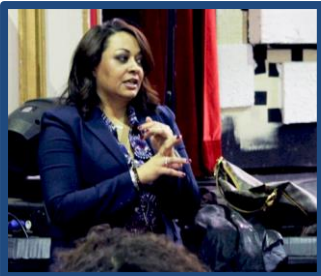
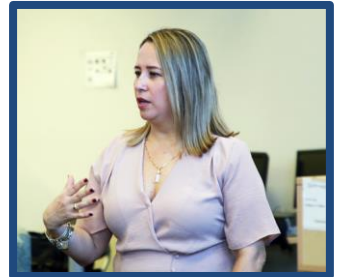


EPS Hosts Assemblies Honoring Women's History Month



Elizabeth Public Schools and the Elizabeth Board of Education hosted assemblies at each of its seven high schools on March 12-13 in honor of Women's History Month. The assemblies focused on the achievements of women throughout history as well as current events and issues in which women are taking an increasingly prominent role.

Guest speakers included Union County Director of Finance Bibi Taylor, Elizabeth Councilwoman At Large Patricia Perkins-Auguste, City of Elizabeth Business Administrator Bridget Anderson, Union County Division of Youth Services Assistant Director Norma Marcela Nunez, Elizabeth Public Information Officer Kelly Martins, Union County Office of Veteran Services Coordinator Janna Williams, and Union County Health and Human Services Director Debbie Ann Anderson, along with additional guests Elizabeth Board of Education member Charlene Bathelus, and Elizabeth Police Department Detectives Yohara Barrios and Jeanine Taylor and Officers Jennifer Perez and Ina Silva. Union County Freeholder Sergio Granados also visited to offer his support of the assemblies.

EPS School First in US Selected as HP Showcase School

School No. 22 among only two schools throughout U.S. to be selected for 2019



Digital Promise

Accelerating Innovation in Education

William F. Halloran School No. 22 was the first school chosen from throughout the United States as an HP Showcase School. The school was notified following a March 13 visit from Reinvent the Classroom Project Director Dr. Stefanie Pautz.

HP Showcase Schools are part of the Reinvent the Classroom Initiative, a collaboration with Digital Promise Global, HP, and Microsoft, which aims to inspire, create and design next-generation learning experiences by leveraging HP technology and Microsoft solutions. Only two schools from across the US will be designated an HP Showcase School this year.

Through their selection to this exclusive initiative, School No. 22 will receive 40 hours of customized coaching and professional learning from Digital Promise and HP to elevate their great work as well as \$25,000 in innovative hardware and software for teachers and students to use. Additionally, with the support of Digital Promise Global, School No. 22 will host community events and school tours and be featured in a public profile detailing their journey to engage students in powerful learning experiences.

Among the activities performed by HP Showcase Schools are providing demonstrations and inspiring stories of students engaged in powerful learning experiences, administrators sharing strategies and stories of how the school's culture and practices support powerful learning, hosting visitors and providing student led tours, maintaining a published profile of their school journey, developing and publishing a virtual reality school tour, receiving and piloting new technologies, and participating in coaching and professional learning with Digital Promise staff.

Innovation and Technology has been a pillar of Elizabeth Public Schools' strategic plan over the past several years and the HP Showcase School designation is the latest recognition of the district's strong commitment to that component of teaching and learning.

"As a district that prides itself on its ability to provide an innovative and personal learning environment, it is vital to us to create and promote a culture for digital learning," said Hugelmeyer. "School No. 22 continues to do a remarkable job of incorporating technology into its curriculum. Last year, they were recognized as a Microsoft Showcase School for their outstanding use of technology to drive student success and develop 21st century skills. In being selected for this prestigious initiative, I am eager to see how School No. 22 further strengthens its teaching and learning through its partnership with Digital Promise and HP."

"When you are only one of two in the entire country to be selected for something, you know that you have achieved something really special," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. "Congratulations to School No. 22 students, staff, and families for this wonderful accomplishment and for leading the way in leveraging technology to inspire exceptional student performance."

