



2023 Award Recipients



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2023 MIAA Award Recipients

MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award

*Recognizing excellence in academics, athletics and student leadership
(page 4)*

MIAA Harry Agganis Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship

*Recognizing excellence in character, leadership and community service
(page 13)*

NFHS Spirit of Sport Award

*For exemplifying the ideals of the positive spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics
(page 14)*

NFHS Heart of the Arts Award

*For exemplifying the ideals of the positive heart of the arts that represent the core mission of education-based activities
(page 15)*

MIAA Coach of the Year Award

*Recognizing excellence in character, service, leadership and coaching
(page 16)*

NFHS Sectional Coach of the Year Award

*In grateful appreciation of outstanding service and unselfish devotion to interscholastic athletics
(page 30)*

NFHS National Coach of the Year Award

*In grateful appreciation of outstanding service and unselfish devotion to interscholastic athletics
(page 32)*

MIAA Distinguished Service Award

*For unique and invaluable service to the thousands of students attending MIAA member schools across the Commonwealth
(page 33)*

NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service

*In recognition of service and contributions in support of the MIAA and high school athletics
(page 36)*



MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award

Recognizing excellence in academics, athletics and student leadership



September 2022 Cooper Berube, Grafton High School

Cooper is known as a Captain's Captain and is an integral part of the success of the Grafton Football Team. As a role model for all players, Cooper takes five AP classes and is a leader among his peers volunteering and mentoring at both Grafton High School and Grafton Middle School. He serves on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, the ADs Captains Council, and is an MIAA Student Ambassador.

He has also raised awareness about depression and has spoken courageously about his own personal battle with depression. Cooper also volunteers and enthusiastically supports the Michael Cherry Walk in honor of a GHS Alum that passed away after his own bouts with depression.

As a football player, Cooper led Grafton as an offensive linemen and linebacker and was a vital part of the team's Division IV State Football Championship run. He was also named Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association Division 4 All-State Player at the linebacker position.



September 2022 Molly O'Connor, Carver Middle/High School

Molly is one of the first students at CMHS to complete the Biotechnology Pathway, a robust series of core and elective courses and certifications that prepare students for a career in life sciences. Playing volleyball for four years, Molly has also competed in lacrosse, track, and basketball.

A volunteer for the Walk for Hunger and Congenital Heart Walk every year in Boston, Molly also raises money to sponsor a family every year for the Christmas holiday. As stated by Brian Witkowski, "Molly O'Connor exemplifies what it means to be engaged in the school and community. Her commitments to her team, her studies, and volunteering are commendable as she does not do them for attention or credit but because she vies to do what is right."



October 2022
Andrew Hogan, Douglas High School

A member of the National Honor Society with a 4.2 GPA, Andrew is the captain of the Douglas High School Golf Team and also plays basketball and baseball. A two-time team MVP and DVC all-star, Andrew competed in the MIAA State Golf Tournament.

Outside of school, Andrew is active in volunteering at the March of Dimes Annual 5K, and at the Diocese of Worcester's office with their tech support. This year, he assisted at the 1st Annual Kyle Cares 5K at Douglas High School, a walk/run to bring attention to the mental health struggles of teens. Described as a personable young man who engages others in meaningful conversations, Andrew recognizes the importance of giving back to the community.



October 2022
Diya Ackerman-Vallala, North Andover High School

A high achieving and dedicated student, Diya is a state champion and record holder for the North Andover swim team. She captained the team her senior year and was named Swimmer of the Year by the Eagle Tribune as well as All-Scholastic in the Boston Herald and Boston Globe as she captured the 100 breaststroke title at both the Division 2 state meet and North sectional, and also finished first in the 200 IM at the state meet.

She is currently enrolled in 5 AP classes, has taken 9 total AP classes in her academic career at NAHS and is actively involved in the NAHS Black Student Union, National Honor Society, and Editor of the NAHS Yearbook. On a regional and national level, Diya also serves on the USA Swimming National Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, New England DEI Committee, and has volunteered at the Greater Boston Food Pantry. She has

championed swim initiatives for people of diverse backgrounds, and drowning prevention and swim lessons for all children. As Steve Nugent states, "Diya is the full package, a scholar, an athlete, and a dedicated community volunteer."



November 2022
Allie Fritz, St. Mary's High School

A Garrity Scholar and member of the Principal's List every semester, Allie is an exceptional student-athlete at St. Mary's of Lynn. As a member of the girls soccer team for four years, Allie received the Spartan Award her sophomore season and captained the team her senior season. She has also played lacrosse and softball at St. Mary's.

She is ranked 3rd in her class and is a member of the National Honor Society and a recipient of the Advanced Placement Honor and Scholar Award.

An active member of the community, Allie volunteers at My Brother's Table, sings with the Grace Methodist Church Adult Choir, and helps out with the North Shore Rovers, a soccer program for players ages 3-21 with intellectual or physical challenges. As Coach Foley

expressed, "Allie is a true Spartan in every sense of the word. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of a student-athlete award."



November 2022
Patrick Ginnity, St. Bernard's High School

Patrick has had an amazing career at St. Bernard's High School. He has been a member of the golf team since 8th grade, earned 5 varsity letters and been the number 1 golfer since freshmen year. Patrick has been a two-year captain and team MVP and completed his senior season as a medalist in 12 of the 14 matches. Shooting a 4 under 68, Patrick captured the Division 2 Championship at Maplegate Country Club. His play led the team to a 6th place finish. This summer, he travelled to Oregon to play in the USGA Junior Amateur Championships. Also a basketball star, Patrick is a two-year captain and team MVP as a junior. His teachers describe him as an "active learner that asks engaging questions."

He was a top achiever in English class and "respected the subject matter and held his education in high regard." As President of the Senior Class, Patrick also volunteers in numerous youth sports programs, campus ministry, is an MIAA Student Ambassador, and interns at the Beyond Sports podcast.



December 2022
Alex Carucci, North Reading High School

Alex is the epitome of a student-athlete as he has taken 6 AP courses, has a 3.93 GPA, and been the Class President since his sophomore year.

He is a three-sport athlete playing football, basketball, and baseball and led North Reading to its first MIAA Football State Championship victory this past fall. A captain of all three sports, Alex has been a league all-star in football and baseball. During the championship football season, Alex was the Cape Ann League MVP, and named to the Boston Herald and Boston Globe All-Scholastic Teams.

Active in numerous community service groups, Alex also participates in Unified Basketball, North Reading Little League Challenger Program, North Reading Youth Football, and

mentors the 9th grade students at North Reading High School. Coach Blum states, "Alex's pursuit of greatness and excellence in academics and athletics is unmatched. He has been able to achieve so much individually, while giving back even more by his volunteer work particularly as a mentor or a partner working with students with disabilities and as Class President, constantly working to build school pride and spirit."



December 2022
Faith Boutin, Tri-County Regional Voc/Tech High School

A stellar student, Faith is ranked 6th out of 215 students and has scored highly at all Skills USA competitions. As a starter on the volleyball team for four seasons, Faith has won the Coaches Award and Unsung Hero Award as well as being named a league all-star. During the spring, Faith has played softball, was named a league all-star and plays multiple positions.

A volunteer for her church ministry, Faith is also active in Tri-County's school events and the main influencer in the school's Food Drive for the Franklin Food Pantry. As Ms. Caffrey states, "Faith is an exceptional student, one that we do not come across often. Faith goes above and beyond for her school, her teams, her community, and anyone else that needs her."



January 2023 **Penelope Spack, Peabody Veterans Memorial High School**

Penelope “Penny” Spack is a three-sport athlete at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School. Excelling as a captain in soccer, hockey, and softball, Penny was a leader among her team in points during the Hockey season and was selected as Boston Globe Player of the Week in January.

