

## ***EPS Welcomes New Union County Superintendent***

*Interim Executive County Superintendent Daryl Palmieri visits EPS on opening day*



Interim Executive County Superintendent of Union County Daryl Palmieri visited Elizabeth Public Schools as the district welcomed back its students for the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

The Elizabeth native chose his hometown district to make his first school visits as the Interim Executive County Superintendent, visiting William F. Halloran School No. 22 and J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy. Representatives from the district who accompanied him on his visits to observe educational settings in grades PK – 12 included Elizabeth Board of Education President Maria Carvalho, Board member Jerry Jacobs, Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator Harold E. Kennedy, and Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Cedeno.

Palmieri was officially appointed on September 5 to succeed Juan Torres, who was Executive County Superintendent of both Union and Hunterdon counties before being designated solely to the west New Jersey county. He left his two visits impressed with the operation and preparation of the learning environments.

## *EPS Welcomes New Union County Superintendent (cont.)*



"I am honored that Mr. Palmieri chose Elizabeth as his first official visit to schools in the county and am pleased that he had encouraging words to say about our schools," said Hugelmeyer. "I look forward to working with him as we continue to enhance the high quality instruction we provide at Elizabeth Public Schools."



Carvalho echoed those sentiments and also offered a glowing endorsement of the district's staff members for ensuring schools were ready to welcome back the community on opening day.

"The positive sentiments that Mr. Palmieri shared about our schools is a testament to the wonderful team members that we have at Elizabeth Public Schools," said Carvalho. "In spite of a challenging first day throughout the district due to the heat wave, our team members were well prepared and welcomed our students and families back in excellent fashion."

To see all photos from Mr. Palmieri's visit, please visit:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/epschools/albums/72157673181569028>

## USDOE Visits EHS to Discuss Financial Aid

*Deputy Chief Operating Officer encourages students to apply for FAFSA; introduces new mobile app*



U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid Deputy Chief Operating Officer Kathleen A. Smith visited Elizabeth High School Wednesday to speak with students about the availability and importance of applying for financial aid to attend college.

The visit came as part of a tour by the Department to promote the release of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) mobile app. The app, MyStudentAid, which is available on Android and iOS devices, is designed to “reach the students where they are” and to help generate an increase in the number of completed FAFSA applications.

Smith spoke with about 25 junior and senior EHS students, including class officers and members of student government. In addition to touting the mobile app, she stressed the importance of applying since students could be eligible for assistance even if it is a nominal amount of financial support. She also provided handout materials to students detailing how FAFSA could be filled out by visiting the FAFSA website or using the MyStudentAid app and that filling out the FAFSA is the first step to get federal student loans, federal grants, state loans, state grants and scholarships, and grants and scholarships from other organizations.



U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid Program/Management Analyst Maisha Challenger and New Jersey Department of Education Director of the Office of Budget Amanda Schultz were also on hand to speak with students and promote applying for financial aid by filling out the 2019-2020 FAFSA form, which will be made available beginning October 1, 2018.

“We believe that students can achieve at high levels regardless of socioeconomic status,” said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. “Access to financial aid for our eligible students would help break the socioeconomic barrier that is often present in pursuing postsecondary education and give them the opportunity to fulfill their potential and realize their dreams.”

“Financial aid is such an important component to the access of a college education for the students of our community and I thank both the U.S. and New Jersey Departments of Education for taking the time to share vital information with our students,” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Maria Z. Carvalho. “I encourage all of our students who are interested in pursuing a college education to learn more about financial aid that may be available to them and to apply.”



## EHS Ranked Among Top 25 Schools in NJ by NJ Monthly



# New Jersey MONTHLY

### NJ'S TOP PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS | 2018

Elizabeth High School ranked among the top 25 schools in the state according to the rankings published by New Jersey Monthly of the top public high schools in New Jersey.

The ratings methodology used by New Jersey monthly included measures of school environment, student performance, student outcomes, and weighting that included indicators such as student/faculty ratio; Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and SAT assessment data; graduation rate; and college enrollment after graduation.

EHS was ranked No. 25 among 305 public high schools in New Jersey and was the No. 2 ranked public high school in Union County, moving up nearly 100 spots from 2016 when it was ranked No. 122.

