

Elmora School No. 12 Becomes First Urban AVID National Demonstration School in NJ



Elmora School No. 12 has been selected as an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) National Demonstration School in an announcement made by AVID this afternoon.

According to AVID, School No. 12 is New Jersey's first urban AVID National Demonstration School.

AVID is a research-based instructional model that encourages students to prepare for and participate in a challenging college preparatory curriculum and is implemented in more than 6,400 schools in 47 states across the U.S., plus schools in Department of Defense Education, Canada, and Australia. AVID impacts nearly 2 million students in grades K–12 and 50 postsecondary institutions.

School No. 12 First Urban AVID National Demo School in NJ (cont.)

The AVID team arrived at School No. 12 in the morning to take a school-wide tour and evaluate the school's AVID program to determine whether it met the standards to become a national demonstration site.



School No. 12 has been building its AVID program since 2013. In June 2016, School No. 12 was among the schools throughout the country to be selected as an AVID Showcase School for AVID's Fall 2016 showcase schedule, at which a presentation was given on School No. 12's AVID implementation. Visitors, including educators from throughout New Jersey, engaged in conversations with students about WICOR (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading) strategies and observed students' participation in Philosophical Chairs and Socratic Seminars on controversial topics.

On July 19, Elmora School No. 12 Vice Principal Melissa Kulick was given the prestigious honor to present the keynote address during the General Session at the 2018 AVID Summer Institute in Philadelphia, PA. Summer Institute is AVID's annual professional learning event where districts come to learn the latest in AVID methodologies and strategies to successfully implement AVID in their schools.

Kulick shared School No. 12's journey in becoming an AVID Demonstration Site with participants representing districts throughout the Northeast. She reflected on a moment when she recognized that AVID was going to be successful at School No. 12

School No. 12 First Urban AVID National Demo School in NJ (cont.)

"...I walked into a seventh grade AVID class and overheard a student say to peers, 'Let's collaborate before we decide which topic to side with,'" said Kulick. "She pointed to the classroom WICOR poster as if it was this powerful weapon. At that moment, something clicked within me. I knew that AVID was beginning to take hold."

As she further described how the AVID program was taking shape at School No. 12, she said she was reminded "that urban learners are more than capable, can think critically, and college should and must be a part of their future."



The AVID Team that conducted the evaluation agreed with her assessment of the success that was taking place throughout the AVID program at School No. 12 and provided validation that college education should and must be a part of the future for students in urban schools.

"We are pleased to announce and welcome Elmora School No. 12, Elmora University, as an AVID National Demonstration School," said AVID Demonstration Coach Tamara Gilliam.

"Realize that you are now officially a teaching and learning center for all of the AVID world," added Gilliam.

AVID has been an important part of the curriculum at Elizabeth Public Schools for the past decade and has been instrumental in the district increasing the number of students participating in postsecondary education after graduation.

"We are proud of Elmora School No. 12 for being a shining example of the AVID program, which aligns so well with our district goals," stated Hugelmeyer. "The lessons and skills provided to our students through the AVID program are invaluable in our efforts to prepare each of our students for a college education and a successful career."

"The students and staff at Elmora School No. 12 have been highly committed to advancing the AVID program over the past several years and today their dedication and determination has been rewarded," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Maria Carvalho. "Congratulations to the Elmora School No. 12 learning community for this tremendous honor, you truly deserve it."

Visit Elizabeth Public Schools Facebook page at www.facebook.com/epsnj to see a video of the announcement of School No. 12 becoming an AVID National Demonstration School.

Elizabeth High School Students Attend Governor Murphy Press Conference on Healthcare at Elizabeth Public Library



High School students from Elizabeth Public Schools' seven secondary academies had the opportunity to attend a press conference held by Gov. Phil Murphy and members of his cabinet at the Elizabeth Public Library on Monday that focused on the Affordable Healthcare Act and enrolling in health coverage.

Gov. Murphy encouraged state residents to visit [Get Covered New Jersey](http://GetCoveredNJ.com), the state's website that provides resources for selecting and enrolling in an affordable health insurance plan. In New Jersey, residents are still required to carry health coverage in 2019 and failure to do so, without qualifying for an exemption, may result in the assessment of a Shared Responsibility Payment (SRP) on their 2019 New Jersey Income Tax return.