With a grade point average of 4.07 and taking six Advanced Placement courses, Penny is currently ranked 6th in her senior class of 403 students.

Described by her coach, Michelle Roach, as unassuming, quiet, and selfless, Penny is involved in numerous school activities and community organizations such as the Mayor’s Leadership Council, the Executive Board of DECA, Student Council, Math Team and the Church Council at St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church. As Coach Roach said, “Penny’s combination of positive attitude and the belief that she can always improve is rare in a high school student, but so essential to the learning process.”



January 2023 **Henry Brien, Pentucket Regional High School**

A senior at Pentucket Regional High School, Henry is a two-sport athlete competing in swimming and lacrosse. Henry’s swimming career has been exceptional as he has been a multi-year captain and also the Cape Ann League Male Swimmer of the Year for 2021, 2022, and 2023. A school record holder in two individual events (100 Butterfly and 100 Backstroke), Henry is also a record holder as a member of three relay teams. Henry was also a Boston Herald All-Scholastic Swimmer last year.

Taking one of the most demanding academic schedules at Pentucket, Henry has maintained a 4.06 grade point average and excelled in the classroom. In addition to his school and athletic achievements, Henry has devoted his time to educating local youths on the importance of water safety. Recently, he led an anti-drowning campaign and was able to visit various elementary schools in Pentucket, Triton, and Newburyport to discuss the importance of lifejackets and CPR.



February 2023
Penelope Long, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

Penelope "Nellie" Long is a senior at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School and has participated in three sports (field hockey, lacrosse and ice hockey) and is a captain in both Field Hockey and Lacrosse. Nellie has earned numerous team awards including Team MVP, Defensive MVP, Most Improved Player, and the Resilience Character Award.

During the school day, Nellie is very active in student activities serving as the Student Body Vice President, Student Council Historian, and a Freshmen Class representative. Nellie is also a member in many clubs at MVRHS including Interact Club, Protect Your Environment Club, and also writes for the High School View, the student newspaper. Her accolades are numerous as she has received recognition and awards in AP Spanish, AP Chemistry, the

Community Award, the Curiosity Character Award, and Excellence in Humanities Award.

Although extremely busy at school, Nellie also finds time to volunteer at the Island Food Pantry, the Clothes to Go Distribution, the Island Clean up Project that cleans the beaches, and also serves as a volunteer coach for several leagues.



February 2023
Rawson Iwanicki, St. John's Preparatory School

Rawson Iwanicki is a highly successful student-athlete that will be continuing his education at Columbia University next year.

Committed to community service, Rawson volunteers in Andover's Snow Angel program where he shovels snow for senior citizens and also checks on them during the Winter. Involved as a student leader on campus, Rawson also volunteers at Vocal ID where his voice is used for people who need an authentic voice box but cannot talk. Rawson has also transcribed old documents so they can be digitally saved for Smithsonian Digital.

As a wrestler at St. John's Prep, Rawson was 57-0 at the time of his nomination. This year, he became a three-time MIAA Champion and defended his New England Title in the 160 pound weight class. Rawson has also been a Boston Globe and Boston Herald All-Scholastic for 4 years. His athletic prowess and academic achievements (4.17 GPA) have also earned him a four time Academic All-American status.



March 2023 **Sadie Coleman-Plourde, Innovation Academy Charter School**

Sadie plays volleyball, basketball, and spring track and field, and maintains a 4.3 GPA. Currently, Sadie takes all of her courses for honors credit, and is also taking dual enrollment classes in partnership with Middlesex Community College. A consistent honor roll student, she received positive feedback from all of her teachers, who identified her as a leader in the classroom, a positive presence, and someone who has a strong understanding of the academic content.

Sadie's Community Service is equally impressive as she is one of two leaders of Innovation Academy's Interact Club which brings together high school students to put service above self. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lowell, the Interact Club serves to make a difference in the school and larger communities through a variety of service projects. Under her leadership, the

Interact Club has conducted a book drive for Project LEARN, the club has painted Peace Poles to brighten up the school campus, and throughout the course of the year, the club reaches out to local non-profit organizations based on the interests of the group and seeks ways to give back to the community.



March 2023 **Drew Sacco, Mansfield High School**

As a student, Drew's current weighted GPA is 4.474 and he has been the recipient of the Yale Book Award for Character and Intellectual Promise, the Golden Hornet Award (9, 10, 11) for all subject grades over 90 for all 4 terms in the year, the Tom Souza Scholar-Athlete Award for Football, Nominated for the National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award, and the World Language Academic Excellence Award (Spanish). Drew is also a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society.

As an athlete, Drew has been a four year member of the Football Program, a 3-year Varsity Starter at Running Back, and named Player of the Week for games against Stoughton and Foxboro in the 2022 season. A 4 year starter of the Lacrosse Program, he was an All-Star as a Junior, elected team captain as a senior, and Sun Chronicle All-Star as a junior. Drew is also a

Mansfield Special Olympics-Unified Team Partner.

Drew has also been active in the community as a National Honor Society volunteer, a volunteer at Bethany Congregational Church for community dinners and fairs, and at the local food pantry. Also, he has volunteered at the Gridiron Club of Mansfield for Community Service Events to support local veterans, elderly families and families in need of assistance. Drew has also served as an Academic Tutor for Qualters Middle School students.



April 2023

Kerry Brown, Shawsheen Valley Technical High School

As a scholar at Shawsheen, Kerry is a member of the National Honor Society, Vocational Honor Society, and the recipient of several academic awards and certifications focused on her enrollment in the health services field.

Kerry has participated in soccer, basketball and lacrosse serving as a captain in all three sports and also a league all-star in each. Her soccer coach said that Kerry is “respected as a captain, player, and friend and was a huge part of the team’s success.”

Community service is a part of the Brown Family and a large part of Kerry’s day as she volunteers at the Special Olympics, youth basketball, and soccer camps in Billerica. She is President of the Anti-Bullying Club, serves as a Student Ambassador at school, and also

sits on several committees that serve the students of Shawsheen. Two guidance counselors at Shawsheen Valley said, “We have had a lot of great students come through these halls but Kerry is perhaps the greatest of all-time.”



April 2023

Aidan Blood, Uxbridge High School

Aidan is a senior at Uxbridge High School and has played football, basketball, and baseball while maintaining an academic average of 95.

A member of the National Honor Society, Aidan is a “natural born leader” according to his coaches. He is a Central Mass All-Star in football and a captain of the baseball team. A determined competitor and hard-worker, Aidan is a great teammate and does whatever is asked of him for the team’s success. He is highly coachable and has a positive attitude, win or lose.

Aidan is also a Student-Athlete Ambassador and leads the Uxbridge High School Athletic Department’s efforts on several community service projects. One of his favorite activities is being a guest reader at Taft Elementary School where he is also a great role model for students in the Uxbridge Public Schools. As a responsible and thoughtful student, Aidan has also been asked to serve on several hiring committees as the student representative.



May 2023
Wendy Guo, Somerville High School

A tremendous student, Wendy has taken the most rigorous curriculum at Somerville High School and performed admirably. She was also nominated and received the POSSEE scholarship due to her leadership and academic excellence.

Wendy has participated in numerous community and volunteer experiences while at SHS, including working as a co-teacher for 3rd graders teaching them kindness, and as a teaching fellow for 8th graders building teamwork and teaching math skills. In the Summer of 2022, she volunteered on the Calculus Project serving as a peer mentor for high-schoolers in their algebra and pre-calculus classes. During her senior year she volunteered at the West Community Neighborhood School in their afterschool program for 3rd and 5th graders.

