

Runnemede Public Schools

**Mary E. Volz**

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**Steve Pili**  
Principal

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Assistant Principal

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am thrilled to share some exciting news with you! Our school has recently been honored with two prestigious awards for Character Education. Volz was one of eight schools in Camden County to receive the Middle School of Character Award. Moreover, we just received notice that Volz was one of twenty-two schools in the entire state of New Jersey to be recognized as a 2025 State School of Character! Below is quote direct from the Character.org president's press release:

*"We are excited to announce today the 2025 State Schools and Districts of Character," said Dr. Arthur Schwartz, Character.org's President. "Each of these schools and districts have put into place an initiative that equips and empowers their staff to reinforce and model a range of positive core values that will shape and form the hearts, minds, and choices of their students." To learn more about the schools chosen today, please visit Character.org.*

At Volz, we believe that character education is just as important as academic achievement. Through our ongoing efforts, we strive to nurture not only the minds but also the hearts of our students. This award reflects our shared commitment to instilling values such as integrity, respect, empathy, and perseverance, all of which contribute to the development of well-rounded individuals ready to make a positive impact in the world.

We are incredibly proud of the progress our students have made in these areas, and we know that this success would not be possible without your continued support at home. Together, we are creating a community that values kindness, responsibility, and a growth mindset, and this recognition is a testament to the collective efforts of all involved.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our teachers, staff, and students, whose commitment to building character every day has been instrumental in earning this award. We also thank you, our parents and guardians, for partnering with us in this important work.

Thank you once again for your support and for being an integral part of the Volz family.

Steve Pili  
Principal