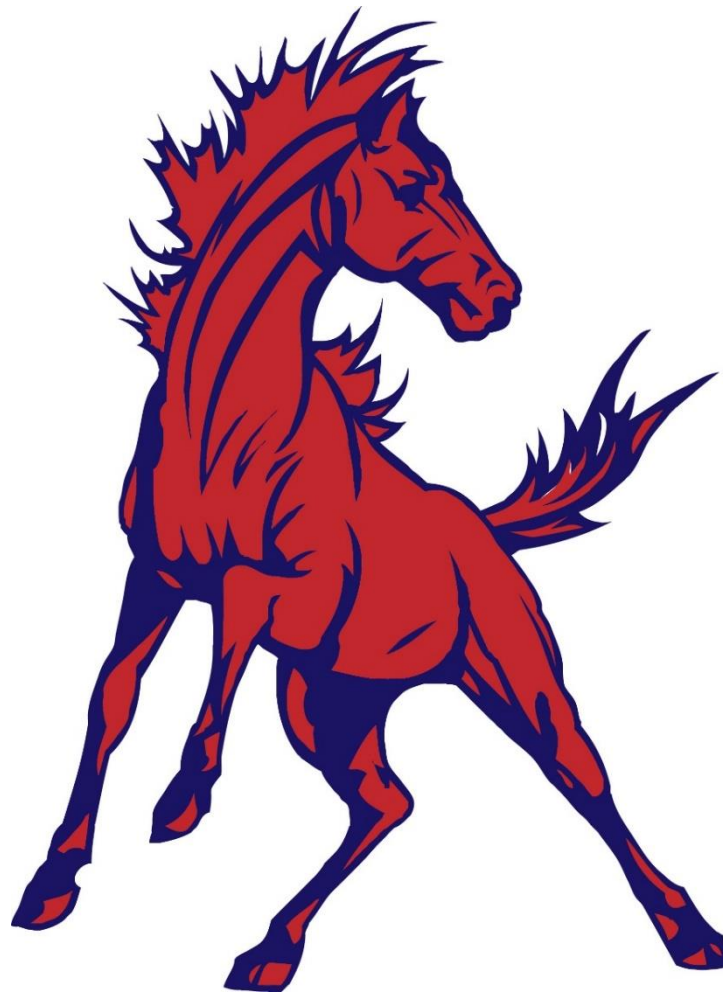


**Black Horse Pike Regional School District  
Spotlight on Alumni**

**May 2021 - *TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!***  
***TRITON Alumni***

Each May, we begin the month by recognizing our Educational Superheroes. This May is no different. In a world where the words *zoom*, *hybrid*, *synchronous* and *asynchronous* have become the norm, folks throughout the district have reached out to highlight educators near and far with BHP roots. Congratulations to all of our Spotlight winners!



## Vincent Bonanno, TR 2010



*"Vince was one of my first students when I arrived at Triton. He was a very driven individual and was always striving to do his best. He parlayed that into a career as a math teacher at Maple Shade High School and an adjunct in Mathematics at Rutgers University. Vince represents that Mustang family extremely well and any of his students whether at the high school or college level are very lucky to have him as an instructor such as I was lucky to have him as a student."*

**~ Robert Baumgartner**

- 1. After graduating from Triton, I decided to go to Rutgers University to pursue Mathematics Education. I graduated with my degree and teaching certification in 2015 and continued to get Masters in Mathematical Sciences in 2017. I didn't always know that I wanted to go into education until I met many of the educators at Triton High School. Each and every one of them showed me what it means to be compassionate and supportive. It is now my goal to help students realize their potential and provide them with opportunities.*
- 2. Today? Today, I am currently a Mathematics teacher at Maple Shade High School (a 7th-12th grade school) in Maple Shade, NJ. Before that I had the honor of filling in for many teachers in the Black Horse Pike Regional School District. I have also had the opportunity to be an adjunct professor for Rutgers University.*
- 3. Would you have done anything differently looking back? "While life has thrown me many challenges, there is nothing we can do to avoid them. For that reason, I do not believe that I would do anything differently or else I would not be the person I am today."*
- 4. I decided to go into education because I was fortunate enough to a quality education and was presented with many opportunities while at Triton. My goal is to provide knowledge and opportunities for others in whatever ways I can.*
- 5. Who were some of our great educators who left that lasting impression? "While every person I encountered at Triton was incredible, there are a few that retired recently I would like to acknowledge:*

