



**Dr. Michael Penna, PhD**

Educator – Toms River High School North

Performer – Actors Equity Association; Screen Actors Guild

Dr. Penna lives in Asbury Park and is an educator teaching Drama and English at Toms River High School North. Dr. Penna has a BFA in Musical Theater from Syracuse University, MA in Theater from Montclair State University, MPhil in Education from Walden University and a PhD in Education from Walden University. Dr. Penna is a professional Actor and has performed professionally for over 20 years. Dr. Penna is a proud

member of the Actors Equity Association and the Screen Actors Guild. Dr. Penna is a Board Member on the Asbury Park School District Board of Education, a State Board Member for The New Jersey International Thespian Society and a Board Member for the National English Honor Society. Dr. Penna was the recipient of the 2022 NJ State Teen Arts: Educator of the Year Award, the 2022 Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Award: for Outstanding Educator, the 2022 Monmouth Arts: Arts Education Award, the 2022 International Thespian Society: Inspirational Theatre Educator Award, the 2019 Montclair State University Foxy Award for Excellence in Theater Education and the 2018 Basie Award for Best Lighting Design of a Drama. Dr. Penna is dedicated to social justice and equality for all residents, he is an advocate for the arts, education, the disabled, and is a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community.