A Greater Boston League All-Star in tennis for her Junior and Senior season, Wendy was a great part of her team's success. She is also a member of the Highlanders Volleyball Team.



May 2023
Ricky Encarnacion, Leominster High School

Ricky is a three-sport standout athlete and engaged member of the Class of 2023. Ricky volunteers his time for many groups within the community. He is a dedicated member of the Best Buddies Club, volunteering to spend time building relationships and making connections with LifeSkills students, taking them out to different events within the community. He also spends time on the weekends coaching and refereeing for the Leominster Flag Football League, volunteering his time to help teach today's youth the sport he loves so much.

As an athlete, Ricky has had a great senior year. His football season included 51 catches for 952 yds, 20 rushes for 301 yds, 20 TDS (2 on kick returns), 1600+ all purpose yards, 43 tackles, 4 interceptions, 2 fumble recoveries, 1 forced fumble. Ricky also competed on the Basketball Team where his leadership was unmatched as his team went far into the Division

II state tournament. The past two springs, Ricky competed in track. In the 2022 season he won every event competed in at the District Meet (triple jump, long jump, & 100 meter dash) and went on to earn 2nd place at the Divisional Meet, 3rd place at the State Meet, and 10th place in New England for the Triple Jump. The spring season saw similar results and won 1st place in the Triple Jump at the Divisional Meet.

A celebrated student that takes numerous honors and AP Level classes, Ricky is a member of the National Honor Society at Leominster High School.



Harry Agganis Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship

Recognizing excellence in character, leadership and community service



Kerry Brown
Shawsheen Valley Technical High School



Alex Carucci
North Reading High School

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, in partnership with the Agganis family is honored to announce the 2023 recipients of the Harry Agganis Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship: Kerry Brown, Shawsheen Valley Technical High School and Alex Carucci, North Reading High School.

This is the fourth year the Agganis family and the MIAA have partnered for this prestigious recognition. The legacy of Harry Agganis as a scholar, an athlete and a servant to his community is now enshrined in this annual scholarship recognition of two outstanding MIAA student-athletes. Kerry and Alex, who each received a \$1,500 scholarship, were selected from the 2022-23 selections of monthly MIAA Student-Athletes of the Month. These two student-athletes best exemplify the highest achievement in the areas of academics, athletics and community service. Bob Baldwin, MIAA Executive Director avows that the “MIAA is extremely pleased to partner with the Agganis family to provide to our outstanding student-athletes the scholarship opportunity as well as spotlight the legacy of Harry Agganis as a model for educational athletics.”

Kerry Brown, a senior at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School was originally the Student of the Month in April and has served as a three-sport captain at Shawsheen lettering in soccer, basketball and lacrosse. An exemplary student and model school citizen, Kerry is taking her talents to Worcester State University where she will play lacrosse for the Lancers.

Alex Carucci, a senior at North Reading High School was originally the Student of the Month in December and had a stellar athletic and academic career at North Reading, playing football, basketball and baseball for the Hornets. Alex will continue his athletic career at Union College and play football for the newly named Garnet Chargers (formerly Dutchmen).

For additional information about the Harry Agganis Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship and the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award program, please visit the “Student” tab at www.miaa.net.



NFHS Spirit of Sport Award Massachusetts Recipient



Tyler Sordillo Hull High School

For exemplifying the ideals of the positive spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics

Tyler is a three-sport athlete at Hull High School. He is the captain of the Super Bowl winning football team and basketball team and also participates in lacrosse during the spring season. Yet, that may be the least of his accomplishments on or off the field.

Tyler's mother, Rachael Sordillo, has been battling cancer while Tyler has been in high school. Being the youngest of four boys, things were not easy for Tyler. Rachael is a middle school music teacher while Tyler's father, Paul Sordillo, is a retired veteran of the US Coast Guard after 30 years of service. Every day Tyler comes to school with a smile and great attitude to make each day better than the last. Much of that mentality comes from mom and dad, who push Tyler to be the best student-athlete he can be.

Even with cancer costing his mother hours and hours of trips to the hospital, Tyler never let that affect his performance. Rachael made it to all of Tyler's games. Pushing through pain, being uncomfortable for hours and even volunteering to hand out popcorn for the snack shack, Rachael was always in attendance because of her love for her family and the football team. The day of Tyler's final home game, Rachael had her final cancer treatment and was honored at the game. This special moment for mom and son was something that they will never forget.

On the field, Tyler is a Patriot Ledger and Boston Globe All-Scholastic along with being named South Shore League All-Star for the 2nd consecutive year. He was a captain and force for the Super Bowl winning squad while starting and playing every snap of each game. On the basketball court, Tyler is also a South Shore League All-Star and captain of a

team that made it to the final 8 in Division 8. Tyler was also nominated to participate in the Shriner's Game, one of the biggest honors for Massachusetts high school football players.

Tyler's accolades on the field earned him well-deserved recognition, but it is his humility and leadership that make him a role model to the children of Hull. Tyler works as an athletics camp counselor during the summer. He spends 8 hours a day working with approximately 250 kids, ages 8-13, playing sports. These children look-up to Tyler and he recognizes the impact and the positive role model he can be and truly uses it to the best of his ability. He made a visit to the elementary school before the Super Bowl to talk with the students, make signs for them to hang, and talk about life in Hull as an athlete. That is the true impact he has on the town of Hull.

Tyler's achievements in the classroom are an extension of his leadership ability on the field. He is a 3.0 student that is in the top half of his class and he understands the value of his education. The administration look at Tyler as a building leader among his peers and use Tyler to show what positive behavior is like and what the expectations are for student-athletes at Hull High School.

Congratulations to Tyler Sordillo for being selected as the Massachusetts recipient of the NFHS Spirit of Sport Award.

NFHS Heart of the Arts Award Massachusetts Recipient



Bethany Gibson Marlborough High School

For exemplifying the ideals of the positive heart of the arts that represent the core mission of education-based activities

Bethany Gibson is a senior at Marlborough High School. She participates in several school-based activities including soccer, track and field and Voices ReChaired.

Bethany is described as a “go-to person” in the school and community. She regularly performs the National Anthem at home games for Marlborough High School events. She has also traveled to the TD Garden and Tsongas Arena to perform the National Anthem at MIAA tournament events and has performed at MIAA Semi-Final Round tournament games that were hosted at Marlborough High School.

As a member of the track team, Bethany is known to drive herself to meets so she can return back in time for rehearsal with Voices ReChaired, a mixed a cappella group at the school. She attends all home basketball and hockey games to sing the National Anthem and has performed at graduation, spring senior events, baseball, softball and lacrosse games.

In the words of Marlborough High School Athletic Director Jeff Rudzinsky, “Bethany Gibson epitomizes the term ‘student-athlete’ and ‘well-rounded individual’”. She exemplifies the ideals of the positive Heart of the Arts. Bethany goes above and beyond as a positive representative of her school and community, and her love of the arts (music) and willingness to always assist is a characteristic that you don’t often have in high school seniors.”

Bethany plans to continue her education at either Ithaca College or Sacred Heart University pursuing a degree in musical theater and science.

Congratulations to Bethany Gibson for being selected as the Massachusetts recipient of the NFHS Heart of the Arts Award.



