Kane  
**SCHOOL:** Marple Newtown HS  
**SUBJECT:** Health and Physical Education  
**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 23  
**GREATEST TEACHING SATISFACTION:** Having non-swimmers/beginner swimmers learn to love the aquatic environment; watching new lifeguards become professional active guards in our community.  
**NAME:** Joseph Grello  
**SCHOOL:** Fugett Middle



Alex McKnight



Chris D'Esposito



Jennifer Abernethy



Persia Ali



Candy Jakubowski



Kevin Carlos Williams



Andrew Kane



Joseph Grello



Dawn Gallagher



Jacqlyn Gallagher



Lindsey Wiley



Jennifer Rieger

**SCHOOL:** School  
**SUBJECT:** Science  
**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 20  
**GREATEST TEACHING SATISFACTION:** Witnessing the growth that each student makes over the school year.  
**NAME:** Dawn Gallagher  
**SCHOOL:** Keith Valley Middle School  
**SUBJECT:** Autistic support  
**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 22

**GREATEST TEACHING SATISFACTION:** Watching my students grow and mature throughout the year; celebrating their accomplishments every day; watching my students generalize the skills that are taught to them in the classroom.  
**NAME:** Jacqlyn Gallagher  
**SCHOOL:** Blue Bell Elementary School  
**SUBJECT:** 5th grade

**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 4  
**GREATEST TEACHING SATISFACTION:** There is nothing like working with a student, especially when they're struggling, and seeing their "lightbulb" turn on, when everything clicks and their eyes light up. It makes every hard part of this job worth it. They're not too often, but they sure are precious.  
**NAME:** Lindsey Wiley

**SCHOOL:** Pennell Elementary  
**SUBJECT:** Autistic Support K-1  
**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 12  
**GREATEST TEACHING SATISFACTION:** Witnessing my students grow as individuals, develop their own opinions and accomplish goals. I love to see when my students are accepted and included in life. Advocating

# Teachers

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for them is a daily priority and watching them succeed fulfills my heart.

**NAME:** Jennifer Rieger  
**SCHOOL:** Upper Merion Area High School

**SUBJECT:** English, 12th grade

**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 22

**GREATEST TEACHING**

**SATISFACTION:** To see students who have every obstacle against them succeed. If a student tells me she "can't" or that something is "too hard," those are my moments to make kids see themselves for who they really are – incredible minds encompassing every possibility of changing this world for the better.

**NAME:** Daniel Peters

**SCHOOL:** Loomis Elementary

**SUBJECT:** Music K-5

**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 11

**GREATEST TEACHING**

**SATISFACTION:** To see students often begin as shy and nervous music makers grow into outgoing and passionate musicians; seeing music provide students with an abundance of energy and creativity a place to flourish; when students who speak zero English engage and prove music is a universal language.

**NAME:** Holly Curran

**SCHOOL:** Prospect Park School

**SUBJECT:** School Counselor

**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 30

**GREATEST TEACHING**

**SATISFACTION:** Making connections with students and see them realize an "ah ha" moment. When former students return to visit and I get to see how they have developed into productive, successful adults.

**NAME:** Mary Keeley

**SCHOOL:** Delaware County Intermediate Unit

**SUBJECT:** Life Skills – Community Living and Learning Program

**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 41

**GREATEST TEACHING**

**SATISFACTION:** When students arrive at the program with no idea what it is about and become a full participant within weeks; when weekend plans change from "nothing" to "hanging out with a friend I met at the apartment program." I love when I see their social world expanding.

**NAME:** Karen Bellamy

**SCHOOL:** Media Elementary

**SUBJECT:** Art 1-5

**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 20

**GREATEST TEACHING**

**SATISFACTION:** Seeing the smile on a student's face who has completed a project that he or she initially struggled with through hard work, persistence and faith in him- or herself; providing access to art, and the self-expression it offers, to



Daniel Peters

students who may have not experienced it outside of the school setting.

**NAME:** Loretta Fedezko

**SCHOOL:** E. W. Rhodes Elementary

**SUBJECT:** English/Writing/Social Studies

**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** N/A

**GREATEST TEACHING**

**SATISFACTION:** When my struggling students were able to comprehend and accomplish reading goals they could never attain before in their academic journey. Seeing a student, with that "ah ha" look is what educators hope they can get across to all their students.

**NAME:** Dietra Burton

**SCHOOL:** Stetser Elementary

**SUBJECT:** 1st grade

**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 38

**GREATEST TEACHING**

**SATISFACTION:** Every child deserves a champion, a



Holly Curran



Dietra Burton

teacher who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.

**NAME:** Terri MacIntosh

**SCHOOL:** St. Bernadette of Lourdes

**SUBJECT:** Middle school math and religion

**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 29



Karen Bellamy



Marla Jean Fay

**GREATEST TEACHING SATISFACTION:** The time spent with my students. I love working with them and guiding them to grasp concepts and skills. I especially enjoy making connections and being able to share my faith and beliefs with them. We learn from each other every day and they inspire me more than they will ever know.

**NAME:** Marla Jean Fay



Loretta Fedezko



Mary Keeley

**SCHOOL:** Upper Moreland Intermediate School

**SUBJECT:**

**YEARS IN EDUCATION:** 40

**GREATEST TEACHING**

**SATISFACTION:** The relationships that I have been able to develop with my students and, in many cases, have been able to maintain when I am no longer their teacher.