

EXCELLENCE NEWS

EVERY CHILD, ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Welcome Back Students!

Elizabeth Public Schools welcomed back students and team members on September 8 as it opened its doors to officially kick off the 2023-2024 school year. Among those who visited schools throughout the district to interact with students and team members were members of Elizabeth's city government, members of the Elizabeth Police Department, Elizabeth Board of Education members, and administrators from Elizabeth Public Schools central offices. The district also welcomed News 12 New Jersey who featured Elizabeth Public Schools during their morning segment related to students returning to school throughout the state. Elizabeth Public Schools and the Elizabeth Board of Education wish all members of the district's learning community a successful and rewarding school year!

SEPTEMBER 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Welcome Back
- Early Childhood
- Elementary
- High School
- Upcoming Holidays & Observances

Important Dates:

September 25 – Yom Kippur
Schools & District Closed

October 9 – Columbus Day
Schools & District Closed

Quick Links

[School District Website](#)



District Social Media



Back To School Resources



Career Opportunities



For more photos and videos, please click on link below:
[Elizabeth Public Schools Opened its Doors to Officially Kick off the 2023-2024 School Year \(epsnj.org\)](https://www.epsnj.org)



Welcome Back Administrators!



The 2023-2024 school year has officially commenced at Elizabeth Public Schools with the annual Welcome Back Administrators event.

Members of central administration joined with administrators from the district's schools to discuss its approaches, practices, and goals for the new school year.

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. were among those who presented to the large group. Smaller groups of administrators at various tables worked together to complete exercises and share feedback.



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Touring School No. 15 Annex and School No. 5

On Monday, September 11, 2023, Elizabeth Board of Education President Iliana Chevres and Vice President Charlene Bathelus Dorgely along with Director of Plant and Property Luis Milanes toured **Christopher Columbus School No. 15 Annex** with Principal Dr. Gina Donahue and Vice Principal Ms. Francesca Ferrera.

The commissioners met with the custodial and kitchen staff who have worked diligently to prepare for the opening of the school. The teachers and staff were honored to meet and have discussions with the Board of Education President and Vice President. Students are ecstatic about being in a new building that is only for middle school.



On Tuesday, September 12, Elizabeth Board of Education President Iliana Chevres, along with Elizabeth Public Schools Director of Plant, Property, and Equipment Luis Milanes, visited and toured **Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5**. Principal Colomb Thomas-Petit and Vice Principal Melissa Rabess accompanied Chevres and Milanes as they walked the interior and exterior of the building while discussing the physical aspects and amenities of the school.



EARLY CHILDHOOD



Pre-K Students Glee With Joy

Frances C. Smith Early Childhood Center School No. 50 was happy to welcome back the 315 Pre-K students. Students and parents were greeted by their teachers and were eager to meet their new friends.

School No. 50 is looking forward to a year of learning and growing together as a school family.



Roll and Play

Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 Annex is home to Pre-K students. Students in Mrs. Alves and Mrs. Colon classroom took turns rolling the color die and following instructions. Each color had a matching gross motor activity or an emotion. A fun activity to relieve the anxiety of the first day of school.



ELEMENTARY

Students Adopt A College



George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1 celebrated the first day of school in true lion pride as they welcomed back families, students from the previous year, and new scholars to the school.

Students walked in with big smiles and even bigger energy, excited to start off the 2023/ 2024 school year strong! Students and families were welcomed by School Principal Mr. Black, Board President Iliana Chevres, Board Member Jerry Jacobs, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Ceden, Elizabeth Councilman Carlos Torres, Elizabeth Councilwoman-At-Large Mrs. Pat Perkins-Auguste and the Elizabeth Fire Department. Team members and students jumped right into teaching and learning with an “Adopt A College” initiative where each classroom identified a college of their choice they were adopting for the school year.

Remembering 9/11

Joseph Battin School No. 4 remembered September 11th at 9:01 a.m. with a short reading of what had happened on the 11th followed by a moment of silence and the playing of God Bless the USA by Lee Greenwood over the intercom.

Teachers continued discussions in their classrooms and remembered those who lost their lives.