MIAA Coach of the Year Award

Recognizing excellence in character, service, leadership and coaching



Baseball **Zach Brown, Franklin High School**

- Head Baseball Coach 2014-present
- Career Record: 159-52
- Hockomock League Champions 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
- MIAA Division 1A State Champions 2018
- MIAA Division 1 State Finalists 2022, 2023
- National High School Baseball Coaches Association Region 1 Coach of the Year 2019
- Boston Globe Coach of the Year 2018
- USA Today Massachusetts High School Baseball Coach of the Year 2018

Philosophy: To use baseball as a vehicle to teach life lessons and habits for success to our players. These habits can be but aren't limited to: hard work, being selfless, servant leadership, teamwork, mental toughness, punctuality, reliability, determination, grit, & courage. To use the baseball diamond as an extension of the classroom and to echo the values, traditions, and characteristics that Franklin HS finds most important in its students and in particular it's student-athletes.



Basketball - Boys **Al Pettway, North High School**

- MIAA Division 1 State Champions 2023
- CMADA Tournament Champions 2023
- First Worcester Public School to win MIAA Division 1 State Championship
- Worcester City Champions 2015, 2017
- MIAA Division 1 Central Champions 2005
- Inter High Champions 2004
- Assumption College Sweet 16 2002

Philosophy: The purpose of athletics is to provide learning experiences, which contribute to physical, mental, social and emotional growth. Athletics should foster the development of positive self-esteem and a climate among coaches and team members where mutual respect is valued. Athletics fulfills a necessary and important function in the entire educational process throughout North High School. Athletics is an extension of the school day. Accountability, citizenship, sportsmanship, tolerance, leadership, participation within the rules, performing under pressure, persistence, work ethic, physical well being, responsibility, self-discipline, social skills, striving towards excellence, taking instruction and teamwork.



Basketball - Girls

Lisa Downs, Foxborough High School

- MIAA Division 2 State Champions 2018, 2020, 2023
- Hockomock Sports Coach of the Year 2015, 2020, 2023
- Boston Globe Coach of the Year 2018, 2023
- MBCA Division 2 Coach of the Year 2018
- Deep 4 Sports Talk Coach of the Year 2023
- Foxboro Food Pantry Volunteer

Philosophy: Lisa's philosophy has always been to establish trust with individual players. This in turn creates teammates who are able to trust each other, work collaboratively, and build a foundation from which a successful team can be established. Lisa works hard to build a good reputation for our program and is visible with the youth program in town. Lisa spreads the message that hard work is required to be part of the program, but that work also needs to occur off the basketball court in the classroom and in the community. The success of the program is a huge source of pride to Lisa, but also in the strong relationships that she has built with the players who she was fortunate enough to coach throughout the years.



Cross Country - Boys

Rebecca Gauvin, Ludlow High School

- Head Cross Country Coach 2002-present
- Career Record: 116-64
- 5 League Championships
- 2 Western Mass Championships
- 4 Individual Western Mass Champions
- Physical Education and Health Department Head
- Lions Pride Organization Advisor

Philosophy: .Be Proud to Be a Ludlow Lion: Our philosophy is to create a family-oriented atmosphere within the team, emphasizing unity and school pride. Encourage on-course/track excellence through sportsmanship, goal setting, and dedication, while also prioritizing off-course/track development, including academic success and personal growth. Foster open communication to maintain a positive team environment and contribute to the overall well-being of athletes.



Cross Country - Girls **Carolina DiBiase, Mansfield High School**

- Cross Country Coach 2000-present
- Team placed 4th at the MIAA All State Meet 2004
- MSTCA and Boston Globe Coach of the Year 2005
- MIAA Division 2 Outdoor Track and Field State Champions 2022
- Boston Globe Outdoor Track and Field Coach of the Year 2022
- Department Chairperson, World Language Department

Philosophy: I've been fortunate to have a successful coaching career - by success I mean building character, strength (physically and mentally), making connections, forming new cross-country and track families and, working with amazing coaches - those others who put their time in. I coach not for the love of the sport. Making kids believe in themselves with hard work and an open mind.



Field Hockey **John O'Neill, Quaboag Regional Middle/High School**

- MIAA Field Hockey State Champions 1988, 1995, 2007
- District E Division 2 Champions 1986-1989, 1994-95, 1998, 2000, 2005-2006, 2008
- Team qualified for the MIAA Field Hockey Tournament 35 consecutive years
- First recipient of the SWCL Excellence in Coaching Award
- Massachusetts State Field Hockey Coaches Association Member and Former President
- MIAA Field Hockey Committee Member

Philosophy: In my coaching journey, I wholeheartedly believe in the power of WE over ME. A successful team is not just a sum of individual talents; it's a family bound together by trust, respect, and a shared vision. My coaching philosophy revolves around nurturing a sense of belonging and unity among all team members. We don't just play as a team; we thrive as a family. I am committed to fostering a welcoming environment where everyone feels valued and appreciated regardless of their background or abilities. In our team, differences are not just accepted; they are celebrated. We create a safe space where everyone is encouraged to voice their ideas, concerns, and aspirations. Together, we build a robust support system that helps each member grow as an athlete and a person.



Football Brandon Mendez, Old Colony Regional Voc/Tech High School

- Mayflower Athletic Conference Champions 2017, 2021, 2022
- MIAA Division 8 Football Final Four 2022
- New England Patriots High School Coach of the Week
- Mayflower Athletic Conference Coach of the Year 2017, 2021, 2022
- MHSFCA Member
- Old Colony Varsity Softball Head Coach, Student Council Advisor, Strength and Conditioning Coordinator, Basketball Announcer and Scoreboard Operator, Summer Leadership Co-Organizer

Philosophy: Coach Mendez's coaching philosophy of athletics, specifically football, is shown through his emphasis on developing and guiding his players both as student-athletes and as humans. His focus on working hard, overcoming adversity, and achieving goals allows his players to grow and mature during their time in the program. Coach Mendez instills the qualities and skills needed not only to succeed as a football player, but as a community member. Those involved with the program, have seen Brandon's values and beliefs of those around him grow the program and achieve high levels of success. In 2022, Old Colony Football finished the season with the best record in school history and a trip to the MIAA Division 8 Final Four. This season's journey proved the philosophy Coach Mendez has stayed true to for eight years is not only successful on the field, but has created a winning culture for those who are involved.



Golf - Fall Joel Jenkins, Billerica Memorial High School

- High School Golf Coach for 22 years
- Career Record: 175-115-7
- Merrimack Valley Conference Champions 2011
- MIAA North Sectional Champions 2011
- MIAA State Finalists 2011
- Boston Globe Division 1 Golf Coach of the Year 2011
- Lowell Sun Coach of the Year 2009, 2011
- 25 Years Class A PGA Professional

Philosophy: To make sure each student athlete despite age or skill level feels like the golf program is a home to them. Although winning and playing to the fullest is certainly encouraged, playing with respect to coaches, fellow teammates, and competitors is most important. The Upperclassmen are expected to help foster the growth of Underclassmen in daily school activities as well as the golf program. In general, to create a culture that all feel like they are part of the team!



Golf - Spring

John Anderson, Monomoy Regional High School

- Cape and Islands League Champions 2021, 2022
- MIAA Division 1 South Sectional Champions 2015, 2016
- MIAA Division 1 South Sectional Runner-Up 2022
- MIAA Division 1 State Runner-Up 2022
- Boston Globe Coach of the Year 2016
- Founder and Organizer of Cape and Islands School Girls Championship
- History Teacher and Department Chair

Philosophy: Coach Anderson's coaching philosophy is to teach the game of golf in a respectful and fun manner while developing strong relationships with his players. The players and teams best interest always comes first with Coach Anderson. He is a teacher in our school and is the epitome of what it means to be a teacher and a coach.



