

## HOPATCONG BOROUGH SCHOOLS

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### **Hopatcong, NJ - Teachers Bring Kids Into the Spotlight**

Cynthia Randina, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces -

Four Hopatcong teachers have 5,000 reasons to sing and dance. Audra Bauer, Ashley Ferrentino, Julie Wilson, and Danielle Kovach were awarded a \$5,000 Hipp Grant funded by the New Jersey Education Association. Their grant, Front Stage, uses drama to boost confidence, self-esteem, and social skills for students with special needs and non-disabled peer buddies through a musical production. While students with disabilities may not often get the opportunity to shine on stage, the purpose of Front Stage is to bring students out from behind the curtain and into the spotlight. This cross-curricular grant addresses the needs of students with disabilities across multiple grade levels through a fusion of art and common core state standards. It also includes students without disabilities who possess leadership skills or those in need of emotional or social growth.

The grant will be implemented during the 2015-2016 and the performance will take place next year in May. Grant funding includes the purchase of a musical production license, a field trip to a local children's theater, materials for props and costumes, and t-shirts for all participants. The teachers will also be reaching out to local businesses to offset additional costs not funded by the grant.

Established in 1993, the NJEA Frederick L. Hipp Foundation for Excellence in Education provides grant opportunities for public school employees to implement creative ideas in the classroom. The Foundation honors the memory of Dr. Hipp, former NJEA executive director and has funded over \$1.6 million in grants that promote excellence in education.



Pictured left to right: Ms. Ferrentino, Mrs. Kovach, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Bauer