2018	2016	High School Name	County	Grade 12 Enrollment	Student/faculty ratio	# of AP/IB subjects offered	% students grades 11-12 taking at least one AP/IB course	Total AP/IB tests taken as a % of total 11-12 graders	% students grades 9-12 taking at least one arts course	% students scoring at or above 550 for math SAT	% students scoring at or above 480 for reading & writing SAT	% students taking one or more exam who scored at least one AP 3+ or IB 4+	4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate	% students enrolled in college 16 months after HS
25	122	Elizabeth	Union	200	17	21	100.0	377.51	82	80	90	63.6	99.0	89.7

Notably, EHS is one of six high schools among the 305 ranked to have 100% of its eleventh and twelfth students taking at least one AP/IB course. Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, another Elizabeth public high school, was also among the six to have 100% of its upper classmen enrolled in an AP/IB course, which is a testament to the district's efforts to challenge its students with a rigorous curriculum.

"An important part of our efforts to create academic excellence in our schools is to provide high quality instruction and a rigorous curriculum," said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "We believe we are achieving that in offering a large number of AP classes as part of our goals of college preparedness and career readiness."

Another standout indicator for EHS is its 99.0 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, among the top 10 of all the public high schools ranked.

"Elizabeth High School continues to do a wonderful job of ensuring its students graduate on time and are ready to pursue a college education or to enter the work force with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Maria Z. Carvalho. "This top 25 ranking from New Jersey Monthly is a credit to the commitment to excellence that has been made by the students and team members of EHS."

# ***Bollwage Finance Academy WE Club Walks for Water***

## ***Bollwage Senior Brandon Fernandez Selected to Appear on We Day UN Stage***



Students of the J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy WE Club participated in the WE Walk for Water campaign as part of WE Schools, raising a total of \$959 to help provide clean water for the women and children around the world who walk hours each day to collect water.

Approximately 100 Bollwage Finance Academy students participated in the overnight walk fundraising event. The walk is symbolic to simulate the hours long treks made by women and children each day in pursuit of drinking water. The arduous journeys compounds in difficulty when having to carry back the water that is collected, which can weigh about 40 pounds when the container is full.

Bollwage Finance Academy senior Brandon Fernandez, for his tremendous efforts in leading and developing the WE Walk for Water campaign, was among the students chosen to be on the stage at the WE Day UN at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn on September 26. The event will bring together world-renowned speakers, A-list performers, and tens of thousands of youth to celebrate a year of action that transformed communities and changed lives.

Fernandez was one of eight students selected from the east coast to be highlighted during the four different WE moment segments. During each WE moment segment, two of the selected students appear on stage to discuss the community service project that took place at their respective school. Brandon will be introduced on stage by a celebrity host to highlight Bollwage Finance Academy's WE Walk for Water event and will be speaking to almost 20,000 students attending WE Day UN.

The Bollwage Finance Academy event called on ten group leaders to be responsible for raising a minimum of 25 dollars to participate in the over night walk, an amount that gives one person access to clean water for life according to WE. Students were encouraged to ask teachers, family members, and companies for a donation.

Throughout the night there were walks, a talent show, and games between groups to keep students active. Local restaurant Valenca donated food for the evening and many Bollwage Finance Academy teachers volunteered to be part of the walk and help monitor the student participants.

In addition to Fernandez, Bollwage Finance Academy senior Shamyah Bowers was recognized by her WE Schools advisor for being an integral part of the WE program and the WE Walk for Water campaign.

## Halsey MJROTC Cadets Remember September 11th



On the 17th anniversary of September 11, 2001, cadets from Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program joined members of Elizabeth's Police and Fire Departments and Elizabeth city officials in a ceremony honoring and remembering the heroes and the fallen as well as recognizing September 11 as a day of national resilience.

In the words of Halsey Senior Marine Instructor Colonel Robert G. Golden III USMC (Ret), "Instead of cowering from those attacks, Americans everywhere were outraged by this unjustified attack on their freedoms and united together to fight it. No matter how many years pass, no matter how long ago that day may seem in the future, we as American citizens have a right to those lost to never forget that bond formed from the dust left in the wake."



### WE REMEMBER

EPS honors and remembers the heroes and the fallen, including the six Elizabeth residents who lost their lives, during the tragic and devastating events of September 11, 2001.



Arcelia Castillo, 49

Carlos S. DaCosta, 41

Colleen Laura Fraser, 51

Margaret Susan Lewis, 49

Frankie Serrano, 23

Anthony Tempesta, 38



## *Dwyer Tech Students Featured in NJIT VR Education Article*



Students from John E. Dwyer Technology Academy were featured in an article about a partnership between the school and New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) that offers Dwyer students the opportunity to participate in virtual reality education.

The article focuses on a research grant awarded by Oculus Education to NJIT lecturer Eric Nersesian to study the potential and impact of using VR to teach chemistry to high school students. an at Ying Wu College of Computing (YWCC). Elizabeth Public Schools has been working with Nersesian since 2017 when students engaged in a semester-long project learning about designing, developing, and maintaining virtual reality educational applications.