Gymnastics - Girls

Heather Fusco, Central Catholic High School

- 2 time Merrimack Valley Conference Champions
- 4 time Merrimack Valley Conference League Meet Champions
- MIAA North Sectional Champions 2023
- New England Championship Meet 2023
- Merrimack Valley Conference Coach of the Year 2017, 2023
- MHS GC Coach of the Year 2017, 2023
- Boston Globe and Eagle Tribune Coach of the Year 2023
- MAHSGC Treasurer

Philosophy: Heather strives to create a welcoming environment that allows for a positive and safe atmosphere to share her energy and ability to have fun in high school gymnastics, all while sharing her knowledge, experience, and love of the sport of gymnastics.



Ice Hockey - Boys **John Maguire, Waltham High School**

- Ice Hockey Coach for 38 seasons
- Career Record: 418-286-98
- MIAA Division 1 State Champions 2002, 2018
- Boston Globe Coach of the Year 2018
- Waltham High School Hall of Fame Inductee
- Massachusetts State Hockey Coaches Association President 2008-2009
- Current MSHSCA Executive Director and Board Member
- MSHCA Hall of Fame 2014
- Three-time recipient of the MIAA James Mulloy Sportsmanship Award

Philosophy: John is all about the student-athlete. He believes in using athletics to help Waltham HS athletes be better people, better students, and better athletes. He has always focused on the athletes developing both on and off the ice. He spends countless hours working with our athletes to make sure they are working hard in the classroom and on the ice. He has always been the example I use when I talk with other coaches about the idea of educational athletics.



Ice Hockey - Girls **Allisyn Furano, Needham High School**

- Ice Hockey Coach for 26 seasons
- Career Record: 304-149-59
- MIAA State Champions 1999, 2003
- Bay State Conference Champions - 11 times
- MIAA State Finalists 1997, 2016
- Massachusetts State Hockey Coaches Association Member

Philosophy: Coach Furano cares deeply about her students and her teams. She invests in the whole student-athlete and does not measure success by wins and losses. She is extremely humble and does not like to speak about her personal accolades.



Lacrosse - Boys

Phil Reuland, Winchester High School

- Lacrosse Coach for over 20 years
- MIAA State Champions 2019
- MIAA North Sectional Champions 2016
- Middlesex League Coach of the Year 2023
- Winchester Youth Lacrosse Program
- Teacher in the Medford School System

Philosophy: Coach Reuland's strong work ethic to conditioning, training, and striving to be the best is an edict adopted by all. He selects his captains to assist him as role models for all players to follow the principles of fairness, integrity, and virtue. Coach Reuland, his assistant coaches, his captains, and players have worked together to achieve success year after year.



Lacrosse - Girls

Stacey Beaulieu, Triton Regional High School

- Lacrosse Coach for 18 years
- 11 appearances in the MIAA State Tournament
- Cape Ann League Champions 2010
- Cape Ann League Coach of the Year 2010
- Started the Triton Girls Lacrosse Program at the Youth and High School Levels
- Former Field Hockey and Basketball Coach at Triton
- Eastern Massachusetts Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association Former President

Philosophy: Coach Beaulieu believes that the classroom is always more important than the field. Most of her teams have held high GPA's and many players have graduated as members of the National Honor Society. She has coached the game to be played with class and integrity and has held herself to this standard.



Rugby - Boys **Ryan Kiff, Blue Hills Regional Technical School**

- Team qualified for MIAA Boys Rugby Tournament in consecutive seasons
- Only vocational school participating in MIAA Rugby
- Worked with New England Freejacks for high school development program
- Automotive Instructor at Blue Hills
- Assistant Football Coach at Blue Hills
- USA Rugby Member

Philosophy: Ryan is a well-respected staff member at Blue Hills Regional and will do anything to help anybody. He truly is a team player. He has a lot of energy and passes that energy to his players and the students he teaches.



Soccer - Boys **Matthew Wheeler, Shrewsbury High School**

- Soccer Coach for 12 seasons
- Midland-Wachusett League Champions 2022
- CMADA Tournament Champions 2022
- Midland-Wachusett League Coach of the Year 2022
- Central Massachusetts Coach of the Year 2016, 2022
- Central Massachusetts Coaches Association Past Treasurer and Vice President
- Shrewsbury High School Class Advisor, Assistant Swim Coach, Assistant Baseball Coach

Philosophy: To create an environment where players can develop life skills through the sport of soccer. Players will be challenged to enhance their physical skills along with developing their character and cognitive skills through competition. Players will be treated with a level of professionalism and respect and adopt a team first mentality. Through these expectations and experiences, players will grow on an individual level on and off the field leading to a positive high school athletic career.



Soccer - Girls **Kevin Smith, Mansfield High School**

- Soccer Coach for 28 years
- 14 of 18 years team qualified for MIAA tournament
- Hockomock League Champions 2016, 2017, 2018
- Eastern Massachusetts Girls Soccer Association Coach of the Year 2015
- US Youth Soccer East Region Competitive Coach of the Year 2018
- Massachusetts Youth Soccer Competitive Coach of the Year 2018
- Over 200 career wins
- Mathematics (9-12) Teacher for over 20 years

Philosophy: We teach the core values of Integrity, Passion, Sacrifice and Excellence in everything we do and these 4 values provide us a foundation for the program's purpose to develop each player as a leader through the competitive cauldron of athletics ready to positively impact their world. Our entire program volunteers annually at the Mansfield Youth Soccer Columbus Day Tournament and has participated for years in the Mansfield Council of Aging Leaf Raking outreach to senior citizens.



Softball **Stacy Ciccolo, Central Catholic High School**

- MIAA Division 1 State Finalists 2023
- MIAA Division 1 North Champions 2013
- MIAA Division 2 North Champions 2008
- Merrimack Valley Conference Champions 2007, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2023
- Merrimack Valley Conference Coach of the Year 2016, 2023
- Over 300 Career Wins
- Freshman Girls Basketball Coach

Philosophy: Stacy truly believes that athletics is a way to teach important skills that can be used in all parts of someone's life. Stacy is an educator and she uses softball as an extension of her classroom to teach her players to be strong, young women with high values of character, integrity and dedication. When leaving the softball program, the student-athletes have learned what it means to be disciplined, prepared and how to be a leader and a team player. Stacy is extremely competitive and does whatever it takes to put her players in position to be successful on the field while maintaining the importance of the above named characteristics.



Swimming & Diving - Girls **Julie Nocka, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School**

- Swimming and Diving Coach for over 20 years
- MIAA Division 1 Girls Swimming & Diving State Champions 2023
- Boston Globe Girls Swimming & Diving Coach of the Year 2023
- Dual County League Girls Champions—Thorpe Division
- Field Hockey and Lacrosse Game Official for over 30 years
- Central Mass Field Hockey Coaches Association Official of the Year 2004
- High school/Middle school Coach in Crew, Field Hockey, Cross Country, Indoor Track, Lacrosse and Soccer

Philosophy: Coach Nocka passionately believes in the importance of high school sports and the well-rounded development of the student athlete. Coach Nocka cares about her athletes in the water and out. Good sportsmanship, being a good teammate and putting your best effort forth are top priorities. She is equal parts strict and kind. She firmly abides by all of the school and MIAA rules. The consequences for mistakes are clear and equally enforced. Athletes learn quickly once the consequence is served there are no hard feelings or judgments.



Tennis - Boys **Scott Johnson, Plymouth South High School**

- Tennis Coach for 10 years
- Patriot League Fisher Division Champions 2023
- Inducted into Plymouth Athletic Hall of Fame 2022
- Freshman Boys Basketball Coach
- JV Girls Soccer Coach
- Volunteer Goalie Coach
- Summer Science Program Teacher for Plymouth Public Schools

Philosophy: When it comes to coaching, for Coach Johnson, it is about much more than the sport itself; it is about teaching student athletes lessons they can use for life. Coach Johnson leads by example, setting high expectations for his players not only on the court, but in the classroom and in the community. His goal is for his players to walk away from tennis knowing how to be competitive, while exemplifying good sportsmanship, and how to be leaders and positive differences makers of the community through building a strong work ethic and always being kind and showing empathy to others.