High School Students Attend Gov. Murphy Press Conference (cont.)



Students had the opportunity to listen to the governor and other government officials field questions from the media and speak on healthcare, a topic that is always front and center in the interests of residents throughout the United States.



"Elizabeth Public Schools prides itself on providing high quality instruction and a rigorous curriculum, which also includes special events beyond the classroom that offer our students unique opportunities to learn about topics that affect their lives on a more personal and intimate level," stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "Today's press conference with Governor Murphy allowed our students to learn more about the complex aspects of healthcare in our nation as well as the function of a free press in maintaining transparency between our government and the general public."

High School Students Attend Gov. Murphy Press Conference (cont.)



"I think this press conference was such a wonderful experience for our students," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Maria Carvalho. "Being informed is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as a member of a community. Our students were able to hear directly from our governor and other important government officials about the importance of being medically insured and the impact that healthcare has on our society, which makes them that much better equipped to be a valuable participant in our country's democratic process."

New Jersey residents may visit Get Covered New Jersey (nj.gov/governor/getcoverednj) for resources on enrolling in health coverage. The deadline for open enrollment at the Healthcare.gov health insurance marketplace is December 15, 2018.



Elizabeth Public Schools Welcomes New Board Members



At the historical Elizabeth Board of Education reorganization meeting on January 7, 2019 at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy @ Msgr. João S. Antão School No. 31, outgoing Board President Maria Carvalho addressed the audience and thanked her fellow Board members and the community once more for their support and trust to carry on the duties of President of the Board. She also welcomed the new president and offered well wishes in guiding the Board during 2019.

The three Board members elected to seats in November were sworn in, starting with Charlene Bathelus, who was sworn in for her third term on the Board by the Honorable Judge James Wilson. Ileana Chevres was sworn in next for her first term as a member of the Board, followed by incumbent Stephanie Goncalves, who was sworn into her second term on the Board, both by the Honorable Mayor J. Christian Bollwage.

Also sworn in to the Board was Nathalie Hernandez, who was chosen by the Board to fill the seat vacated by former Board member Jose Rodriguez. She was sworn in by City of Elizabeth Councilman-At-Large and Elizabeth Public Schools Chief of Operations Frank Cuesta.

Stephanie Goncalves and Diane Barbosa were unanimously selected as Board President and Vice President respectively.

New President Goncalves addressed the public, noting in her remarks that, for the first time, the Board consists of a majority of female members. She also highlighted the importance of diversity to the Elizabeth Public Schools and the Elizabeth community, serving the community, and ensuring that all children succeed.

New Vice President Barbosa thanked her family and fellow Board members and emphasized the fire of leadership that each Board member has within them in serving the community as well as the passion to do what is right for the school district as the Board continues the progress that it has made.

Elizabeth Boys Soccer Team Wins Big in 2018

The Elizabeth boys varsity soccer team (16-3-2) concluded a highly successful season last month in which it won the NJSIAA Group 4, North 2 State Sectional Championship and finished as the No. 15 team in the state in the final NJ.com Top 20. The season also included a semifinals appearance in the Union County Tournament, a second place finish in the Union County Conference Watchung Division, an undefeated Season at home (12 wins), and a stay in the NJ.com boys' soccer Top 20 for the entire season.



The team was also recognized in postseason honors, including a national ranking of No. 100, a state ranking of No. 7, and a ranking of No. 1 in Group 4, Section 2 by Max Preps and a No. 9 rank in NJ by the Soccer Coaches Association of New Jersey. Players Henry Chavez, Josser Amaya, and Youkendjy Pacius were recognized as All-State Selections by the Soccer Coaches Association of New Jersey. Chavez and Amaya were also recognized as First Team All Union County by NJ.com, with Pacius receiving Second Team All Union County honors. All three received All-Conference selections.

Elizabeth Player Recognized by Opponent Supporter for Sportsmanship

Following Elizabeth's exciting 2-1 victory over Scotch Plains-Fanwood 2-1 on November 8 to claim the NJSIAA North 2, Group 4 final in Scotch Plains, an email was sent to a member of the Elizabeth Board of Education by a Scotch Plains-Fanwood supporter who was impressed with the sportsmanship of one of Elizabeth's players, All State Forward and Dwyer Technology Academy Senior Youkendjy "Kenke" Pacius.

