



# New Providence School District

## *Statement of Impact*

### Recognizing Excellence in our Staff

Candidate: Michael Niedziejko, Music Teacher/Band Director  
From: Lauren Zirpoli, Principal, New Providence High School  
School: New Providence High School  
Date: January 22, 2019

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I respectfully request that Mr. Michael Niedziejko, music teacher and band director be recognized as an *Impact Teacher*. Mr. Niedziejko or as his students call him, “Mr. N.,” has dedicated many years of service as a music teacher and our band director at New Providence High School. Throughout the years, Mr. Niedziejko’s leadership has influenced his students beyond just music. His success as a Band Director is exceptional, winning multiple state and national championships year after year.

During Marching Band season, it could be assumed by many, that Mr. Niedziejko sleeps at New Providence High School! In the wee hours of the morning during pre-season, Mr. Niedziejko can be spotted rolling out pieces of equipment, microphones, speakers and anything else that will ensure the ultimate experience for his students as they prepare to practice for their morning session. Throughout the day, you can pass the student lot and see him high on the scaffolding, looking over the marching band, as he directs them to perfect their show for their upcoming competitions and the football season. And then--even after a full day’s worth of practice, you know that Mr. Niedziejko must still be on campus, as in the late hours of the evening, you can hear our award winning marching band through the hills of New Providence playing from Lieder field.

This fall, unbeknownst to Mr. Niedziejko, a group of students and parents came together and nominated him for the Sanford Teacher Award. The Sanford Teacher award program awards 51 educators representing each state with \$10,000 as a part of a national effort to recognize inspirational teaching through the National University system. Throughout the process of selection, a committee of educators assess teacher nominations to see how closely the nominated teacher represents the following characteristics: enthusiasm for teaching, empathy and warmth towards all students, fostering positive relationships with all students, creating a positive learning environment, and recognizing student strengths. **I am honored to announce that Mr. Niedziejko was recognized as New Jersey’s Sanford Teacher of the year and as such, has automatically been entered to win the grand prize of \$50,000, which will be awarded to one inspiring educator in the United States!**

One of Mr. Niedziejko's colleagues shared:

“Mike is the most selfless, kind and helpful colleague and teacher one could ask for. He is always willing to lend a hand, even if he already has a tremendous amount of work on his plate, and he always takes time to make sure that he asks about the personal well-being of the staff and their families as well as the students and their families. He never complains and has taught me to handle every situation with the utmost professionalism and the highest standards. The students, staff and district are lucky to have such a special person working in this community.”

Therein lies something very special about Mr. Niedziejko - at his very core, he embodies humility, integrity, compassion and loyalty, and each one of these characteristics have been modeled time after time for his students and his colleagues. We are extremely fortunate at New Providence High School to have such a selfless leader, colleague, and friend that has touched our lives and the lives of each one of his students.

Congratulations to Mr. N. on his amazing award of being named New Jersey's Sanford Teacher of the Year! We are so proud of him!