Track & Field, Indoor - Boys **Tristan Smith, Saint Mary's High School**

- Catholic Central League Boys Indoor Track and Field Champions 2023
- Daily Item Boys Indoor Track Coach of the Year 2023
- Creator/Co-Meet Director—Lynn All City Track and Field Championship
- MSTCA Member
- Certified Massachusetts Track and Field Official
- USATF Level 1 Track and Field Coaching Certification

Philosophy: Coach Smith's philosophy of coaching can be boiled down to the two words he closes most practices with: You Matter. Coach Smith seeks to involve every single student-athlete to their ability, passion, and individual growth. Every student-athlete on the team feels included - even with over 100 kids coming out this past season. Coach Smith loves coaching track and field specifically because it is so easy to find a niche for every single student athlete. Someone who does not excel in jumping can find a home in distance running. Someone who isn't strong in hurdling can become a great thrower. Coach Smith meets the athlete where they are and works with them. He also focuses on making practice fun - in his words, he aims to "make track the best hour of your day". Importantly, he also believes that the only person to compete against is yourself from last week. He preaches this, focusing more on personal records than head-to-head results against the other team.



Track & Field, Outdoor - Boys **Ryan Spinney, North Reading High School**

- MIAA Boys Division 5 Outdoor Track and Field Champions 2022
- Boston Globe Division 5 Coach of the Year 2022
- MSTCA Boys Division 5 State Relay Champions 2022
- Cape Ann League Champions 2016, 2017, 2021
- Teacher at North Reading High School for 17 years

Philosophy: I believe in the encouragement and personal growth of each athlete. To see athletes develop confidence in themselves and push to achieve performances that they didn't believe they could is the best part of coaching. To me the concept of "winning" is seeing each athlete want to be their best; both in athletics and more importantly, as a person. If I can be a positive influence to help anyone do that, I am truly grateful for that opportunity.



Track & Field, Outdoor - Girls **Mike Persenaire, Whitinsville Christian School**

- MIAA Division 6 Outdoor Track and Field State Champions 2022, 2023
- District E Outdoor Track and Field Champions 2021, 2022, 2023
- MIAA Division 4 Indoor Track and Field State Finalists 2023
- Dual Valley Conference Outdoor Track and Field Champions 2022
- MSTCA Coach of the Year 2023
- Middle School Teacher

Philosophy: Coach Persenaire's philosophy on coaching is to create a coaching environment in which student athletes can achieve their greatest success. Coach P. has a wonderful rapport with his athletes as a mentor and encourager. His athletes always feel welcome around him, and look up to him as their coach. Coach P. balanced very well the philosophy of not putting excess pressure on his athletes to perform, but rather being a constant and dependable coach for each player's development. This philosophy results in athletes that learn to train and practice out of a personal drive, not a coach mandated requirement. This coaching philosophy has developed dozens of athletes that absolutely love the sport, and train with top notch coaching to reach their success points.



Unified Basketball **John Leighton, Franklin High School**

- Unified Basketball Coach for 5 years
- Hosted several MIAA/Special Olympics Massachusetts Unified Basketball Jamborees
- Special Olympics Unified Champion School
- Girls Varsity Basketball Coach
- Assistant Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team Coach
- Franklin High School History Teacher

Philosophy: At Franklin High School, our philosophy for Unified Basketball is to create an inclusive and accepting environment where we work together to accomplish our goals. We try to work with all of our team members regardless of their diverse disabilities to become the best players they can be. In this endeavor, we have found our greatest success in the social bonds built between athletes and partners.



Unified Track and Field **Jared Shannon, Wahconah Regional High School**

- Unified Track and Field Coach for 3 years
- MIAA/Special Olympics MA Division 1 Unified Track and Field Finalist 2023
- MIAA/Special Olympics MA Division 1 West Champions 2022, 2023
- Special Olympics Unified Champion School
- Special Olympics National Banner School
- Former Wahconah Regional High School Athletic Director
- Educator for over 25 years

Philosophy: The goals of our program are to 1) Include and value everyone, 2) Be a good teammate, 3) Learn new skills and talents, 4) Push yourself to improve, 5) Celebrate each other like crazy.



Volleyball - Fall **Allison Luppi, Tewksbury Memorial High School**

- MIAA Division 3 State Champions 2022
- MIAA Division 3 Final Four 2021
- Boston Globe Coach of the Year 2022
- Merrimack Valley Conference Coach of the Year 2022
- Lowell Sun Coach of the Year 2022
- Town Crier Coach of the Year 2021, 2022
- Coordinates team participation in Dig Pink Fundraiser and Project Linus
- Teacher in the Bedford Public Schools

Philosophy: Coach Luppi extends the classroom on to the court each day with her team. She's a teacher, her concepts and game plan are well thought out and it shows in her practice planning. Her calm demeanor does wonders for her team as you rarely see them lose their composure.



Wrestling **Peter Boccia, Milford High School**

- MIAA Division 2 State Champions 2022, 2023
- MIAA Division 2 West Champions 2022, 2023
- Hockomock League Champions 2013, 2014, 2022, 2023
- Mid-Wach League Champions 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
- MIWCA Coach of the Year 2022, 2023
- Milford Hall of Fame Committee Member
- Psychology Teacher at Milford High School

Philosophy: My philosophy of athletics is to guide all my student athletes to reach their full potential. I take a holistic approach and emphasize the importance of balancing academics, character development, as well as wrestling skill. I encourage my athletes to not only excel in sports but in the classroom and community. I work hard to teach them life skills such as discipline, resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship that they can carry on beyond their athletic careers. I focus on having a growth mindset and individual growth and development through short term and long term goal setting. In practice I foster an inclusive environment that strives to make all wrestlers feel valued and respected. During practice I prioritize technical excellence and mental preparation to help my athletes reach their full potential. Lastly, I believe to be an effective teacher/coach, communication and collaboration are the keys to success. I maintain an open and effective communication plan with my athletes, parents, and school community. This helps foster a strong relationship built on trust, transparency, and mutual respect.



NFHS Sectional Coach of the Year Award

In grateful appreciation of outstanding service and unselfish devotion to interscholastic athletics



Lacrosse - Girls **Kristen Igoe, Franklin High School**

- MIAA Girls Lacrosse Division 1 State Finalist
- MIAA East Sectional Champions 2014, 2016, 2017, 2021
- Hockomock League Champions - 10 times
- Hockomock League Coach of the Year 2013, 2014, 2017
- Boston Globe Coach of the Year 2016
- Hosts yearly clinics for Franklin Youth Girls Lacrosse
- Eastern Massachusetts Girls Lacrosse Association President

Philosophy: Coach Igoe's record speaks for itself, many of her athletes have gone on to play lacrosse at the collegiate level. Coach Igoe sets a very high standard for her student-athletes. She is a strict disciplinarian - and the first to compliment her athletes. Student-athletes love playing for Coach Igoe.



