



New Providence School District

Statement of Impact

Recognizing Excellence in our Staff

Candidate: Susan Rembetsy, Department Head of Mathematics/Teacher
From: Jay Richter, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision
Lauren Zirpoli, Principal, New Providence High School
School: New Providence High School
Date: October 19, 2018

We respectfully request that Mrs. Susan Rembetsy, Department Head of Mathematics, be recognized as an *Impact Teacher*. Mrs. Rembetsy exemplifies all of the qualities of an outstanding teacher and leader on a daily basis, but it was her work on the Algebra I Summer Remediation Program that truly made an exceptional impact on the lives and achievement of the students in the New Providence School District.

In late June of 2018, during the last full week of school, the district received preliminary PARCC results in the subject of Math and, specifically, Algebra I. Given that the state had recently updated graduation requirements and made passing the PARCC Algebra I necessary, these results were particularly important. The district learned that 36 of the students in the outgoing freshman class did not reach the passing score on the exam. Upon learning the results, collaborative discussions involving administration and Mrs. Rembetsy ensued, which resulted in the decision to create a remediation program that would improve students' Algebra skills and prepare them for the next test administration. Furthermore, the decision was made to implement the program over the summer in preparation for the next testing window during the early part of August.

Mrs. Rembetsy immediately began analyzing the test results and consulted with the students' teachers to understand the needs of the students. She then set to work on putting together a plan for the program that would review and enhance the students' Algebra I skills. She set goals for the program that included: high quality instruction and curriculum; individual goal setting; collaborative decision making; communication with students, parents, and administration; and, ultimately, having the students take and pass the Algebra I test.

She also worked to help communicate with the students' parents about the program, including its goals and its instructional plan, and spent considerable time speaking with parents over the phone regarding their questions and concerns. She and the administration worked to eventually have 21 out of the 36 students attend the remediation program.

Her work in designing and subsequently implementing the two-week instructional program for our students was nothing short of amazing. She planned out the lessons with specific outcomes for all students as well as a means for individual assessment and differentiation. Students were engaged with benchmark and diagnostic assessments, online intervention activities, teacher-led instruction, small group work, and independent practice.

At the end of the two-week program that she created, the students completed the PARCC Algebra I exam at NPHS. The results were returned to the district shortly thereafter, and, upon receipt, we learned that of the 21 students who participated in the remediation program, 19 of them improved their scores and one of them maintained the same score. Overall, 14 of the 21 students who participated in the remediation program passed the test and attained the graduation requirement.

Helping 66% of the students pass the test in a newly-designed program is truly amazing. Given that she designed the program and did so in a very short amount of time only adds to her achievement and her impact on our students. We are fortunate to work with Mrs. Rembetsy and cannot thank her enough for her work on this endeavor.

October 2018