"... I need to tell you about #30... a forward. What an incredible sportsman! ... #30 was a great athlete but a better competitor. Several times he helped people up off the ground. Our goalie made a great save against him and he went over and high-fived him. I saw him give the thumbs up to our defense when they made a strategic clear. He laughed and chatted w our D when play was stopped. None of this was mocking at all- true sportsmanship and an expression of his respect for our players and the art of the game. It was remarkable."



Photo by Andrew Miller – NJ Advanced Media

Pacius' sportsmanship continued after the final whistle and a victory for Elizabeth, eliminating Scotch Plains-Fanwood from the state tournament and denying them a state sectional championship.

"Then there was #30- the only player who went and shook every kids' hand- even those who played the bench the entire game. He hugged our coaches. And then he went over & squatted down w our senior defender who was still on the field, devastated. I'm in awe. And I think that his character should be recognized and celebrated bc I don't think I have ever seen a player with that much class."

EHS Speech and Debate Team Shine in Competitions



The EHS Speech and Debate Team had a successful showing at the 29th Annual Randolph Fall Classic Speech & Debate Tournament on November 17. Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy (EHS-FJC) senior Damien McCree finished second in Program Oral Interpretation (POI) and third in Dramatic Interpretation (DI); EHS-FJC seniors Hunter Ayala and Justin Dolalas finished first in Duo Interpretation (DUO); Ayala finished second in Dramatic Interpretation (DI); EHS-FJC freshmen Alexia Martinez and Harnoor Gonga finished 6th place in DUO; and freshman Rafael Teheran finished third in Novice Improvisational Acting (IPV). The team finished seventh overall among 29 teams that participated.

Elizabeth also competed in the 21st Annual Princeton Classic held at Princeton University from November 30-December 2. Ayala was among the entries to reach the semifinals of DI out of 56 total entries and Ayala and Dolalas reached the semifinals in DUO out of 34 entries.

EPS Receives MIND Research Institute ST Math School Grants Program Grant Courtesy of Phillips 66



Elizabeth Public Schools was selected as a recipient of a MIND Research Institute ST Math School Grants Program grant to assist with the implementation of ST Math. The grant issued to Elizabeth Public Schools was courtesy of a donation from Phillips 66 as part of the ST Math School Grants Program.

ST Math is a visual instructional program offered by MIND Research Institute that builds a deep conceptual understanding of math through rigorous learning and creative problem solving to engage, motivate and challenge PreK-8 students toward higher achievement.

Mind Research Institute, a non-profit organization that specializes in neuroscience and education research, provides students with a solid foundation in math and aims to prepare them to become part of the STEM workforce the future needs.