Swimming & Diving - Boys **Erik Mandell, Minnechaug Regional High School**

- 2 MIAA Boys Swimming & Diving State Team Finalists
- 8 MIAA Boys Swimming & Diving Sectional Team Championships
- 7 MIAA Girls Swimming & Diving Sectional Team Championships
- Massachusetts High School Swim Coaches Hall of Fame Inductee, 2017
- 51 Consecutive Boys Dual Meet Victories, 2009-2013
- 56 Consecutive Girls Dual Meet Victories, 2017-Present
- MIAA Individual Sectional Champions (35 boys, 13 girls)
- MIAA Individual State Champions (12 boys, 1 girl)

Philosophy: Coach Mandell has had a lengthy and successful career as a coach, mentor and positive role model for his athletes. Beyond the many individual and team champions, however, Coach Mandell has been most concerned with the athletes striving to be the best that they can be, i.e. being the best version of themselves. This involves developing great work ethic, time investment, sportsmanship, the willingness to be coached, delayed gratification, and sacrifice for the good of the team, all of which must be consistent regardless of circumstances. Personal integrity and accountability are also pillars of the program philosophy. Coach Mandell believes that it is important to be a part of something bigger than oneself, and has developed a great sense of "team" within his program while setting a very high bar.



NFHS Sectional Coach of the Year Award

In grateful appreciation of outstanding service and unselfish devotion to interscholastic athletics



Swimming & Diving - Girls **Matthew Goldberg, Concord-Carlisle High School**

- MIAA Girls Div. 1 Finalists 2018-2020, and 2022
- 2 MIAA State Champion Relays 2022
- EMISCA Winter Girls North Coach of the Year 2018, 2022
- Boston Globe All-Scholastic Girls Swimming Div. 1 Coach of the Year 2018
- EMISCA Winter Boys Assistant Coach of the Year 2012
- Coached 7 Career Individual State Champions

Philosophy: Be better today than we were yesterday. Season successes are nice markers of the work that has been done. But teams are defined by that work, not the outcome. That work includes the entire team pushing their physical limits in the pool and on the board, but also the support that they provide to each other. Athletes should use their sport as a way to grow. It is an opportunity to see what can be accomplished when setting challenging goals, and work to meet them. Those goals include not only times in the water and scores off the board, but also what each individual puts into the team and their teammates success. Team successes and individual successes should always be celebrated, regardless of how big or small the successes are.



Track & Field, Outdoor - Girls **Dawn Diedricksen, Hingham High School**

- MIAA State Championships 2007, 2013
- MSTCA State Relay Championships 2007, 2011-2015, 2017, 2018
- Seven Patriot League Championships
- Have not lost a league meet since 2016
- Certified Pole Vault Coach
- National Throws Association Safety Certification
- USATF Level 1 and Level 2 Coach
- First ever recipient of the Hingham High School Margaret Conaty Award 2019

Philosophy: Dawn's philosophy is to provide a meaningful experience to her student-athletes through support and consistent coaching. She strives to do so in an accepting, inclusive environment. She is truly a blessing to our department.



NFHS National Coach of the Year Award and NFHS Sectional Coach of the Year Award

In grateful appreciation of outstanding service and unselfish devotion to interscholastic athletics



Ice Hockey - Boys **Dan Shine, Arlington Catholic High School**

- 44 seasons as Boys Varsity Ice Hockey Head Coach
- Boston Globe Coach of the Year 1990, 1997, 2010
- Boston Herald Coach of the Year 1990, 1997
- MIAA State Champions 1990 (Div.2); 1997 (Div.1A); 2010 (Div. 1)
- 9 times Catholic Central League Champions
- MIAA Ice Hockey Committee Member 1979-present, Chair 1991-present
- MIAA John E. Young Award for Distinguished Service 2012
- MHSCA Board of Directors 1983- present, President 1990-1992
- NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee 1999-2003; 2020-present
- Arlington Catholic HS Director of Athletics 1977-present
- MIAA Board of Directors 2018-present

Philosophy: Interscholastic Athletics is an integral part of high school student life. The coach must cultivate passion and sportsmanship in the members of the team, and get them to believe in each other. The coach must strive to build a culture that emphasizes character, integrity and academic success. To be an effective coach, you must gain the trust and respect of the student athletes. Trust and respect come from developing relationships. Once they see that you are invested in them, they will be able to confide in you as they progress on their individual journeys. When past student athletes reconnect with you years later, it shows how much of an impact you have had on their high school careers and lives. I believe that being called "Coach" is an honor you earn.



MIAA John E. Young Distinguished Service Award

Established in 1990, this award has been reserved for Athletic Directors of recognized accomplishment who also reflect the extraordinarily high personal values and professional standards possessed by Athletic Director John E. Young until his untimely death while serving as MIAA Vice President.



Kathleen Burke

Kathleen Burke served as the Athletic Director at Falmouth High School for 28 years. She started in this role in 1995 and made an incredible impact on the school community over the next three decades. During her tenure at Falmouth High School, Kathleen was instrumental in expanding existing interscholastic programs and adding new programs for students, including girls lacrosse, girls ice hockey, spring golf, gymnastics, sailing, unified basketball and unified track and field.

In addition to expanding opportunities for student participation, Kathleen supported and facilitated improvements for a number of athletic facilities. After 20 years of proposing and planning, the Falmouth High School Turf Field opened in 2019 and enabled major renovations to other fields in the community. The Falmouth High School Turf Field is now home to the school football, field hockey, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls lacrosse teams, as well as many community and youth sports programs. Other facility improvements included the installation of a wood floor in the fieldhouse, a new outdoor track, fully refurbished tennis courts and upgraded baseball and softball fields. Kathleen's motivation behind all of this work was to positively impact the students of Falmouth High School and the Falmouth community.

At the state level, Kathleen was involved in several leadership positions within the MIAA. She was a member of the MIAA Ice Hockey Committee for over a decade and also served on the MIAA Field Hockey Committee, MIAA Girls Lacrosse Committee and the MSAA Middle Level Athletics Committee. In addition, Kathleen was an Atlantic Coast League and Cape and Islands League representative on the District C/District 9 Athletic Committees for over ten years. Through all of these roles, Kathleen could be counted upon for leadership, fairness and decision making in the best interest of students.

Kathleen retired at the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year, following an outstanding and impactful three-decade career at Falmouth High School.



MIAA Distinguished Service Award

*For unique and invaluable service to the thousands of students attending
MIAA member schools across the Commonwealth*



Jim Antonelli

Jim Antonelli served in a variety of leadership roles at Westford Academy for over 30 years. He graduated from Westford Academy in 1986 as a two-sport athlete and team captain on the football and wrestling teams. After graduation, Jim returned to Westford as a football coach in 1988 and as a teacher in 1994. Jim went on to become the Dean of Student Activities for several years before being hired as the school principal in 2007. He served in this position until 2023.

During his tenure at Westford Academy, Jim was a tremendous supporter of interscholastic athletics and an active administrator within the Dual County League. He served as the Dual County League President from 2008-2019. Through his leadership in this role, sportsmanship was a priority for the Dual County League and its member schools.

At the state level, Jim also participated in a variety of leadership positions within the MIAA. He was a member of the MIAA Tournament Management Committee from 1998-2018, and a member of the MIAA Board of Directors from 2014-2019. Jim served as a member of the District A Committee from 2008-2019 and chaired the committee from 2014-2019. In each of these roles, Jim could be counted upon for dedicated leadership and a focus on making a positive impact in the lives of students.

Jim currently serves as the Dean of Specialized Programs at Newburyport High School, a role that he started at the beginning of the current school year.



MIAA Distinguished Service Award

*For unique and invaluable service to the thousands of students attending
MIAA member schools across the Commonwealth*



Joe Miller

Joe Miller has been a staple of the interscholastic Nordic Ski community for over two decades. During this time, he has served in a variety of roles including Director of the Berkshire County High School Nordic Ski League, coaches representative on the MIAA Ski Committee, and MIAA Nordic Ski Tournament Director.