ELEMENTARY

Friendship Bracelets

In Ms. De Cataldo's first grade class, from **Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5**, read *Our Class is a Family* and then made a first-grade friendship bracelet. Students discussed the role and importance of families within schools and outside of school. Most importantly students learned that their new class would become their family while in school. Students will learn to take care of themselves, each other and the classroom. The students concluded the lesson by reading *Chrysanthemum* and creating a collage with their names. Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 takes pride in their students, teachers, and school community.



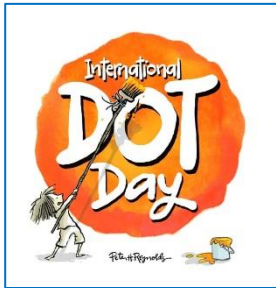
A New School Year

Students at **Toussaint L'Ouverture - Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6** were greeted by smiling faces from the Principal, Vice Principals, secretaries, Supervisor of Language Arts Mr. Ned Long and Board of Education Vice President Ms. Charlene Bathelus Dorgely. Everyone is excited for the new school year and looks forward to future accomplishments.



ELEMENTARY

International Dot Day



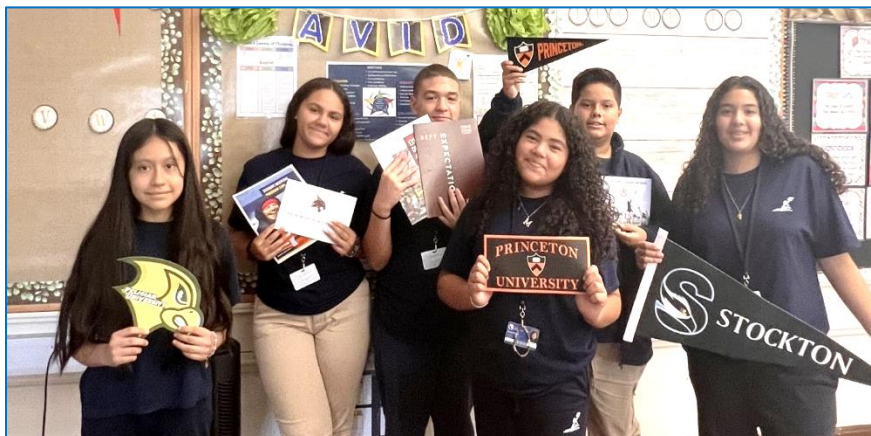
Second and third grade students from **Terence C. Reilly School No. 7** celebrated *Creativity, Courage & Collaboration*. Imagine the power and potential of millions of students and teachers around the world connecting, collaborating, creating, and celebrating all that creativity inspires and invites.

Students joined the growing global community of creativity champion using their talents, gifts and energy to move the world to a better place. The Dot is the story of a caring teacher who dares a doubting student to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to *make her mark*. What begins with a small dot on a piece of paper becomes a breakthrough in confidence and courage, igniting a journey of self-discovery and sharing, which has gone on to inspire countless children and adults around the world.



Students Kick off the School Year Exploring Their Futures

Mrs. Lopes' 8th grade AVID students at **Elmora School No. 12** started the school year off opening mail from various universities throughout the country. Students explored different colleges, career options, and avenues in which they might be interested in their futures. The students are excited to continue with their research, visiting universities, and their college and career readiness journeys.



ELEMENTARY

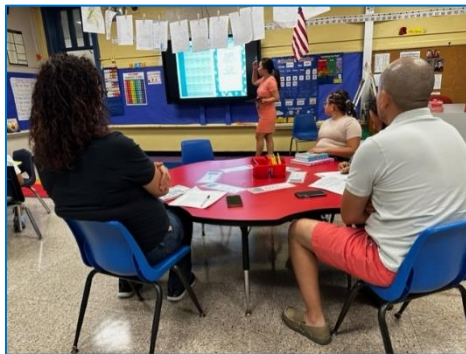


Our Class is a Family

To begin the 2023-2024 school year, after reading the story, “*Our class is a Family*”, second graders at **Benjamin Franklin School No. 13** discussed ways the class can become a family. They created a *Class Family Bracelet* and together, brainstormed words they felt described them and what they could bring to their class family. The students embraced different strengths and promised to encourage and support their class family each day.