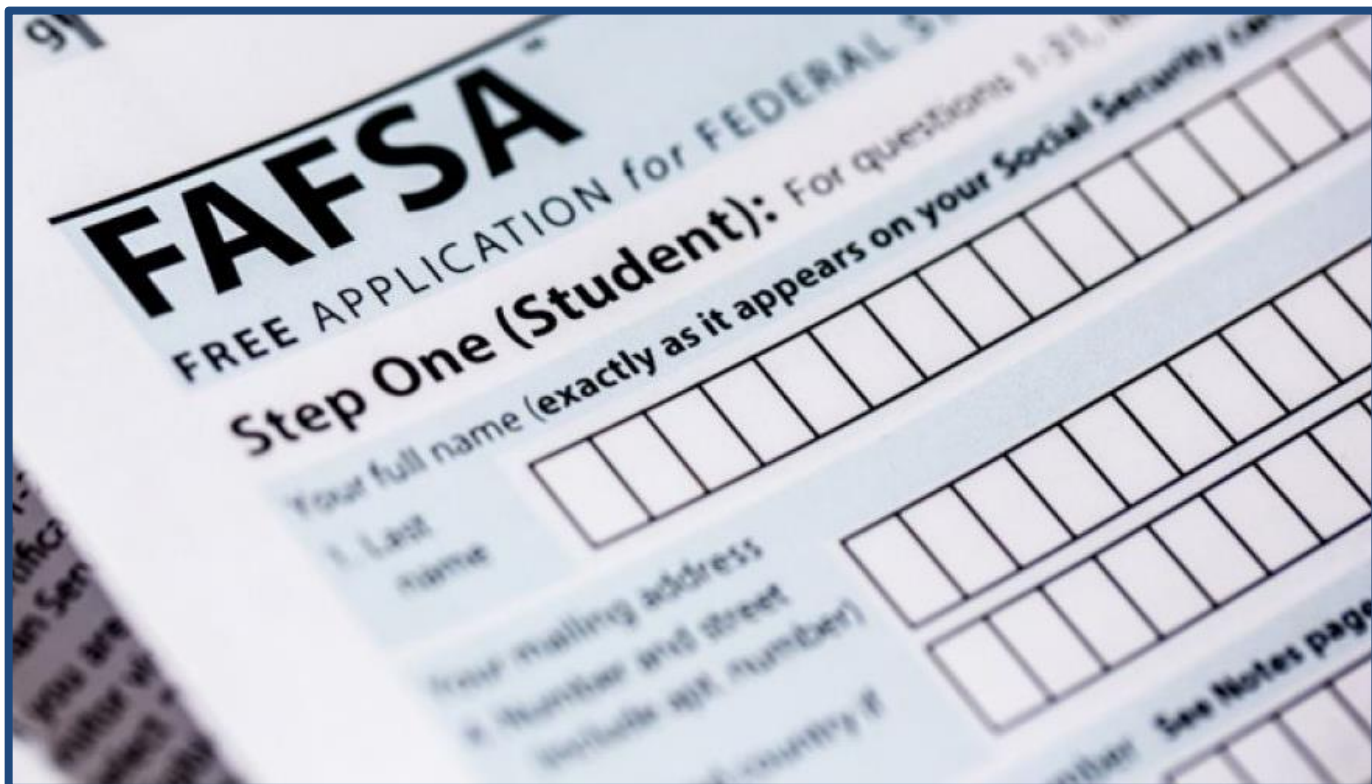
MIND's ST Math School Grants Program, offered through the generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations, enables MIND to expand its mission of ensuring that all students are mathematically equipped to solve the world's most challenging problems.

"We are very appreciative of the generous donation by Phillips 66 to help bring the ST Math School Grants Program to Elizabeth Public Schools," said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "We look forward to incorporating this program into our curriculum to provide our students with more innovative, personalized, and rigorous instruction."

"Phillips 66 has been a long time supporter of Elizabeth Public Schools and, on behalf of the Elizabeth Board of Education, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their continued outstanding contributions to children of the Elizabeth community," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Maria Carvalho.

Creating a College Going Culture

EPS Holds Financial Aid Meeting to Encourage Students to Attend College



Elizabeth Public Schools held a financial aid workshop for all current high school seniors and their parents/guardians at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy on November 30 to help increase understanding of the financial aid process.

Students and parents were assisted with completing the New Jersey Tuition Assistance Grant (NJ TAG) through the state's Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESA), New Jersey Dreamers NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Dozens of students and parents were able to complete applications for financial assistance during the workshop to make dreams of postsecondary education that much closer to reality.

Elizabeth Public Schools continues to host postsecondary education related events such as the financial aid workshop and senior seminar to encourage more students to further their education after high school graduation as part of its strategic plan.

"Our goals as a district are college preparedness, career readiness, and on-time graduation," said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "An important hurdle in overcome in making postsecondary education a reality is securing the financial aid necessary to pay tuition. We have so many students who are succeeding academically and we want to ensure that we are offering them and their families all the services we can to help make their dreams come true."

EPS Presents Honorary Diploma to Former EPS Student, WWII Veteran

On Thursday, November 29, an honorary high school diploma along with the accompanying board resolution was presented to former Elizabeth Public Schools student and Linden resident Mr. Joseph Bianco.

The ceremony, held at the VFW Hall in Linden, New Jersey, was attended by Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy Senior Marine Instructor Colonel Robert Golden III, Cadet Lt. Col. Orlando Perdomo; and Cadet Sgt. Maj. Issac Silva. The 98-year-old Bianco attended Thomas Jefferson High School and left prior to graduation to serve in the Army Air Force during World War II. The night was a poignant and emotional experience for those in attendance.



Jefferson Student Submission Recognized by Gilder Lehrman Institute

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy senior Danny Ruiz was recognized for his artwork that was submitted to the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History as part of the institute's Hamilton Education Program.