**Mrs. A. Pasquarello** was my Biology teacher my sophomore year and really set me up to become the person I am today. Everyone in the class would always call her "Mama P" because really was a mother figure to them all. She saw something in me that I never even saw in myself. I was an "OK" student most of my life up until having her. She challenged me and helped me get placed in a majority of the Honors/AP classes and challenged me to come back and take AP Environmental Science with her. By doing so, I was forced to develop many personal development skills that I otherwise might not have had to acquire. I ended up being accepted into NJHS and receiving many other recognitions. Thank you Mama P for pushing me to be my best!

**Mrs. Eastman and Mrs. McCollum** were my music and performing arts teachers/advisors. I was always a very quiet and timid student prior to being involved in music and theater. However, **Mrs. Eastman and Mrs. McCollum** always made sure that the environments that they ran were open and respectful and allowed everyone to be a part of something special. They always had an expectation of hard work and determination from every student they had contact with. However, they also knew the importance of having fun and making a connection with everyone. I still to this day sing in various capacities and can really gain and appreciate things in the performing arts. Thank you for helping me realize one of my passions!

6. As I just mentioned, being a part of many of the music and drama departments at Triton really helped me become more outgoing and involved in my community. I was also a part of the "**Studies Program**" that really helped me connect what I was learning in English and History to the real world.
7. I used to LOVE the pep rallies that we would always have (especially when we did the "Triton Rumble") and the sense of community that we always had. I was very lucky to have been in a school where kindness and greatness was not a request, but an expectation. While many people do not stay in contact with people after graduating from high school. I can honestly say that there are so many people that I could still call today and it would be as if we just spoke yesterday. I think that says a lot about Triton's legacy.
8. While I would not change anything about the experiences I had at Triton, I do have some advice. "Never take opportunities for granted!" If I did not take some of the opportunities I was given, I can honestly say that I would not be as happy as I am today. This does not only go for my time at Triton, but throughout my entire life. We are all given the opportunity to chase after our dreams and make a difference in the world! Will you?!?

## Holly O'Donnell, TR 1991 (also our April nominee)



Health PE teacher at Triton, Coach of the year for Girls Soccer, Assistant Athletic Director for Triton

~ **Dina Tomczak, TR Physical Education Teacher**

1. Holly attended Bloomsburg University, PA earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1995 and then TCNJ for a Master's Degree in 1997.
2. Today, Holly is a Health & PE teacher and Assistant Athletic Director at Timber Creek Regional HS.
3. When asked about looking back, Ms. O'Donnell would not have done much differently. Although her career began in the world of Business, she knew she wanted to teach and coach soccer, hoping to give back to our young leaders in our high schools.
4. My time at Triton High School had a major impact on my career and life. During my time at Triton HS I was able to receive a great education and play the sport I love-soccer. I definitely would not be where I am today without the guidance and help from my teachers/coaches/counselors and administration at Triton Regional High School.
5. There were quite a few educators that were instrumental in helping mold me into the person I am today. To name just a few: **Mr. Tony Rappa** (my teacher and advisor), **Mr. Mannino** (my soccer coach) and **Mr. Cappelli** (my principal).
6. In addition to Soccer, Holly was a member of Interact, Student Council and the Italian Club
7. One of my fondest memories of my High School career, had to be traveling to Italy with my teacher- **Mr. Minniti** and the Italian Club. I remember being at the Vatican on Easter Sunday with a million people!  
I also had many great memories playing soccer and representing the Red & the Blue!!  
Once a Mustang always a Mustang!
8. Be kind, get involved, and make the most of your High School careers. Time flies by! Also take advantage of all that Triton has to offer.  
Build relationship and bonds with your friends, teachers, coaches, counselors and advisors. We are always here for you. I truly believe we have the best administration and staff around!