Back to School Night

On September 13th, **Benjamin Franklin School No. 13** hosted their Back to School Night for the 2023-2024 school year. The evening began with a warm welcome from Board President Iliana Chevres and Principal Alina Stewart, followed by classroom presentations shared by each teacher. Teachers discussed their goals for the year, curriculum that will be covered, and expectations for all students. In alliance with the *Read Everyday* initiative, every family that attended had the opportunity to visit the book give-a-way table to add to their home libraries.



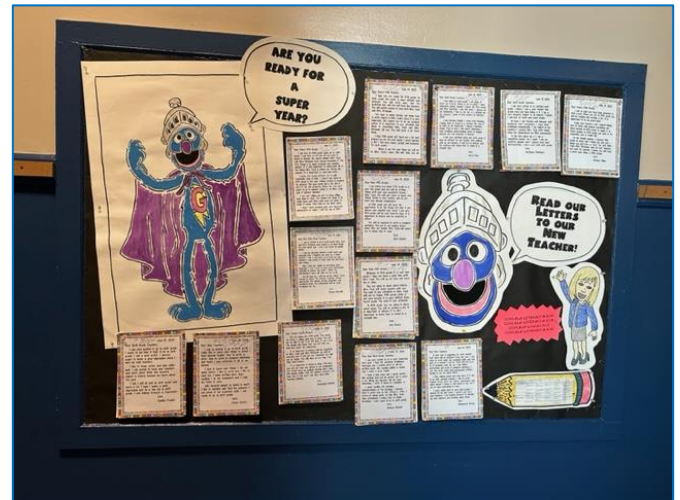
Hispanic Heritage Month

Madison-Monroe School No. 16 celebrated the contributions of Hispanics from the arts, sciences, sports, and education. Students enjoyed learning about Lin-Manuel Miranda, writer, singer, composer, and songwriter, Rita Moreno, one of the few female Latina actors to win a Tony Award and Oscar, and many others. Students also learned about the Hispanic leaders who have stayed in the struggle for equal justice to ensure that everyone in this nation can contribute their talents and can thrive.

ELEMENTARY

Getting Started

Mrs. Phyllis Taub's fifth graders from **Madison Monroe School No. 16** started off their school year in advance last June when they wrote letters to their future sixth grade teacher. Their letters, written as essays, detailed the books they enjoyed reading, writing assignments that challenged them, and the gems of wisdom they learned in fifth grade. The sixth-grade language arts teacher, Miss Debra Ann Blow, was pleased to read her letters and enjoyed that she could share their thoughts with the rest of the School No. 16.



Vibrant Displays

Excitement and anticipation were clearly in the air during opening day on Friday, September 8th at **Woodrow Wilson School No. 19**! Woodrow Wilson families were reunited once again and excited to discover what's in store for the current 2023-2024 academic year. Vibrant displays were created throughout the learning community for scholars to feel welcomed, accepted and motivated towards achieving nothing less than excellence!



ELEMENTARY

First Day of School



John Marshall School No. 20 opened its doors on September 8th to an enthusiastic group of students and families. The John Marshall Tiger, school staff and administrators and members of our Elizabeth Police Department welcomed all to the start of the 2023-2024 school year. The roar of cheers and applause from the John Marshall community certainly made the return to school extra special.

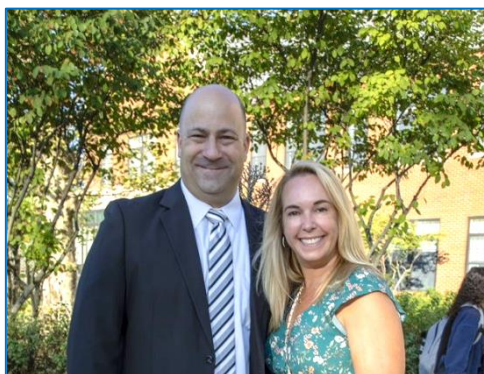
Open House



On September 15, 2023, **John Marshall School No. 20** hosted its Open House. Board President Iliana Chevres welcomed families along with Principal Nichol Comas, and Vice Principal Sara Laface-Apreda.

