

## Arlington Anchor Awards September 4, 2019

Excerpts from remarks by Dr. Brendan Lyons, Superintendent of School

### Ms. Liz Frank

In 2018/2019, Arlington kicked off the first of the Anchor Award recognition. There were staff members who were honored with anchor awards throughout the 18-19 school year. We will continue that tradition this morning by honoring three individuals. Arlington Anchors are faculty and staff who go above and beyond to exemplify our mission and core values in their work with students and their colleagues. They truly **anchor** us in what is most important.

Our first recipient is Ms. Liz Frank. Liz has been at the high school since 2002 as a member of the Safety Team, and was the supervisor of the safety staff for several of those years. She is instrumental in the training of new staff members and she really epitomizes why we call them the Safety Team and not security. Security is reactive to situation and Liz's focus is always on being proactive. Liz understands that building relationships with students is vital. She is affectionately referred to as Mamma Frank by her kids and to be considered one of Mrs. Frank's kids you just need to have met her once. Liz is often in the cafeteria because she gets to know the students this way. She knows who is having a good day and who is having a bad day. She walks students to class and she follows up with them later in the day. She checks in with teachers, administrators, and guidance counselors.

Approximately 12 years ago, Liz started the Student Safety Patrol. This club is now a mainstay of our community. The Safety Patrol helps at plays, concerts, sporting events and any other event where assistance is needed. She has organized field trips for these students and has helped multiple students realize their passion for criminal justice and helping others. Last year, Liz realized we needed something to engage a different population of students. She took it upon herself to start an informal club for these students. They stayed with her after school every Monday to talk about respect and responsibility and to work with her in the Admiral Closet. The Admiral Closet is another example of Liz's projects. Liz is always on the lookout for shelves, mirrors and clothes for the Admiral Closet. She always makes sure that we have prom dresses and other clothing for students. If a student's family is going through a crisis, we call Liz to see what other services we could help them connect to in the community. Liz has been known to show up with furniture and food to help a family that is starting over.

Liz stays connected with students long after they have graduated and they often come back to see her. She celebrates their success and she gives them a talking to if they need it. Liz lives our core values each and every day. While Liz is doing all of these amazing things at school, she is also committed to her family--helping her husband through cancer treatments and being grandmother to her first grandchild born in May of 2019.

The students and staff of Arlington High School are beyond fortunate to work with Liz. The world would be a better place if we had more Liz Franks in it.

Congratulations Liz and thank you for being an Arlington Anchor.

### **Ms. Janice Tito**

Our next recipient is one of our bus drivers, Janice Tito. Janice has been a driver for Arlington for over 25 years, and I am proud to say that I have known her and considered her a colleague for about 20 of those 25. I would like to read some excerpts from a letter that I wrote on her behalf for her nomination for Dutchess County Bus Driver of the Year, which she won!

Janice's qualities as a person are what make her an outstanding bus driver. She is confident, friendly, down-to-earth, and loves kids. I first got to know her when she would drive me and my JV Girls to away basketball games. As a young teacher and coach, she was always kind and helpful in getting us where we needed to go, but also in showing interest and enthusiasm in her interactions with the girls and me.

Although Janice is not an outspoken individual, she is one of the behind the scenes heroes of Arlington. On any given day, she can be asked to cover any number of routes with different age groups and vehicles, and she takes on these assignments without hesitation. Just this past spring, she did an emergency run to Rockland County at 7:00 at night without batting an eye. I felt better knowing that it was Janice going on the run to pick up a troubled kid.

Over her 25 years with Arlington, Janice's operating record has been without blemish and she continues to drive every day with the confidence and expertise of a veteran employee. Congratulations Janice and thank you for being an Arlington Anchor.

### **Mr. Marc Provost**

Our last Arlington Anchor this morning is Mr. Marc Provost. Marc is a guidance counselor here at the high school. Marc is not only an excellent counselor, he is the founder and driving force behind the Gift of Hope program. The Gift of Hope has provided 10s of thousands of dollars over the years to graduating seniors for college who have lost a parent. Matt Reilly had the following to say about Marc:

*"Marc leads the Gift of Hope fundraiser and has showed tremendous dedication to keeping it going and making a lasting impact for many students. Specifically, I have seen Marc go above and beyond for his students. Quite a few years back Marc got a 9th grade student that was really struggling with attendance, school anxiety, depression, etc. Marc went out of his way to identify teachers that this student connected with to try and help this student make it through high school. Having kept in touch with this student (Marc as well), the student said to me that without the help of Mr. Provost he would not have made it out of high school."*

Jolie Dunham had stated the following:

*"Mr. Provost goes above and beyond his role as a guidance counselor in our high school. Last year, he drove to Poughkeepsie to pick up a student and his family from an under privileged home and brought them to the high school so the student could perform in the orchestra concert. This year, the student became a part of my Mixed Chorus and due to the circumstances in the household, was unable to find transportation the evening of the concert. Mr. Provost gave the student money so he could buy dinner after school and provided a black tie for the young man's concert attire. Since Mr. Provost was attending to his own daughter's dance class that evening, he was unable to see the student in the concert, but drove back over to AHS at 8:15 that evening to pick up the young man and drive him home*

*to Poughkeepsie. In my entire teaching career, I have never witnessed a staff member go so far above and beyond the "call of duty" to ensure that a student have the equity in experiences as others around him. Marc does this with great compassion and care and is also a father like figure who is not afraid to have important and necessary conversations with his students about self-responsibility and effort."*

Marc is a staff member who not only believes that all people have inherent value, but goes out of his way to let a student know that this is, indeed, fact. He has and expresses high expectations for the students he shepherds with total compassion and empathy and reminds them that through commitment, they can achieve anything they desire."

Congratulations and thank you for being an Arlington Anchor Marc.

So I hope that as you joined me in celebrating our three Arlington Anchors this morning you were thinking of others who also fit the description of being an Arlington Anchor. Those folks who regularly uplift us, set a positive example for their students and colleagues, and live the Arlington Mission and Core Values every day.