The story by NJIT Staff Writer/Editor Shydale James can be read here: <https://news.njit.edu/university-lecturer-lands-grant-oculus-unlock-potential-virtual-learning-environments/>

## *EHS Marching Band Using New Tech to Enhance Program*

The Elizabeth High School Marching Band will be using UDBapp, the app from Ultimate Drill Book, to learn and enhance their program for the 2018 season.



UDBapp is an app that allows bands to choreograph their performances and animate precise details of the steps and movements for bands and their individual performers.

Among the app's many innovative features are follow an individual performer's routine, seeing a performer's steps in a band or performer mode, and viewing the performance from the point of view of the performer or the band director.

Elizabeth's 145 student band, co-directed by Benjamin Schwartz and Jacob Ulm, will be performing "Celebra La Vida" for its 2018 program. The program will include music from the movie *Coco* and classical music by Arturo Marquez.

The Elizabeth High School Marching Band's first competition is Saturday, September 22 at Scotch Plains/Fanwood High School.



# ELIZABETH ATHLETICS

## *Coach Colicchio Makes Star Ledger's Top 50 Most Influential People in NJ HS Sports*

Elizabeth Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Phil Colicchio is among the 50 most influential people in New Jersey high school sports in 2018 according to NJ.com.

Colicchio was ranked No. 23 in the NJ.com rankings that took into account coaches, administrators, and athletes from over 400 high schools throughout New Jersey and asked readers to nominate those who they felt should be included on the list.

The Elizabeth native, who returned home after a long and successful head coaching career at Linden High School during which his teams won 6 Group 4 state championships, was one of five active boys basketball coaches to be selected for the top 50 list.

For the full top 50 list, please visit: <http://s.nj.com/mvUOKMI>

## *Elizabeth Varsity Boys Soccer Lends an Assist*

In August, members of the Boys Soccer Team attended Assemblywoman Annette Quijano's Sixth Annual Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation sandwich project, in conjunction with the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless and St. Joseph Social Service Center, at the Elizabeth on Division Street.

Student athletes Denis Cruz, Denilson Dominique, Mathew Giraldo, Kelvin Gyamfi, Nathaniel Laguerre, Steven Narvaez, Youkendjy Pacius, Jason Salamanca, Dylan Valencia, Stephen Valencia, Brian Velasquez, Juan Vidal, Angel Villagran, and Jordy Zuniga contributed to the cause in helping prepare 1,300 sandwiches for the homeless.



## EQUITY

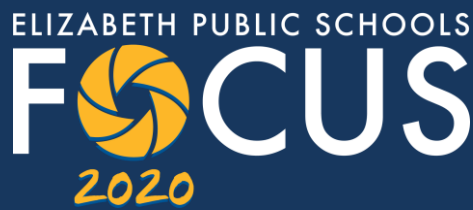
As a nation, America's Promise is that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity or social class, should receive a high quality, academically rich and rigorous public education.

## EXPECTATIONS

The concept of high expectations is premised on the philosophical and pedagogical belief that a failure to hold all students to high expectations effectively denies them access to a high quality education, since the educational achievement of students tends to rise or fall in direct relation to the expectations placed upon them.

## EXCELLENCE

Educational Excellence is defined as students performing at high levels or where students are making significant gains in academic achievement helping to prepare every child for global competitiveness.



## Student

We believe ALL students can learn and achieve at high levels regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, neighborhood, household income or home language.

*ALL Means ALL. We will narrow the achievement gaps of students by providing a high quality education to ensure that ALL of our students are college and career ready.*

## Teacher

We believe teachers make a positive difference in student achievement. Teachers will prepare ALL students for success in college, career, and our technological global society.

*We believe that teachers are central in a child's life. Having an effective teacher is the single most important factor in student success.*

## Leader

We believe that effective leaders demonstrate unwavering commitment to high levels of achievement for ALL students.

*Leaders will exemplify and support practices that promote high levels of achievement for ALL students.*

## Family

We believe that parents and caregivers are both valued partners and active participants in their children's learning. A shared sense of mutual responsibility for learning is the foundation for family involvement to ensure student success.

*We are committed to engaging parents and caregivers in their children's education. We will develop a coordinated strategy that enables parents and caregivers to play an active role in building and sustaining family support for their children's learning and academic success.*

## Team

We believe that every member of the Elizabeth Public Schools Team has a responsibility in producing and supporting high levels of achievement for ALL students.

*Every member of the Elizabeth Public Schools team will make a measurable contribution to the success and achievement for ALL students by ensuring equitable distribution of resources throughout the organization.*