The John Marshall community shared the school's SMART goals along with all of the wonderful programs and activities available to the students and families. Families were able to tour the school building and to visit their children's classrooms to meet with teachers. It was evident by all in attendance that John Marshall's motto will be realized for "**T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore."

ELEMENTARY



Welcome to Academia!

Everyone was all smiles as team members greeted scholars at **Victor Mravlag School No. 21**. Excitement was in the air as youngsters returned to school after a relaxing summer. Students were greeted with welcome messages all along the outside of the building. Teachers and students came back refreshed and ready to learn. School No. 21 is looking forward to a great year!



Second Grade Signing Day

The newest Huskies attended *Second Grade Signing Day* at **William F. Halloran School No. 22**. Students and families met with the second-grade team, signed the contracts, toured the building and visited classrooms.



Red, White and Blue

On September 11th, **William F. Halloran School No. 22** honored those who lost their lives on 9/11 by hanging red, white, and blue ribbons on the gates.

ELEMENTARY

School No. 23 Welcomes Scholars

Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 faculty and staff welcomed back Scholars with open arms! Everyone had smiling faces and is looking forward to an exciting new school year, meeting their new teachers, connecting with old friends, making new friends and most importantly learning lots of new and interesting things.



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month



Mrs. Hincapie's 3rd-grade class, from **Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 Annex** have embarked on a creative journey by designing and decorating vibrant paper dolls representing a Hispanic country for their classroom. These young scholars are diligently interviewing and speaking with parents and family members to learn and share special things about the country they chose. Mrs. Hincapie's class is fostering a deep appreciation for Hispanic culture, promoting unity and understanding among their peers.

Kids Dig In

With the help of a grant from the Union County "Kids Dig In" initiative, **Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31** has really bloomed! This year, they planted pollinator gardens to support the local and regional ecosystem and the kids are thrilled to be able to get their hands in the dirt and take fresh cut flowers and herbs home to their families! The fall planting will begin soon and then we will put the gardens to bed for the winter.



ELEMENTARY

Keeping it Growing



Over the summer, students alongside their families and faculty members volunteered in the school garden at **Juan Pablo Duarte – Jose Julian Marti School No. 28** to ensure its continued success under the guidance of Mrs. Montalvo. The garden is currently growing over 20 fruits and vegetables including a miniature apple orchard with five dwarf apple trees. As a certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation and a Monarch Waystation, the garden also provides food, water, shelter for pollinators and local wildlife.

Back to School Night

Staff and students were excited to start a new school year at **Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29**. On September 13th, team members greeted over 500 parents for *Back to School Night*. On this night, teachers highlighted classroom expectations, school policies and procedures, and shared strategies used in their classroom to ensure the growth of all students. This year School No. 29 is looking forward to collaborating with the families to make the school year successful and fun-filled!



HIGH SCHOOLS

Bollwage Finance Academy Welcomes Back Autism Students



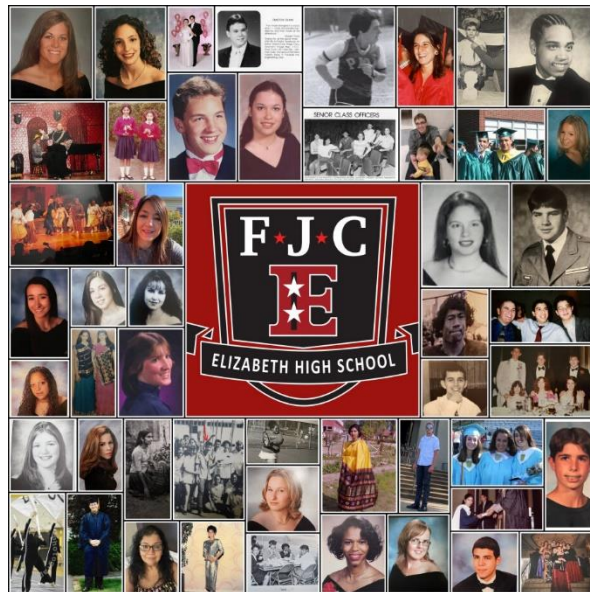
J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy's Autism teachers, Todd Lecher and Jennifer Schiffel, welcome back all of the returning students with Autism.