Throughout his personal and professional life, family, community, and providing opportunities for young people to be a part of positive activities have been priorities for Joe. From coaching youth teams, to helping organize town leagues and working with town officials to revamp fields for youth programs, Joe has always been motivated by the opportunity to provide a sound foundation for today's youth to develop into the next generation that will support their communities.

This personal inspiration is evident in the role that Joe has played as MIAA Nordic Ski Tournament Director for the past 15 years. He has demonstrated outstanding leadership, organization and motivation to provide the best possible experience for students participating in the MIAA Nordic Ski State Championship Meet. Joe is always quick to recognize the team of volunteers that work together to organize this special postseason event in which students enjoy competing on the course, cheering on participants to the finish line and celebrating together as the results are announced.

Service and community are of the highest priority for Joe Miller. In addition to his dedication to interscholastic athletics, Joe served as a Deputy Sheriff for the Berkshire County Sheriff Office and was named the first recipient of the Lenox Community Center's George E. Turner Volunteer Award.



NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service Massachusetts Recipient

In recognition of service and contributions in support of the MIAA and high school athletics



Jeff Perrotti

Jeff Perrotti is the founding director of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Safe Schools Program for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Students. He is the co-author, with Kim Westheimer, of *When The Drama Club Is Not Enough* (Beacon Press, 2011), and he facilitated the development of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's pioneering Guidance on Gender Identity.

Jeff also developed the instructor's materials for the McGraw Hill textbook, *Human Sexuality: Diversity in Contemporary America*. He has conducted numerous workshops on sexual orientation and gender identity for school administrators, counselors, nurses, coaches, teachers, parents and students. Jeff has assisted many schools and families in orchestrating a thoughtful, comprehensive, and successful process when transgender students are transitioning their gender.

For several years he has taught and advised students at Harvard University, where he has received several awards for excellence in teaching. Jeff has appeared on Italian Rai International Radio, ESPN, 20/20 with Anderson Cooper, and in *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Boston Herald*, and *Harvard Ed. Magazine*.

Jeff has facilitated many workshop sessions, webinars and student panels at MIAA and MSAA events. He is a member of the MSAA/MIAA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and has served as a resource for the MIAA Blue Ribbon Committee on gender equality issues. Jeff is a past recipient of the MIAA Michael J. Kane Wellness Award and the MSAA Michael J. Kane Friend of Education Award. He is an outstanding partner for schools across the state and is always willing to assist with the goal of positively impacting the lives of students.



MIAA Award Recipients

MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award

Cooper Berube, *Grafton High School*
Molly O'Connor, *Carver Middle/High School*
Andrew Hogan, *Douglas High School*
Diya Ackerman-Vallala, *North Andover High School*
Allie Fritz, *St. Mary's High School*
Patrick Ginnity, *St. Bernard's High School*
Alex Carucci, *North Reading High School*
Faith Boutin, *Tri-County Reg. Voc. Tech. High School*
Penelope Spack, *Peabody Veterans Memorial High School*
Henry Brien, *Pentucket Regional High School*
Penelope Long, *Martha's Vineyard Regional High School*
Rawson Iwanicki, *St. John's Preparatory School*
Sadie Coleman-Plourde, *Innovation Academy Charter School*
Drew Sacco, *Mansfield High School*
Kerry Brown, *Shawsheen Valley Technical High School*
Aidan Blood, *Uxbridge High School*
Wendy Guo, *Somerville High School*
Ricky Encarnacion, *Leominster High School*

MIAA Harry Agganis Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship

Kerry Brown, *Shawsheen Valley Technical High School*
Alex Carucci, *North Reading High School*

NFHS Spirit of Sport Award - Massachusetts Recipient

Tyler Sordillo, *Hull High School*

NFHS Heart of the Arts Award - Massachusetts Recipient

Bethany Gibson, *Marlborough High School*

MIAA Distinguished Service Award

Kathleen Burke
Jim Antonelli
Joe Miller

NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service Massachusetts Recipient

Jeff Perrotti

MIAA Coach of the Year Award

Zach Brown, *Franklin High School*
Al Pettway, *North High School*
Lisa Downs, *Foxborough High School*
Rebecca Gauvin, *Ludlow High School*
Carolina DiBiase, *Mansfield High School*
John O'Neill, *Quaboag Regional Middle/High School*
Brandon Mendez, *Old Colony Regional Voc/Tech High School*
Joel Jenkins, *Billerica Memorial High School*
John Anderson, *Monomoy Regional High School*
Heather Fusco, *Central Catholic High School*
John Maguire, *Waltham High School*
Allisyn Furano, *Needham High School*
Phil Reuland, *Winchester High School*
Stacey Beaulieu, *Triton Regional High School*
Ryan Kiff, *Blue Hills Regional Technical School*
Matthew Wheeler, *Shrewsbury High School*
Kevin Smith, *Mansfield High School*
Stacy Ciccolo, *Central Catholic High School*
Julie Nocka, *Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School*
Scott Johnson, *Plymouth South High School*
Tristan Smith, *Saint Mary's High School*
Ryan Spinney, *North Reading High School*
Mike Persenaire, *Whitinsville Christian School*
John Leighton, *Franklin High School*
Jared Shannon, *Wahconah Regional High School*
Allison Luppi, *Tewksbury Memorial High School*
Peter Boccia, *Milford High School*

NFHS Sectional Coach of the Year Award

Kristen Igoe, *Franklin High School*
Erik Mandell, *Minnechaug Regional High School*
Matthew Goldberg, *Concord-Carlisle High School*
Dawn Diedricksen, *Hingham High School*

NFHS National and Sectional Coach of the Year Award

Dan Shine, *Arlington Catholic High School*



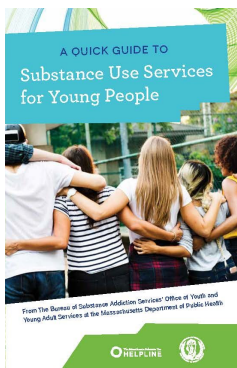
Special Thanks

Lifetouch®

Thank you to Lifetouch for providing photography for the MIAA Awards Banquet.

Resources for Schools

A variety of resources are available for coaches and school leaders to help students make healthy life choices.



Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse

The Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse provides free materials for Massachusetts residents and health and social service providers in the Commonwealth. Funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Clearinghouse develops and distributes health promotion materials on a wide variety of topics. To learn more about the Clearinghouse please visit:

<https://massclearinghouse.ehs.state.ma.us>

A sample resource available through the Clearinghouse is **“A Quick Guide to Substance Use Services for Young People.”** This resource can be downloaded directly from the website or ordered in larger quantities.



Opioid Misuse Prevention Resources

In collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and MassTAPP, the MIAA has developed opioid misuse prevention resources for schools including:

- **Guidance on Communications After a Non-Concussion Sports Injury**
- **Injury Management - A Key Component of Prescription Opioid Misuse Prevention**
- **Preventing Prescription Opioid Misuse Among Student-Athletes**
- **Opioid Misuse Prevention: Student Athletes**
- **What To Know About Prescription Opioids**

These resources are located under the “Wellness” link at www.miaa.net or through the Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse.

WELLNESS

to empower students to make healthy life choices

SPORTSMANSHIP

to teach respect for self, team, opponents, officials, rules, and the game itself

COACHES' EDUCATION

to provide resources for teacher-coaches who serve as curriculum instructors of educational athletics

LEADERSHIP

to promote the power of positive influence that student athletes and teacher-coaches share as role models

COMMUNITY SERVICE

to recognize the privilege of athletic participation and the responsibility of giving back to the community



MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
33 Forge Parkway • Franklin, MA 02038
Phone: 508-541-7997
www.miaa.net



@miaa033



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