

Staff Navigator Awards 2024

Kristyn Alexander – Adapted PE Teacher **Nominated by Ann Marie Strode**

Ms. Alexander dedicates herself to the students and the school community at large. She is a champion for students with special needs in the classroom and encourages them to exceed their potential out of the classroom. She challenges her students while believing wholeheartedly that they can do more than they thought they could. She sees and values every student under her guidance. She is the Unified Basketball Coach for both middle and high school, and has supported the Special Olympics. She is also the JV (Assistant) coach for the softball team. She herself, played at Rhode Island College and is a member of their Hall of Fame. Her skillset is an asset to the team as she works to develop young athletes. Ms. Alexander also started the Girls Ice Hockey (BMW) program at Bourne High School before it was taken over by ORR. She dedicates her time and effort to all students. As far as being a colleague, there are few better. She supports her peers, has served as a mentor, and is always someone you can depend on. Although she went to high school in Wareham, she, without question, now bleeds purple! She is an exemplary colleague and an amazing friend.

Lisa Dix – Elementary Curriculum Director **Nominated by Jane Norton and Liz Carpenito**

There isn't enough time to describe all that Lisa Dix has done for Bourne Public Schools!! Lisa Dix works tirelessly to support teachers, students and families at the elementary level. She provides teachers with innovative resources, supports and provides feedback to foster excellence for the classroom at both BIS and BES. Mrs. Dix extends learning beyond the school day in both schools by hosting several after school family and student focused activities such as Math Nights/Breakfasts, Engineering Clubs, Summer Reading and Math activities, Curriculum events just to name a few. As a result, Mrs. Dix helps strengthen the home to school connection by creating opportunities for families to get involved with their child's education. Incredibly, Mrs. Dix's impact extends to the community as well. She organizes the Community Resource Fair and Bourne Celebrates Everyone which brings many different resources for families and diverse groups together. These events are critical for families to find support and resources they need and to feel a strong sense of belonging. We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Dix in Bourne; she has built a true sense of community here.

Lisa Fournier – Music Teacher BHS **Nominated by AnnMarie Strode**

You do not get much better than Mrs. Fournier! Not only does she devote her time to developing a high-quality music program at the high school, she loves and supports her students wholeheartedly. Mrs. Fournier has a way of pulling out talent from her students that makes their confidence soar. Whether it is the Pep Band at football games, the chorus singing an original music composition by BHS alumni Ian Good, or the band performing at the annual concerts, she empowers her kids and allows them to shine! Most impressive is her ability to make connections with students. Her compassion and empathy support a safe learning

environment for all who enter the music room and a safe space for students to be themselves without judgment. It is truly a safe haven for many. Additionally, she is an exceptional colleague who shows the same support and commission for her peers as she does her students. She is by far worthy of recognition as an exemplary educator and colleague.

Lisa Grobleski – Special Education Teacher Intensive Learning Center BES
Nominated by Kristine Sheehan

Lisa works with every service provider, unified arts teacher, multiple grade level teachers K-2, a staff of assistants, and outside service providers in order to provide the students in her classroom a quality education in the least restrictive environment possible. She takes every opportunity to collaborate and work together in order to make sure that her students are as successful as possible across contexts. Her efforts take up a lot of her personal time which she does not hesitate to give. Lisa treats every student with dignity and respect. She creates opportunities for students to integrate and when that is not possible she creates opportunities for students to access those interactions within her classroom. She goes above and beyond both when it comes to her time and personal funds to support her classroom. She spends many evenings creating content and curriculum materials to support her students. Lisa has also dedicated herself to improving the District by participating as the union Vice President for the past year and working to improve employee safety in our schools.

