



NEWS RELEASE

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Deborah Giangrandi of Woodlawn Middle School named Maryland School Nurse of the Year

Towson, Md. – This morning, Deborah Giangrandi received a troop of unexpected visitors to her health office at Woodlawn Middle School. Representatives of the Baltimore County Public Schools Office of Health Services and school administrators surprised her with the news that she has been named Maryland School Nurse of the Year.

“I nominated Ms. Giangrandi not only because I observed her energy, passion, and caring nature as a nurse, but also because I witnessed firsthand her vast knowledge and problem-solving skills,” said Robert Mehl, supervisor of the BCPS Office of Health Services. “I worked closely with Ms. Giangrandi in many capacities as a colleague as well as a supervisor. In my 35-plus years as a school nurse in Baltimore County Public Schools, Ms. Giangrandi stands out as an excellent model of what school nursing entails and the positive impact school nursing can have on students.”

Giangrandi earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Johns Hopkins Nursing School in 2000. She has been a school nurse with BCPS for 19 years. She has worked at Woodmoor Elementary School and as a countywide “float”/resource nurse. During the height of the COVID 19 pandemic, she assisted the Baltimore County Health Department in outbreak case management for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The registered nurse is now in her second year at Woodlawn Middle School.

“Nurse Giangrandi is a huge asset to our Woodlawn Middle community,” said Dr. Rochelle M. Archelus, principal of Woodlawn Middle. “She is kind, knowledgeable, organized, and always seeks to ensure that our students’ medical needs are met. Nurse Giangrandi is a team player and, along with her health assistant, works well with administrators, staff, and families for the well-being of our students. We love Nurse Giangrandi!”

In nominating Giangrandi for statewide recognition, Mehl shared specific examples of the ways the school nurse's intervention made a difference in the lives of students dealing with issues such as language barriers, chronic health conditions, and pregnancy. Mehl also noted that Giangrandi is committed to community-wide change. At Woodlawn Middle School, Giangrandi led a school team in implementing "Teen Screen," a countywide initiative to delay and reduce substance use and abuse; coordinated a health fair involving many community resources; collaborated with the community liaison to host an International Night that focused on health concerns and resources; and helped manage a coat/shoe drive.

"While Ms. Giangrandi has practiced as both an elementary and middle school nurse," adds Nancy Mattucci, coordinator of the BCPS Office of Health Services, "for several years, she worked as an itinerant [or floating] nurse. She excelled in this role, mentoring new school nurses and supporting experienced school nurses. She is an amazing educator, and her professional expertise was invaluable to the school nurses she worked with. The students, families, and staff of BCPS are fortunate to have a school nurse of such fine caliber."

(Editor's note: A photo of [Giangrandi](#) and photos from the [award presentation](#) can be found on Flickr.)

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