



FAIR LAWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A STATEMENT FROM MR. NICHOLAS J. NORCIA, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

American Musical Theatre Teacher Wins Statewide Theatre Award

Fair Lawn, N.J. (Sept. 13, 2021) - Congratulations to John Giresi for winning the prestigious **2021 Paper Mill Playhouse Award for Outstanding Theatre Educator** for the state of New Jersey. John is the first recipient of this new award presented by Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, N.J., and has previously been awarded Outstanding Director three times by the regional theatre, as well as many other awards.

John has served as Fair Lawn High School's (FLHS) Director of Musical Theatre for the past 30 years, as well as Director of Vocal Music (Chorus and Chamber Choir). On a yearly basis he produces and directs productions, events, theatre festivals, and concerts with students in American Musical Theatre (AMT) classes and Chorus.

As he begins his 31st year working at FLHS, he credits some keys to his success by “instilling in all of my students a strong work ethic, professionalism, being true to yourself – we are all unique individuals and have a story to tell - and that art and family are the only two things in life that last forever,” as well as encouraging his students to be extremely versatile performing artists.

His real passion in addition to AMT is song writing, music and lyrics. Last year he had his “Mr. Holland’s Opus” moment when students in The School Musical performed an original film entitled “You Can Change the World,” which included 16 original songs written by John.

“For over 30 years at FLHS, Mr. Giresi has supported the growth and talent of countless young performing artists. His talent, dedication and hard work have been recognized not only by our local community, but at the state and regional levels as well,” said Paul Gorski, principal at FLHS. “After he both wrote and directed last year’s show, we can’t wait to see what Mr. Giresi will do for an encore!”

Many of his former students have pursued careers in the Performing Arts as film/television actors, Broadway performers, screen writers, recording artists, theatre educators, and writers.

Caption: John Giresi holds his **Outstanding Theatre Educator** award – a plate inside the Tiffany box - outside the Paper Mill Playhouse in June 2021.

Photo Credit: John Giresi

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