Jean Johnson – ESP BMS
Nominated by Kerri Boisclair

Jean is one of the most kind and supportive ESPs that I have had the pleasure of working with in my classroom. I worked with Jean last year in Directed Support, and this year Jean supported students in my 6th grade Theater class. Jean is always willing to collaborate with staff. She checks in with me often, is always willing to lend a hand, and she is constantly helping out with a variety of things both in and out of the classroom. During Theater class this year, Jean was a constant source of strength and dedication. The students knew that she was always there for them, and I knew that she had my back if I ever needed a hand with anything in the classroom. Jean cares so much about her students. She holds them accountable for their actions, sets high expectations for them, and most importantly, she sets them up for success so that they are able to reach or exceed those expectations. When the students Jean works with have and feel great successes, Jean feels those deeply. Just this year, Jean was brought to tears when a student in our Theater class helped to cheer up a friend who was having a hard time. Jean cares so deeply about the students that when they feel joy, she feels joy. This, in my opinion, is one of the many things that makes Jean the great educator that she is. Jean also excels in the Theater classroom. She is not afraid to jump into creative tasks along with me and the students. She knows how to help her students feel comfortable, even if these tasks are a little out of their comfort zones. Jean is always willing to positive risks, and this inspires the students to do the same. These are just a few of the reasons why I believe that Jean deserves a Navigator Award this year. She is a wonderful person and educator, and I feel very lucky to work with her at BMS.

Jennifer Mello – ESP BES
Nominated by Kristi Hawkes

Jenn Mello goes above and beyond for the students in our class and all of the students at Bournedale. She has taken on the role of the PTA chair for BES when there was no one willing to step up. She was able to plan and execute the Boosterthon fundraiser and raise thousands of dollars used for field trips and enrichment projects. Jenn has planned multiple PTA events and has been able to provide well attended experiences for students and their families creating the sense of community our school truly benefits from. In the classroom Jenn goes the extra mile with meeting the students' needs as the final goal. She always has a bag of ketchup packets with her that she collects on her outside travels just in case the kids want some with their lunch (yup this is true) and she'll bring a handful of snacks to make sure no one is hungry when the meals offered aren't preferred (she knows what every student likes and dislikes). She quietly goes about doing so much to make our school and the district better with a heart full of love for every student at BES. I see it daily in all that she does with the students she works with and in the events and fundraisers she's organized that have positively impacted everyone in the Bournedale Elementary community. It is for these reasons and so many more, that I nominate Jenn Mello for a Navigator Award.

Julie Muldoon – ESP BIS
Nominated by Anne Jones

There is no better person to receive the Navigator Award than Julie Muldoon. Julie Muldoon is the embodiment of kindness and patience. She comes into school EVERYDAY with a smile on her face and the MOST positive attitude. I am the luckiest person to get to work with her on a daily basis. As soon as I see her in the parking lot or whenever she walks into my classroom I immediately feel happy and so grateful that she is there. She is a ray of sunshine. Julie works with our special needs students. They are also the lucky ones to have her in their lives on a daily basis. Her approach with them is like nothing I have ever seen before and if I could bottle it up and sell it this world would be a much better place. She treats each student with the utmost respect and has a way with them that makes them gravitate towards her, look to her for guidance and they want to always be in her presence. I hope to continue to work with Julie and benefit from her professionalism, dedication, reliability but most of all her friendship. Thank you, Miss Julie, for who you are and all that you do for me and the students of BIS.

Lisa O'Hanley – School Nurse BHS
Nominated by Rebecca Esip

Lisa O'Hanley stepped into the role as Bourne High School Nurse midway into the fall of 2022, having been a float nurse and Covid Nurse for several years in Bourne. Lisa helped to immediately address health inequities for students at the high school and implement changes to improve access to health care at the school. Lisa has worked to create an open and inviting school health office environment where all students feel welcomed and cared for in a compassionate and judgement free office. Lisa has worked with guidance staff, and the Level-Up program staff to improve health outcomes for at-risk students. Lisa is a caring and compassionate Nurse who has really changed the health office atmosphere for our Bourne High students in a positive way. Lisa is a champion for students who need extra

support. Lisa is always looking for new Professional Development opportunities to continue to learn and grow in her School Nurse role. Since jumping into the role as Bourne High's School Nurse, Lisa has improved the health office visit numbers dramatically, having gone from 2-3 students per day visiting the health office, to a robust 20-30+ students a day utilizing her services. This is a direct result of the open-door policy that Lisa has created for our students. Lisa has had a positive impact on the Health Office atmosphere at Bourne High School, supporting our students and staff with compassion and excellent nursing skills. Lisa is a wonderful example of the difference School Nurses can make to the health and well-being of students. Lisa is a wonderful asset to the Bourne Public Schools.

