U.S. Department of Education recognizes West Elementary School as 2018 National Blue Ribbon School

New Canaan, CT (October 1, 2018). The U.S. Department of Education has recognized New Canaan Public Schools’ West Elementary School as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2018. The recognition, announced today, is based on a school’s overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

“I’m pleased to celebrate with you as your school is named a National Blue Ribbon School,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, in a video message to West. “We recognize and honor your important work in preparing students for successful careers and meaningful lives. Congratulations on your students’ accomplishments and for your extraordinary commitment to meeting their unique needs.”

West Elementary School is one of only 349 schools named by the U.S. Department of Education this year as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2018. The coveted award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

“My congratulations to Principal Jan Murphy, Assistant Principal Ashley Furnari, and the entire faculty and staff at West Elementary School. You truly personify excellence in our field,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bryan Luizzi. “Accepting this prestigious award speaks as much to our entire elementary program as it does to any one of our schools. We are quite proud of our students’ impressive accomplishments, and are grateful for this national recognition.”

West Elementary School was nominated this year by the Connecticut State Department of Education based on the outstanding performance and growth of students in grades 3-4 on statewide assessments. West is one of five schools chosen from Connecticut and the only school from Fairfield County named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2018.

All National Blue Ribbon Schools are honored in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

- Exemplary High Performing Schools are among their state’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools are among their state’s highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school’s student groups and all students over the past five years.

The Department invites National Blue Ribbon School nominations from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by The Council for American Private Education (CAPE). Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, now in its 36th year, has bestowed recognition on more than 8,800 schools.

On November 7-8, 2018, the Secretary and the Department of Education will celebrate with 300 public and 49 private school honorees at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.
MEDIA CONTACT: Michael Horyczun
Director of Communications, New Canaan Public Schools
mike.horyczun@ncps-k12.org
office: (203) 594-4783, cell: (203) 970-2133.