

Friday, January 6, 2017

Blue Ribbon Award Starts with Blue Ribbon Leadership

Blue Ribbon Principal celebrates award

By John Michael

KENDALL PARK- "It's a dream come true!" That's what St. Augustine of Canterbury Principal Sister Mary Louise Shulas said when she found out her school was one of the schools in the United States to win the Blue Ribbon Award.

Sister Mary Louise received the award in Washington D.C. in November 2016 and she was joined by Pastor Father Robert Lynam, several teachers and parents.



Photograph taken by St. Augustine staff

Sister Mary Louise is joined by teachers and staff in Washington D.C. to receive Blue Ribbon award.

She described finding out about the award as, "a true celebratory moment." She also said that St. Augustine's, affectionately referred to as "St. A's" needed the award because she believes "We were always, and forever will be, a Blue Ribbon School. I think great things happen at St. A's everyday."

Each one of those great things is the fabric of St. A's Blue Ribbon Award 2016. The challenge to the teachers and staff of St. A's is to continue to be a Blue Ribbon school.



Photograph taken by St. Augustine staff

Bishop James Checchio skypes with St. A students to celebrate Blue Ribbon announcement.

St. A's was the only school from the Diocese of Metuchen to receive the award in recent years. Sister Mary Louise is probably the proudest principal in the diocese because her lifelong dream has finally come true--becoming the principal of a Blue Ribbon school. But that doesn't mean her job is any different now.

"It has not changed my role as principal," she said with a friendly smile. "We do the ordinary extraordinarily well because we are a team: Pastor, principal, teachers and staff, students, and alumni."

Members of the St. A's community share in Sister Mary Louise's proud moment by celebrating and spreading the news about the award. News of the award has spread throughout the area by way of various forms of media and more importantly through personal communication.

The most important way St. A's can show it is a Blue Ribbon school is to continue to be examples of excellence through the witness of all our parents, teachers and students.

Being recognized by both the state and federal government also gives the school an advantage in attracting new students, Sister Mary Louise commented.

St. A's can top this big achievement, she said, "because every year as a faculty and staff we plan for school improvement by evaluating the success and progress in achieving the previous year's goals and objectives."

Sister Mary Louise always puts God and her students first and follows her faith and fulfills her job as a Filipino nun. For now though, it's easy to see that Sister Mary Louise is just as proud as she can be to be a part of this wonderful Blue Ribbon school.