Annmarie Ridings – School Adjustment Counselor BIS
Nominated by Mary Weatherby

Annmarie works tirelessly in her role as school adjustment counselor to bring relevant and much-needed SEL lessons to our students. She collaborates with classroom teachers and specialists to find the best ways to keep our students physically and emotionally healthy. She is always available to meet with students on their own or in the several lunch groups she plans. Her goal in all her interactions with students is to help them realize their own academic potential by caring for their emotional well-being and helping them navigate the social interactions that can sometimes be so difficult for students at the intermediate school level. Annmarie Ridings does as much extracurricular work as she does social work in our school. Her many years with the Kiwanis K-Kids program helped instill the love and importance of community service in our students. She makes sure our military students know they are loved, respected and valued through her work on the Month of the Military Child activities and as a host of the Veterans Day family breakfast every November. She leads a school-wide Kindness Week celebration that involves students, faculty and staff through insightful projects and activities. As a leader of the Healthy Action Team she informs and encourages our students to make healthy choices and shares with them the benefits of a healthy, active lifestyle. Each holiday season she leads food drives and adopt-a-family or child gift programs and delivers these donations to our local families. As a member of the MTSS team she has led successful sock drives and delivered the much-needed donations to local shelters. She does all of this with empathy, respect and a kind and generous sense of humor. She is a credit to the district.

Mike Rzepka – second grade teacher
Nominated by Jessica MacDonald

Mike is the educator everyone should aspire to be. Aside from his humor and extremely friendly demeanor, Mike makes it a point to be there for all of our students. Mike has built special connections with all of the students he encounters. For dress up day, most of his kiddos wore Bow Ties to dress like him. When I jokingly told him I was going to eat his lunch, one of his students ran up to hug him and said "you can't, he's a sweetie pie". This past summer, Mike spent his time hand painting pictures and games to use in math centers. Mike also took a course to help build computer games for his class. Mike constantly looks for areas to improve his teaching practice. Mike is able to de-escalate very tricky situations with dignity for the students, as well as build connections with each student. Mike embraces every challenge with courage and enthusiasm. Mike has truly connected our second grade team, and is a vital asset to our school community.

Dr. Michael Smith – music teacher BIS
Nominated by Maureen Holden

Michael and I have worked together in gathering funding and materials for the gardens of BIS. We have worked together to provide lessons to the students about local pollinators and attempts to save the monarch butterfly by carefully selecting plants to promote their growth. Michael also takes time to make connections with students. He is always available for positive chats with students who need a kind word and a direction to help them back on track. Michael has enthusiastically pushed in with math help during our WIN lessons. Michael's days are long as he is after school most days with clubs and lessons. He's always looking to include as many kids as possible to learn about music and gardening. Lifelong lessons that will stay with kids well beyond their school years. The following are extracurricular clubs that are run by Michael:

BIS recorders

BIS Grade 4 Singers

BIS Grade 5 Singers

BIS Grade 5 Band

Garden Club in all Grades

And he has created Cross Curricular lessons and written an original song BIS One School, One Book. To say Dr. Smith goes above and beyond is an understatement. Thank you!

AnnMarie Strode – BHS teacher and Director of Internships
Nominated by Terrance Donovan

I have nominated Ann Marie Strode for the Navigator Award because she is the embodiment of the core values of this community. I have worked in this district for over a decade and never met an educator who was so devoted to her students. Ann Marie bleeds purple in all aspects of her life and has selflessly worked to create the best possible experience for every BHS student. There isn't a single student, staff member, or administrator who doesn't recognize how much she does to enhance our community. Her commitment to this school system and its children is second to none. When people say that education is a calling not a profession there is no truer embodiment than Mrs. Strode.

