



# New Providence School District

## *"Impact Teacher" Program*

### Recognizing Excellence in our Staff

Candidate: Ms. Christine Noppenberger, School Counselor  
From: Mrs. Jillian Shadis, Director of School Counseling  
School: New Providence High School  
Date: October 25, 2022

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The Impact Award goes to staff members for actions, efforts, and accomplishments that have made a significant impact on the lives of our students. Ms. Christine Noppenberger, high school counselor, has truly been doing this for years. I may be biased, but I personally think *all* school counselors have a significant impact on their students. However, Ms. Noppenberger goes above and beyond to make sure all NPHS students are cared for individually and as a whole, as well as our staff.

On any given day outside of school hours, Ms. Noppenberger takes on the role of the advisor of the Character Education program and Diversity Clubs at the high school. You'll see her cheering on the Pioneers as a game worker at many athletic events, and she is the Class of 2024 Advisor. She is one of the most visible staff members in and out of the building. Students actively seek her out on a regular basis. Many of the charitable events or activities at the high school, such as the blood drive and food pantry, can be traced back to Ms. Noppenberger.

In fact, at the beginning of the school year, amidst all the craziness, Ms. Noppenberger asked to leave a few minutes early so she could beat the traffic and drop off some collected canned goods. I said "sure," paused, and asked where she got them, knowing that we hadn't started any drives at the beginning of September. She said she brought them in for the food pantry. I paused again. Food pantry? "Yeah, I started a food pantry for some of our families." Totally casual, like it was no big deal and she had all the time in the world. Later, I said to Mr. Henry, "Did you know Christine started a food pantry?" His facial expression clearly indicated he did not. "When did she do that?" he asked. We were both so incredulous that Ms. Noppenberger just identified a significant need, found a solution, and implemented it, let alone at that time of year. That's just what she does, and that's just one example of many like it.

Ms. Noppenberger's reach goes beyond the high school, as well. An example: during our hybrid year, Ms. Noppenberger facilitated an evening program with some of her students in the Character Ed club. They were going to lead some of our elementary students through a crafting session to help build a sense of togetherness while many students were learning virtually. Ms. Noppenberger did the work on the back end to coordinate with the Principals, and though the high school students were the ones teaching the craft, Mrs. Drexinger called me afterwards to tell me how impressed she was with Ms. Noppenberger overall, and especially how she worked with the little ones. She got great feedback from parents and a lot of praise overall for her coordination efforts and for the idea to bridge the gap between elementary and high school, especially when so many were still isolated.

Ms. Noppenberger co-advises the Sunshine Club for the faculty and staff in the building, and she herself is a ray of sunshine. If you've been to the high school counseling office this year, you'll see we have a bulletin board with the characters from the Disney/Pixar movie *Inside Out*. Mr. Criscitello stopped by when we were first putting it up and we were joking, figuring out which counseling staff member embodied which feeling. Almost immediately and simultaneously, we said "Christine is Joy." No brainer. Always with a positive outlook and a smile on her face, Ms. Noppenberger brings warmth and comfort to all she encounters. She goes out of her way to help students and staff alike, and makes a true impact on the New Providence culture, climate, and community on a daily basis. For her tremendous efforts in her role as school counselor, as the advisor of numerous clubs and committees, and as a person with a heart of gold, it is my pleasure to nominate Ms. Christine Noppenberger for this award.