3 EPS Schools Ranks Among Top 100 Schools in NJ



Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy (EHS-FJC), Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, and William F. Halloran School No. 22 all ranked among the top 100 schools in the state according to New Jersey Department of Education data obtained by New Jersey Advanced Media.

Over 2,000 New Jersey public schools appeared in the report, receiving a score on a scale of 1-100. For high schools, their scores are a reflection of four and five-year graduation rate, progress toward English language proficiency, English proficiency, math proficiency, and chronic absenteeism. Elementary and middle schools received scores based on English language arts growth, math growth, progress toward English language proficiency, English language arts proficiency, math proficiency, and chronic absenteeism.

EHS-FJC (No. 42), School No. 7 (No. 59), and School No. 22 (No. 86) were among eight non-vocational public schools from Union County to appear in the top 100.

“Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, and William F. Halloran School No. 22, through their intense commitment to instructional rigor and high quality instruction, continue to raise the bar of academic excellence,” said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer.

“The students at each of these three schools repeatedly have shown that their academic prowess stacks up well against students throughout the State of New Jersey and beyond.”

Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves praised EHS-FJC (No. 42), School No. 7 (No. 59), and School No. 22 in taking its place among the state’s top schools.

“I had the pleasure of visiting School No. 7 last month and based on the wonderful activities and lessons that were taking place, I am certainly not surprised to see them among the top schools in the state,” said Goncalves. “I look forward to the opportunity to visit School No. 22 and EHS to witness for myself the teaching and learning taking place that put them among the top 100 schools. Congratulations to all three school communities for your elite academic performance and for representing Elizabeth Public Schools so admirably.”

Hamilton Students Attend MSU Women's Leadership Conference



Forty female juniors from Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy were among over 400 women high school students who attended the 5th Annual Young Women's Leadership Conference at Montclair State University on March 9. The conference was presented at the University Hall Conference Center by the MSU Equal Opportunity Fund Program.

Montclair State University's Educational Opportunity Fund Program provides access for motivated state residents from underrepresented populations and areas that meet the income criteria and exhibit the potential for high achievement. The Program also provides MSU students quality academic support, leadership development, financial literacy, career enrichment, intentional counseling/advisement, and need-based financial assistance to maximize the intellectual and social growth of all participants.

Among the topics that were discussed at the conference include the importance of attending college, healthy relationships, financial literacy, mentorship, womanhood, and effective leadership. Montclair State University student leaders participated and served as mentors to foster student engagement. The program also included information about applying to Montclair State and financial aid information. The primary purpose of this annual event is to increase the number of women of color applying and ultimately attending colleges and universities.



EHS Participates in First Ever Robotics Competition

Team receives Highest Rookie Seed, Rookie All-Star Awards



The Elizabeth High School Robotics team, Kronecker Delta Team 7853, competed in its first ever robotics competition at the Mount Olive District Event, sponsored by Picatinny STEM, on March 8-10 in Mount Olive, New Jersey.

The Mount Olive District Event is part of the 2019 FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Destination: Deep Space presented by the Boeing Company. Kronecker Delta Team 7853 entered the FRC as a rookie team in 2019.

In January, EHS received a \$6,000 grant, including a kit of robotics competition tools, exclusively for FRC Rookie teams participating in the 2019 season. High school teams compete head to head on a special playing field with robots they have designed, built, and programmed to perform challenging tasks against a field of competitors. In addition to learning valuable STEM and life skills, the team must also raise funds, design a team brand, hone teamwork skills, and perform community outreach.



Kronecker Delta Team 7853 competed against fierce competition for three days, receiving praise from veteran teams, judges, mentors, and industry leaders for their robot creation. Although they fell short of advancing to the playoffs at the district event, the team earned the Highest Rookie Seed and Rookie All-Star Awards.

EHS Participates in First Ever Robotics Competition (cont.)



The Highest Rookie Seed Award celebrates the highest-seeded rookie team at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds, while the Rookie All-Star Award celebrates a rookie team that exemplifies a young but strong partnership effort and implements the mission of FIRST to inspire students to learn more about science and technology. In their most recent event, they received the Rookie Inspiration Award, sponsored by National Instruments, which celebrates a rookie team's outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers, both within their school, as well as in their community.

