

BOROUGH OF  
**NEW PROVIDENCE**

SETTLED IN 1720

**PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH  
ON THEIR 2017 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD**

WHEREAS, The Academy of Our Lady of Peace located at 99 South Street in New Providence is a Catholic elementary school serving children in grades Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade. Founded in 1954, the Academy continues to educate generations of students from New Providence, as well as surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, At The Academy of Our Lady of Peace, the goal is to provide students with the tools to excel academically, and to learn in a values-based environment. One of the many life lessons emphasized is teamwork. How to work well with others is a philosophy that is woven into this tightly-knit Catholic community; and

WHEREAS, The Academy of Our Lady of Peace initiated in 2013 a STEAM (Science Technology Engineering The Arts Mathematics) integration across curricula for all grade levels. The integration was made feasible with the deployment of tools such as iPads, ChromeBooks, interactive boards, hydroponics, robotics, Sphero robots, 3D design and printing; and

WHEREAS, The Academy of Our Lady of Peace was published in the *New Yorker Magazine* in May of 2016 for its use of Sphero robots and coding, in an article entitled "The Ball That Teaches Kids to Code". We were honored to be recognized with two other schools in other US states for our exemplary efforts to initiate coding at the early elementary grades; and

WHEREAS, The Academy of Our Lady of Peace is proud of its partnership with Seton Hall University and Steven's Institute of Technology in developing and enhancing our STEAM program for the professional development of our faculty and academic enrichment of our students; and

WHEREAS, The Academy of Our Lady of Peace was awarded for the first time in the school's history the 2017 National Blue Ribbon School for academic excellence. Of the 169,000 public and private schools in the United States only 342 received this honor. The Academy of Our Lady of Peace was one of 50 non-public schools recognized in Washington, DC on November 7th, 2017 by the Secretary of Education, Mrs. Betsy DeVos.

NOW THEREFORE I, Allen Morgan, Mayor of the Borough of New Providence, County of Union and State of New Jersey, hereby heartily congratulate Our Lady of Peace parish on their 2017 National Blue Ribbon School Award, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

APPROVED, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017

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Allen Morgan  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Wendi B. Barry  
Borough Clerk