

# 2023 Partner in Excellence

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## Susan Mizerak



Susan Mizerak has been a dedicated and passionate East Brunswick teacher for the past 30 years. Throughout her tenure, Susan has earned the respect of her colleagues through her knowledge and enthusiasm and was recognized as Warnsdorfer Elementary School's Teacher of the Year in 2006.

An educator at Warnsdorfer since 1992, Susan has taught first, second, third and fourth grades. She brings creativity and expertise to her lessons and is especially passionate about teaching Math and Science. This year, as fourth grade teachers moved back to teaching all the subjects, Susan embraced returning to the world of teaching language arts, especially reading aloud to students and modeling how to think about reading. In 2007, she completed the East Brunswick Master Teacher Program, where her action research focused on reading and metacognitive awareness.

Susan loves teaching her students hands-on Science and Math lessons. One of the highlights of the year is bringing lessons about astronomy to life through the Star Lab. In 2016, Susan partnered with the Warnsdorfer PTA to spearhead the school's first STEM night. She worked tirelessly to help train her colleagues in STEM-related topics and activities, resulting in a sold-out event featuring eight different engrossing and educational, family-friendly activities. Building off that success, Susan was part of the team of teachers who applied for a grant from the EBEF to build a Maker Space in Warnsdorfer's former computer lab. This space has become a hub of activity for students of all grades, and Susan loves being involved in developing lessons that capitalize on the Maker Space's capabilities.

While not exactly a camper, Susan loves adventure and is always thrilled to help chaperone the 6th grade trip to Fairview Lakes Camp in Northern New Jersey. No matter the weather, she is eager to participate in the night hikes and catch up with her former students. One year, not even a sprained ankle was able to stop Susan from participating in most of the events.

Susan has been a tireless volunteer for the EBEF since 2008, first as the Warnsdorfer liaison, then as an executive board member, the Co-Chair of the EBEF Barnes & Noble Book Fair, and assistant to the producers of the EBEF's Celebrity Dance Off. Always up for a challenge, Susan was even game for competing in the Dance Off in 2019, dancing with professional Jesse Kohn and winning 3rd place in fundraising, but most of all, they had fun!

Before joining the district, Susan taught at St. Ambrose School in Old Bridge, NJ. She is a summa cum laude graduate of Kean University, with degrees in Early Childhood Education and Psychology. Outside of her classroom and EBEF commitments, Susan loves spending time with her family: her mom JoAnn, sister Linda, her husband Tim, her son Max, and her daughter Maddie and her future daughter-in-law, Kylie, in-laws Bob, Alice, Chris, Susan, and Mike, and all her nieces and nephews, Kayleigh, Collin, Quinn, Drea, Chase, Jenny, and Lucas. Mizerak vacations are always an epic event. You might find the family relaxing in Maine, swimming in Aruba or galivanting around Europe. Together, they enjoy exploring both new and familiar places, and her French bulldog, Roo, is always up for an adventure, too.

