



# SAMUEL MICKLE SCHOOL

## EAST GREENWICH TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Bethanne Barousse, Principal

Mr. Andrew Mettler, Assistant Principal

May 29, 2025

Dear Samuel Mickle School Community,

Over the past few months, the 4th Grade SOAR Team has conducted a project related to exploring and understanding school conservation efforts. The team studied cafeteria waste by analyzing patterns of waste in three categories: unopened items, trash, and uneaten food. Trash was tracked for two weeks and then launched into a No-Waste Lunch Challenge where students created an actionable solution to reduce food waste by 20% and an educational video was created and shared as a means of sharing the team's mission, data, and overall goal.

It is with great pleasure and pride to announce that out of 200 total teams, Ms. Macaluso and the Mickle 4th Grade SOAR Team won the 3rd-5th grade division of the Empowered School Competition for their work with sustainable energy, tracking trash data, and completing several interactive missions!

In addition, our 5th Grade SOAR Team won the "Outstanding Model Award" for their outstanding architectural and design elements for a colony on Mars. This award was granted on behalf of The Cosmic Leap Foundation's Space Colony Competition. We are so proud of our students' research and building efforts and hope that this experience has fostered a deepened interest in space exploration. To honor our SOAR students and their accomplishments, Snapology will be attending Samuel Mickle next week to provide our SOAR students with an engaging, hands-on STEAM experience.

Thank you, Ms. Macaluso, for bringing energy, creativity, and passion into every lesson. Her ability to blend science, technology, and engineering into engaging, hands-on experiences makes learning exciting and meaningful for her students. Her dedication and enthusiasm truly make a lasting impact on all students she teaches. We look forward to honoring Ms. Macaluso and the Mickle SOAR students at the June Board of Education meeting. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Bethanne Barousse  
Principal, Samuel Mickle School