The students were greeted by teachers, assistants, custodians, security guards, administration, and fellow students. The Bollwage Academy wants to wish them an exciting and fantastic year.

Mystery Collage of Teachers

Students at **Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy** were welcomed back with a mystery collage of their teachers when they were in high school. Students were polled to see how many correct answers each of them could discern from the pictures, which varied in age from fairly recent to vintage.

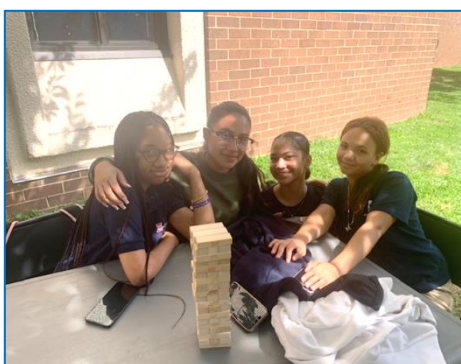
Mr. Cummings, Principal, thought it was an interesting way to engage the students and remind them that we were all once just like them. Principal Cummings stated, *It was actually one of our students' ideas. Vincent Zeferino put this together for us. We are going to have a great, but challenging, year. FJCA students have a bright future, they are capable of excellence, and their sincere efforts, and hard work, will be rewarded.*" How many teachers can you name?



Also, Vice Principal Jecenia Solorzano-Castro welcomed incoming 9th grade students on the first day of school at **Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy Annex.**

EHS-FJC Academy is excited to see what the new year will bring and wishes all students a successful year.

HIGH SCHOOLS

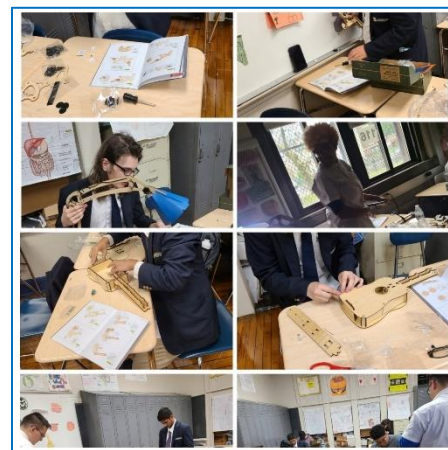


Welcoming Students and Septembers Celebrations

Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy team members were excited to welcome students back to school. This month they will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Students will be learning about and celebrating Hispanic history, culture, music, as well as important Hispanic people who have made a positive contribution to society. Morning announcements will include statements and facts celebrating contributions, achievements, and identities of Hispanic and Latino people in the United States. Students are also enjoying participating in our Hispanic heritage door decorating contest!

Hamilton STEM Club Aims For Another Successful Year!

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy's STEM Club had a very productive 2022-2023 school year. Students participated in many remarkably interesting scientific and engineering activities. This 2023-2024 academic year, the students of the STEM Club are looking forward to eagerly discussing scientific and engineering concepts and participating in engaging activities that broaden their mental horizons by deepening their understanding of important scientific concepts. STEM Club advisor, Ms. Ali, stated that STEM Club activities enrich the curriculum and give the students an informal setting to delve deeper into science and engineering concepts that they would like to explore.



Also, **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy's** seniors pursuing a STEM majors attended a presentation from Mr. Castle, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) EOP's Assistant Director.



NJIT prepares its graduates for positions of leadership as professionals and as citizens. They have amazing students from all over the world and ranked #1 in New Jersey in awarding engineering degrees to African American and Hispanic students.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every child, achieving excellence

Events

2023

Oct 2-6	Week of Respect
Oct 8-14	Fire Prevention Week
Oct 9-13	National School Lunch Week
Oct 16-20	National School Bus Safety Week
Oct 16-20	School Violence Awareness Week
Whole Month	Crime Prevention Month
Whole Month	National Principals Month
Whole Month	Breast Cancer Awareness Month

in the month of
October



You are empowered to achieve excellence!
Send us excellent news on the great things happening in your school to Delilah Sousa email: **enews@epsnj.org**

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