The team is currently ranked No. 56 among 128 teams in the district following its performance at the Bridgewater-Raritan District Event sponsored by Picatinny STEM on March 15-17.

"Elizabeth Public Schools is always seeking ways to provide innovative educational experiences for its students," stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "Thanks to a grant from Mid-Atlantic Robotics, our students are able to participate in a competitive environment that promotes STEM education and activities that may inspire them to further explore STEM career fields. In that sense, the students participating are winners regardless of the standings."

"We are proud of all the members of Kronecker Delta Team 7853 for the awards they received and the efforts they have put into making the robotics team successful" said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. "With International Women's Day recently passing, I'm also very encouraged to see several young women among the members of the robotics team who are demonstrating an interest in STEM related activities and making valuable contributions to the team's success."

Elizabeth Jazz Ensemble, Band Shine at State Prelims



The Elizabeth Jazz Ensemble received a gold rating and were recognized as the best rhythm section while the Elizabeth Jazz Band received a silver rating at the New Jersey Association for Jazz Education (NJAJE) Jazz Ensemble Festival preliminaries held at Bridgewater-Raritan High School on March 5.

The preliminary round of the festival consists of all participating ensembles, regardless of school size, performing at one of five locations on consecutive nights and being adjudicated by the same three professionals. The adjudicators keep scores for each performance group until after the last preliminary event. The scores are then revealed and the top nine performance groups from each division, based on school enrollment, advance to the finals.

Sight-reading, or performance of a piece that has not been previously seen, is required and is scored as 15% of the total score in the preliminary round. Improvisation is also required as one of the new components of the sight-reading adjudication. Sight-reading and improvisation are also required in the final round and are identical in weight to the preliminary round.

With a gold rating, while not guaranteed, the Elizabeth Jazz Ensemble is likely to advance to the finals. The gold rating is just the third earned by Elizabeth in the preliminaries over the past 12 years. The Division 1 finals will be held at J.P. Stevens High School in Edison, New Jersey on April 27.

Individual performers from Elizabeth also excelled as Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy senior Joseph Oldam and EHS junior James Bally were named Outstanding Soloists at the event. Oldam and Bally have already distinguished themselves individually, with both having qualified for the Region II Jazz Ensemble in March 2018. Oldam earned his spot in the ensemble on the bass while Bally was selected for his talents on the piano.

Elizabeth Jazz Ensemble, Band Shine at State Prelims (cont.)



“For three years in a row, Elizabeth Public Schools has been named a Best Community for Music Education,” stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. “Our learning community has been recognized for its outstanding commitment to music education largely because of the tremendously gifted student musicians that we are so fortunate to have throughout our district as well as the wonderful teachers and music directors who lead our music programs. The Elizabeth Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band continue to lead the way with their consistently outstanding performances.”

“Congratulations to the Elizabeth Jazz Ensemble and Elizabeth Jazz Band for once again excelling in competition with some of the best the state has to offer,” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. “Receiving the gold and silver ratings are a reflection of your dedication to your craft and determination to succeed. We hope you both advance and have another opportunity in the finals to show everyone just how amazing you are.”

EHS Band Members Qualify for Region II Band

Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy juniors James Bally (piano), Natalia Arcieri (instrument), and Daniel Lazo (instrument) qualified for the New Jersey Association for Jazz Education Region II Jazz Ensemble after auditioning at Rahway High School on March 11.

The students will rehearse with the Region II ensemble at Rahway High School and Hopewell Valley High School in March and April before performing in concert at Rahway High School on April 7 at 3:00 p.m.



Duarte –Martí School No. 28 Earns First Place in NJ Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program



NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28 has been selected as the first place winner of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program's Very Impressive Produce (VIP) Award sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

As the first place winner, School No. 28 will receive a plaque; a visit from New Jersey Department of Agriculture dignitaries; a choice of a salad bar, nutrition education resources, or Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program equipment such as a carts, food prep tables, or a steamer not to exceed \$1,500; and a Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program grant for school year 2019-2020.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program provides the opportunity for school children to try new, healthier foods and increases their fruit and vegetable consumption, ultimately leading to lifelong dietary habits.

The program was initiated as a pilot in 2002 by the United States Department of Agriculture in four states and one Indian Tribal Organization. Legislation in 2004 made the program permanent and the federal Farm Bill, which became law in June 2008, expanded the fruit and vegetable program to all 50 states including New Jersey beginning in the 2008-2009 school year.

Schools are required to serve only fresh fruits and vegetables to students, which could only be served during the academic school day and not during the breakfast or lunch meal periods or during after school programs. The fruits and vegetables also had to be offered throughout the entire school year and as many times as possible during the school week.

Student volunteers at School No. 28 pick up the fresh fruits or vegetables on specified days and are responsible for bringing them to their class and distributing them to their classmates. Student activities related to fruit and vegetables include creating monthly taste testing graphs that illustrate their fruit and vegetable preferences, creating a monthly newsletter highlighting the fruit or vegetable of the month, creating a chart to indicate which foods are healthy and unhealthy from their plate, and researching healthy recipes and nutritional facts.

School No. 28 Earns First Place in NJ Fruit and Vegetable Program (cont.)

Teachers, referring to the contents of the student newsletter, provide lessons to their students and hold discussions that include how the highlighted fruit or vegetable tastes. Students learn the nutritional value fruits and vegetables provide while experiencing different foods across grade levels that allow them to reflect on the food they eat and take notes on ways they can improve their diet.

Qualifying schools for the program must have 50 percent or more of its students eligible for free or reduced price meals, attempt to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables, publicize the program to ensure all students have access to the produce offered, and partner with outside organizations to enhance nutrition education.

School No. 28 uses Facebook and Instagram to promote the fruit or vegetable of the month and recipes for the parents to try at home with their kids. Challenges are also posted on social media to encourage healthy eating. During Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meetings, parents are informed of the benefits of the program and of the fruit or vegetable of the month. During the Math Night, the PTO sponsors a tasting station for fruits and vegetables and graphs are made of students and parents' favorite fruit. School No. 28 families were also invited to the Farmer's Market at a neighboring Elizabeth school for an opportunity to enjoy free fresh foods, including vegetables, fruits, and other organic food items while promoting healthy eating.

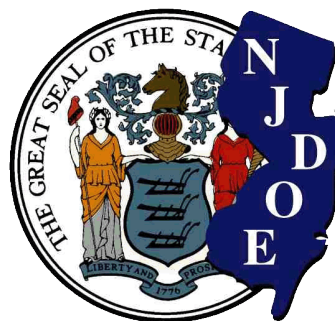
The school also operates an urban garden through the Union County Kids Dig In Grant, sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and supported by Groundworks Elizabeth, that allows students to experience gardening and growing fresh fruits and vegetables. As part of the grant, the school donates 30% of its annual harvest for community donation and enrolls in Come Grow With Us!, a free countywide information and resource sharing network for community gardens.

The extensive fruit and vegetable related activities at School No. 28, and the award that was earned as a result of those activities, reflect Elizabeth Public Schools' dedication and commitment to students' health and well-being, allowing them achieve at high levels.

"As a district, we are committed to providing programs and instruction that promote physical wellness at all grade levels," stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "We are always seeking new and innovative ways to teach our students the value of living a healthy lifestyle and provide them healthier foods to guide them in that direction. School No. 28 receiving the first place award from the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program shows their dedication to the growth of their students and symbolizes our focus on the overall wellbeing of our students."

"Congratulations to the students and staff of School No. 28 for earning this outstanding award," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. "For our students to perform at their best in the classroom and out on the playing fields, their minds and bodies must also be at their best. Thanks to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, students at School No. 28 and our other participating schools have a greater opportunity to reach their potential through developing and maintaining healthy eating habits."

EPS Students Attend Recovery High School Tuition Free



Elizabeth Public Schools now has the ability to send qualifying students with substance abuse disorders to attend the Raymond J. Lesniak Experience Strength and Hope (ESH) Recovery High School tuition free, thanks to a \$1 million grant provided to the recovery high school by the New Jersey Department of Education.

The ESH Recovery High School, the first of its kind to open in New Jersey, is one of three recovery high schools currently operating in the state. Recovery high schools were designed specifically to serve and meet the needs of students in recovery from substance abuse disorders, offering individualized classroom and virtual instruction, credit recovery, and postsecondary planning led by peer recovery specialists and licensed drug and alcohol counselors.

Prior to the grant, tuition at the recovery high school costs \$15,000 for Union County residents and \$20,000 for those living outside Union County.

The grant funding for the recovery high school is a win-win situation for Elizabeth Public Schools, as it provides the district the opportunity to best serve its students who are committed to recovery from substance misuse while doing so at no tuition cost to the district.

Currently, there are eight Elizabeth Public Schools students attending the ESH Recovery High School who, upon graduation, will receive the same high school diploma as those who graduate from the seven in-district high schools in Elizabeth.

Several students have graduated from the ESH Recovery High Schools since it opened in 2014, including some that have gone on to attend college. The prospects of college for those who attend the recovery high school aligns well with the district's goals of college preparedness, career readiness, and "on-time" graduation for every child.

"In its brief existence, the ESH Recovery High School has been a great partner to our district, because their curriculum and philosophies are emblematic of our belief that every child can achieve excellence," stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "While receiving the support they need to keep their lives on a positive path, students at the recovery high school are still meeting high expectations and receiving quality instruction that are much like the standards to which we hold our in-district school students."

EPS Students Attend Recovery High School Tuition Free (cont.)

“Helping at-risk youth is something that is very near and dear to me,” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. “I am so grateful that the Raymond J. Lesniak Experience Strength and Hope (ESH) Recovery High School is available for our students and those in surrounding communities who have struggled with substance abuse. The individual guidance and treatment that they are able to provide give those at-risk students the best opportunity to live healthy and successful lives while making appreciable contributions to society.”

EHS Speech and Debate Succeeds at Princeton Invitational

The Elizabeth High School Speech and Debate Team finished third overall in the Princeton Forensics Invitational on March 9 in Princeton, New Jersey.

Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy (EHS-FJC) senior Damien McCree finished first in Dramatic Interpretation (DI) and second in Program Oral Interpretation (POI); EHS-FJC freshman Harnoor Gogna finished first in Declamation (DEC); EHS-FJC seniors Justin Dolalas and Hunter Ayala finished second in Duo Interpretation (DUO); EHS-FJC sophomore Olivia Iheke finished fourth in Humorous Interpretation (HI); EHS-FJC senior Fiona Joseph finished fourth in Improvisational Acting (IPV); EHS-FJC juniors Lougayen Souryal and Varronika Siryon finished fifth in DUO; EHS-FJC senior Pamela Pajuelo finished fifth in POI; and Dolalas also finished sixth in IPV.

The Princeton Invitational marks the second event the EHS Speech and Debate Team placed third overall. The team also finished third in sweepstakes at the Montville Township High School Invitational on February 23.

“The ability of a speech and debate team to be among the top finishers in a tournament rests on the individual talents of all those from the team who participate in a given competition,” stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. “The Elizabeth High School Speech and Debate Team is very fortunate to have so many individuals with exceptional talents that make measurable contributions in leading the team to great overall success.”

“With each passing tournament, we see so many different students reveal their character and their abilities in contributing to the success of the Elizabeth High School Speech and Debate Team,” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. “It serves as a reminder of the unique abilities possessed by each and every one of our students and how every student within our district is truly one of a kind and possesses great potential to succeed in school and in life.”



SPEECH & DEBATE

EQUITY

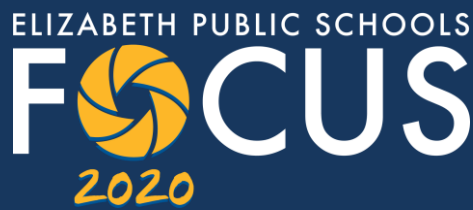
As a nation, America's Promise is that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity or social class, should receive a high quality, academically rich and rigorous public education.

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.