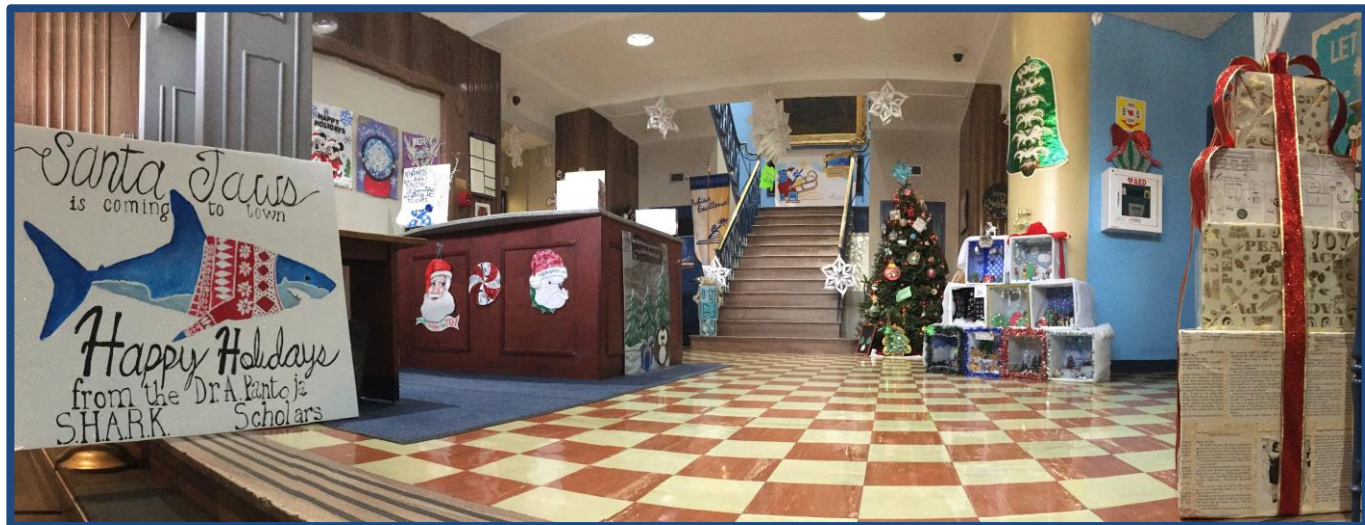
In October 2015, Hamilton producer Jeffrey Seller and Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, The Rockefeller Foundation, the NYC Department of Education, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute announced an educational partnership to provide 20,000 NYC Title I public school students with the opportunity to see Hamilton on Broadway and integrate the show into classroom studies.

This educational initiative, now expanded to reach 250,000 students in Title I-eligible schools nationwide, will run through 2020, and is possible thanks to support from national and local donors, including The Rockefeller Foundation.

Before the students see the show, their teachers guide them through a unique, hands-on class project using Gilder Lehrman Institute resources to introduce the students to the people, events, and documents of the founding era. In addition, the students learn how Lin-Manuel Miranda, the creator of Hamilton, incorporated primary sources into the songs he wrote for the show and use that knowledge to produce their own performance pieces.



An Elizabeth Public Schools Holidays Masterpiece



The Winter Wonderland returned to the James P. Mitchell Administration Building thanks to the incredible creativity and innovation of Elizabeth Public Schools students and team members.

Through the contributions of different sizes, mediums, and themes by our students and team members from throughout our learning community, the Mitchell Building has once again been transformed into a large-scale masterpiece that truly captures the essence of the holiday season.



An Elizabeth Public Schools Holidays Masterpiece (cont.)



An Elizabeth Public Schools Holidays Masterpiece (cont.)



To all of our team members...

On behalf of Elizabeth Public Schools,



*Happy
New*



Year!



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Every Child, Achieving Excellence

EQUITY

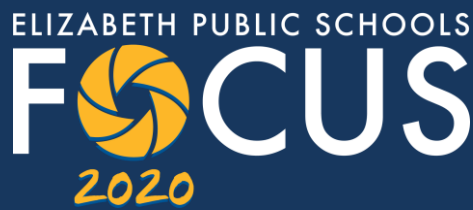
As a nation, America's Promise is that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity or social class, should receive a high quality, academically rich and rigorous public education.

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.