Nicole Tanguay – Grade 4 Teacher BIS
Nominated by Brian Lefcourt

Nicole has gone above and beyond this year both as a classroom teacher and colleague. Nicole has been a leader and model for the other 4th grade math teachers in implementing the math workshop model. Through her participation in the RISE training, she has worked collaboratively with special education staff to create an inclusive classroom to meet the needs of a variety of learners. The 4th grade team has benefited from her sharing of the ideas, challenges and successes of the co-teaching model. She also dedicated her time each week to work on the Math committee, the Data team and was the lead for the BIS mentor program. In addition, Nicole participated daily in ongoing discussion with her colleagues related to curriculum and student achievement.

Mary Weatherby – Media Specialist BIS
Nominated by Annmarie Ridings

Mary has been an integral part of the BIS Student Council. She has co-facilitated a food drive and sock drive, monitored and supervised all Student Council meetings and Friendly Fridays. Earlier this school year she led the One School One Book event that provided every student, staff and caregiver/parent with a book. Mary also worked with staff to read a chapter of the book aloud so that students could listen to their favorite adults reading the story. The project culminated in a whole school assembly for all students and staff. Mary also co-facilitates the Healthy Action Team at BIS. She is the talent behind the flyers advertising all of the events of the team. This year the Healthy Action Team has held a before school walking club in the Fall and Spring (current), square-dancing, Autumn food taste tests, craft and games, the Jingle Jog, before school pickle ball and will be sponsoring two activities at the end of year celebration with the PTA. Mary is also a valued member of the BIS and District MTSS teams and the District DEI Committee. She is constantly working to improve the experiences of all of our students and staff. Finally, Mary provides our students with books and media that they love. Students love the media center because they know they are always welcome and will always find something to fill what they are looking for. When there is a call for help Mary answers. She goes above and beyond in all of her work with the students and staff and does so with a smile.

Jane Norton – Principal BIS
Nominated by the Staff at BIS

There are not many staff members in our district who have exemplified achievements in all four categories for a Navigator award. However, Jane Norton is one of those few people. The staff at BIS is like a family. And that family is led by Jane Norton. She is there for us, helps us, guides us and leads us by example. We are a team - we work and collaborate together in ways some of us didn't think was possible. It doesn't stop with the staff though. There is teamwork and collaboration with the students as well. Janey is most proud of her Student Council - a group of students who have come together and help lead various projects and events throughout the school. Janey is dedicated to student achievement. She knows each and every student is able to learn and will do anything to help all students succeed. This is evident with how many students she has taught and how many students come back to see her and share their successes. But it is not just academic success that is important to her. The wellbeing of the students (and staff) is just as, if not more, important to her. She makes herself available to anyone who needs her day or night. In addition to teamwork and achievement, Janey has shown her creativity, innovation and dedication to district improvement through BIS. Not many principals can say they have helped design, build and open a new school for the town. She advocated for the best and most innovative ideas for the students and staff. She spent countless hours in meetings discussing colors and furniture. She has made BIS her home away from home and the attention to the details stands out as soon as you walk into our building. Janey is a most deserving candidate for a Navigator award she really does exemplify the best of the best for all the categories of the award.

Dr. Barbara Starkie – Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
Nominated by Jane Norton

Dr. Starkie embodies the true meaning of our B2B core values. Since her tenure began here in Bourne, Dr. Starkie has been committed to supporting our students and staff in all educational endeavors. She truly is everywhere all of the time!! Dr. Starkie has implemented the district's

vision of professional development to help staff improve their craft while moving the district forward. Her passion for all students and families couldn't have been more evident when our newcomers arrived prior to the start of the school year. Dr. Starkie worked tirelessly to support and welcome our newcomers and their families. We are not sure how Dr. Starkie navigated the complex agencies that oversaw the newcomers but, this we know... she never stopped trying and she made sure students got what they needed to be successful here.

AND... Even though Dr. Starkie is a wash ashore, she sure looks good in purple!