



**ROMEO  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS**

## **GOOD NEWS ACROSS 'R' DISTRICT**

April 1, 2024

### **Romeo teacher named Macomb County MS Teacher of the Year**



A teacher from Romeo Middle School was chosen as Macomb County's 2024 Outstanding Teacher of the Year at the middle school level. Amanda Mazzio, RMS's Language Acquisition teacher, was surprised with this news at a morning assembly on March 21, hours before she received a notification letter from the Macomb Intermediate School District via email. ([See a video of the announcement.](#))

Mrs. Mazzio was eligible for this award as winner of Romeo Community Schools' Outstanding Teacher of the Year at the middle school level, along with Krista Miller at the elementary level and John Phillips at the high school level.

According to that nomination form, "Amanda Mazzio consistently goes above and beyond for her colleagues and for her students. She is already masterful in her role

as the RMS Multilingual Learner Interventionist and leader of the 31a team, yet she is always reflective in her practice and seeks out information and strategies to continuously improve."

Mrs. Mazzio has taught at RMS for 10 years. She received her teaching degree from Michigan State University, where she majored in Spanish with a minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and has teaching endorsements in both. She also received a Master of Arts in Teaching and Curriculum specializing in language and literacy.

"Her role is unique ... but what she provides to our school community is indispensable," wrote one of her nominators on the MISD application. "She consistently advocates for her students by making sure families are able to have access to resources and information. She communicates to administrators and colleagues using different methods to best service all of our community. She knows many of our families quite intimately, and she has built a bridge of trust between the families and the school."

Mrs. Mazzio's personal philosophy of education is that teachers are gardeners and their role is to "discover what each of our students need to grow and provide conditions in which they can thrive.

... Each student is unique and deserves to be seen as such. In order to care for the whole child, we must understand their background, interests, learning styles, wealth of experiences, prior knowledge and more so that we can give each student what they need to flourish.”

This is especially true with her multilingual students in the English Learners program as well as the “newcomers,” the English language acquisition students who are new to this country and learning English for the first time.

“I have never had the personal experience, other than studying abroad, of living in a new place with a new language and trying to figure everything out all at the same time,” Mrs. Mazzio said. “To be able to offer any amount of help and support to students who are doing something that is really quite incredible is very meaningful to me.”

Mrs. Mazzio also prides herself on striving for equity in her classroom and advocating within the school and district to ensure all students have access to food, internet, school supplies and anything else they need to be successful.

Her advice to future educators is to become involved, figure out what drives them, and make the most of their time with their students.

“This job encompasses so much,” she said. “There’s a lot that teachers do, in the classroom with their students, after school, before school. Find what part of this job gives you the most passion and fulfillment and let that guide and sustain and propel you forward.”



In addition to receiving a \$1,500 Professional Development voucher, Mrs. Mazzio will be recognized on April 11 at the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet, to be held at the Italian American Cultural Society and Banquet Center in Clinton Township.

“Amanda’s positive impact on students goes way beyond her classroom to the school and the community,” said RMS Principal Brad Martz. “I could not be more proud of Amanda’s accomplishments. She is very deserving of this award.”

*Amanda Mazzio was surprised by an announcement made during the sixth grade ELA Oscars ceremony on Thursday, March 21. Pictured, from left, are RMS Principal Brad Martz, Amanda Mazzio’s mother, Paula Mazzio, Mrs. Mazzio, Superintendent Dr. Todd Robinson, and RMS teacher and Oscars MC Patrick Salembier.*

**COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT**