



**JULIA A. TRAPHAGEN SCHOOL
RECEIVES
2009 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD**

We are pleased to announce that U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, designated Julia A. Traphagen School as a Blue Ribbon School for 2009.

This year, out of more than 120,000 public and private schools in the nation, 314 achieved Blue Ribbon status. Traphagen School is one of 9 in the state of New Jersey and the only school in Bergen County to receive this award for excellence in education.

In December 2008 Traphagen School received word that we had been nominated by the New Jersey Department of Education for Blue Ribbon recognition. Nominated schools completed a lengthy application process which examined specific areas including curriculum and instruction, educational programs, indicators of academic success, school environment, staff, professional development and leadership. The U.S. Department of Education reviewed the applications over the last six months and this past week we received word that Traphagen School has earned this prestigious honor.

What exactly does it mean to be a Blue Ribbon School?

Blue Ribbon status gives national attention and recognition to schools that have achieved and attained higher levels of performance. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools in which students attain and maintain high academic goals. Using standards of excellence, as evidenced by student achievement measures, the Department celebrates the hard work of students, staff members, families, and the community. The Blue Ribbon Program honors America's most successful public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either in the top 10 percent or that have shown dramatic improvement in student performance to high levels on state or national assessments.

Congratulations to Principal Robert Sileo, current and former staff, students and parents of Traphagen School on their outstanding accomplishment!