



*Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
United States Department of Education*

JULIA A. TRAPHAGEN SCHOOL

153 Summit Avenue
Waldwick, New Jersey 07463

Robert T. Sileo, Principal

201-445-0730

Welcome to the cyberspace world of Julia A. Traphagen School, a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, located in the suburban community of Waldwick, New Jersey. Our school is comprised of approximately 420 students in Pre-School through Grade 5. Our educational strategies encompass an eclectic approach that enables us to adjust the curriculum to meet individual student needs. Children are taught the skills necessary to become problem solvers, independent learners and responsible members of our community. Upon entering our unique campus, one immediately senses a spirit of cooperation, responsibility, pride and respect for self and others.

Our curriculum addresses the New Jersey Students Learning Standards; it is our objective, however, to ensure that student performance exceeds state standards. To address our goals, we maintain a highly trained professional staff to provide the programs essential to developing the uniqueness of each child.

We at Traphagen School understand that the ability to read, write and compute is the foundation for success in our students' lives. Our professional development has focused around the Reader's and Writer's Project of Columbia University. Teachers have worked with experts and one another to differentiate our reading and writing instruction using the workshop model. Our elementary mathematics program has combined the practice of traditional skills with problem solving and higher level thinking skills. Students are given the opportunity to apply their knowledge to real life situations.

The ever expanding and changing technologies are incorporated into existing curricula and utilized by the classroom teachers to enhance student achievement and interest. All classrooms are connected to the Internet and have use of Smart boards and smart technology in addition to iPads and Chromebooks. These tools have provided teachers and students with unlimited resources for exploration related to the curriculum and skills taught at every grade level.

Traphagen School has a steadfast commitment to children with special needs. Many programs and services are provided for students with learning difficulties. We currently offer a full range of programs to address a variety of needs. A majority of our students with special needs are mainstreamed into general education classes and activities. Classroom aides provide additional support to those students with special needs. Integrated pre-kindergarten, self-contained primary and intermediate classes are also available to meet the needs of children in our district. We also infuse related services of occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech, hearing, ESL, and counseling when appropriate.

Traphagen School students also enjoy a wide array of extra-curricular activities. These activities help to enhance their educational and social experience as well as foster responsibility and cooperation with others. Our school activities include Band, Chorus, Safety Patrol, Recycle Club, Office Aides, Student Advisory Board, Technology Club, Reading Incentive Programs, and Community Service Programs to name a few.

Family involvement in our programs and activities has become pivotal in the success we have found at Traphagen School. We enjoy a strong partnership with our PSO who work to provide programs that enhance the educational experience of our students. Turnout at our annual "School Kick-Off" and Back to School Night as well as other events hosted by our PSO continue to be outstanding. The spirit of volunteerism is evidenced at each function, which provides the cooperation that leads to success.

In conclusion, like all the schools within the Waldwick Community, Traphagen can be proud of our dedication to excellence. A supportive community of parents and students along with an outstanding faculty and staff has placed Julia A. Traphagen Elementary School at the forefront of public education in our state and nation.

Our school continues its commitment based on the belief that the success of our children must be at the core of every activity that takes place in school.

Robert T. Sileo

Principal