JoAnn Peterson discovered her passion for education when she was a PTA volunteer at Bowne Munro School. Thus, inspired to earn her degree and certification, JoAnn attended Kean University and graduated Magna Cum Laude four years later. Lawrence Brook School has been her home for the last 18 years. In 2010 JoAnn was honored by her colleagues when she was recognized as Lawrence Brook’s Outstanding Teacher of the year.

JoAnn is grateful to the East Brunswick Education Foundation (EBEF) for providing the funds that allow her to enrich the curriculum and increase student learning. In collaboration with her colleagues, she has received approximately $12,000 in grants.

When technology was first being introduced into the classrooms, JoAnn wrote a grant to have a Smartboard in each fifth grade classroom. EBEF also provided funds for Earth Day school-wide celebrations, owl pellets for science enrichment, fraction manipulatives, editing tools, dry erase tables, virtual reality viewers, and recess activities to name a few. JoAnn sincerely believes that the EBEF takes a teacher’s dream and makes it a reality.

Currently, JoAnn serves on the Lawrence Brook School Safety and Climate Committee where she works on building a positive school climate for the students. She has mentored student teachers and serves as a mentor to young students. She serves on the Great Kindness Challenge and One School One Book Family Night committees. Additionally, JoAnn is part of a group of East Brunswick Education Association (EBEA) members who, with help from a NJEA PRIDE Grant, founded the Bear Necessities Clothing Den for families in need of school clothing. The EBEF recently partnered with this EBEA project by providing the funds for the purchase a washer and dryer. As the manager of the Den, JoAnn finds it very gratifying to help families in need.

JoAnn and her husband, Nels, have been residents of East Brunswick for 30 years. She credits Nels for always supporting her while pursuing a teaching career that she loves, and for continuing to help in countless ways. Together they have a beautiful family; James and his wife Jessica who reside in Hillsborough, and Matthew and Laura who reside in Lancaster, Pa. During the summer months JoAnn and Nels enjoy traveling, cruising and spending time with their extended family.

JoAnn Peterson is extremely humbled and honored to be chosen as a Partner in Excellence by the EBEF. She is grateful to her colleagues, past and present, from whom she has learned so much. JoAnn is honored to work alongside the professional educators at Lawrence Brook, all of whom work so hard to make their students’ dreams come true.