

School No. 7 Earns 2019 National Blue Ribbon School Award

United States Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recently named Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 as a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School.

School No. 7 is one of 362 schools selected for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. Selected public and private K-12 schools are being honored based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

Now in its 37th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed recognition on more than 9,000 schools. On November 14 and 15, the Secretary and the Department of Education will celebrate with 312 public and 50 non-public school honorees at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.



The 2019 award received by School No. 7 is the sixth National Blue Ribbon School award received by the Elizabeth Public Schools in the past fourteen years. Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy (known as Elizabeth High School at the time the award was received, 2015), William F. Halloran School No. 22 (2006, 2014), Victor Mravlag School No. 21 (2008), and Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 (2011) have also received the national academic excellence award.

“We recognize and honor your important work in preparing students for successful careers and meaningful lives” said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a video message to the honorees. “As a National Blue Ribbon School, your students’ success demonstrates what is possible when committed educators partner with parents and community leaders to create vibrant, challenging cultures of learning.”

Terence C. Reilly Principal Theodore Panagopoulos received word from the United States Department of Education that School No. 7 was one of nine schools in the State of New Jersey given the prestigious honor.

“We are beaming with pride to once again be recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. Our students achieve great success because of the relentless dedication of all community members to provide excellent educational experiences and services,” said Panagopoulos. “It is an honor for us to work in such an inspiring place, with the most wonderful students, and we are excited for what the future will hold for Terence C. Reilly School No. 7.”

School No. 7 Earns 2019 National Blue Ribbon School Award (cont.)

In 2018, School No. 7 was ranked No. 22 among 2,473 public schools in New Jersey and was in the top 15 among schools that serve elementary and middle school level students according to New Jersey Department of Education data. The school also focuses on character education and was one of 19 schools to be recognized as a 2018 New Jersey School of Character (NJSOC) by the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD).

According to Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer, the dedication of School No. 7 to equity, expectations, and excellence has led to their sustained high levels of achievement.

“Earning this prestigious award is a reflection of the tremendous commitment by the students and team members of School No. 7 to perform at exceptional levels in all areas of learning and to close achievement gaps while upholding the standard of excellence,” said Hugelmeyer. “The selection of School No. 7 as a 2019 Blue Ribbon School is a validation of our belief that all students can learn and achieve at high levels regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, neighborhood, household income, or home language.”

Elizabeth Public Schools National Blue Ribbon Schools (since 2006)



William F. Halloran School No. 22



Victor Mravlag School No. 22



Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



William F. Halloran School No. 22



Elizabeth High School



Terence C. Reilly School No. 7

Elizabeth Board of Education Stephanie G. Pestana marveled at the achievements of Elizabeth Public Schools when she was informed that School No. 7 had been named a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School.

“Elizabeth Public Schools can say that since 2006, four of their schools have earned a combined six National Blue Ribbon School awards,” said Pestana. “That is a remarkable achievement for any district throughout the United States and shows Elizabeth Public Schools’ commitment to providing a high quality education that prepares students for college and career success.”

EPS Receives \$494K Federal School Violence Prevention Grant



COPS

Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice

Elizabeth Public Schools was recently awarded \$494K in federal funding over a two-year period under the 2019 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP).

The COPS SVPP is a competitive award program designed to provide funding to improve security at schools and on school grounds in the grantee's jurisdiction through evidence-based school safety programs.

Among the provisions funded by the SVPP grant are coordination with local law enforcement; training for local law enforcement officers to prevent school violence against others and self; placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures; acquisition and installation of technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency; and any other measure that, in the determination of the director of the COPS Office, may provide a significant improvement in security.

The COPS Office is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice responsible for advancing the practice of community policing by the nation's state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources. It was formed in 1994 to distribute and monitor funding for these efforts following the passage of Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (H.R. 3355).

In 2018, there were 91 grant awardees from 33 states, 24 percent of which were urban jurisdictions, that received a total of nearly \$24.5M in funding. The most common uses of the funding among grant awardees in 2018 was installing camera systems and related hardware; target hardening through installation of access controls, doors, and locks; and acquisition and installation of technology such as panic alarms, radios, and repeaters.

Elizabeth Public Schools plans to use funding provided by the SVPP to collaborate with the Elizabeth Police Department (EPD) on initiatives such as installing 360-degree surveillance cameras at various high traffic locations, upgrading more than half of the district's surveillance systems from analog to digital over the two-year grant period, installing safety door locks for classroom and office doors throughout the district, and improving crowd control and screening process at large group gatherings and events.

EPS Receives \$494K Federal School Violence Prevention Grant

"The top priority of every school district is to ensure that their students and staff are in a safe and secure environment," said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "Providing our students and team members with safe and caring learning environments allows them to focus entirely on teaching and learning, which in turn helps maximize student performance to meet our standard of excellence."



Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Pestana praised the partnership that the district has enjoyed with the EPD and is looking forward to their guidance and support in improving the safety of students and staff members through the provisions of the grant.

"The Elizabeth Police Department has been a long, valued partner of our school district, from educating our students on drug and alcohol prevention to providing an additional layer of safety and comfort to our learning community through their service," said Pestana. "We are eager to collaborate with them through SVPP grant to create even safer environments for our students to succeed academically and achieve their dreams."

School No. 22 Earns FRS-NJ 2019 Bronze Tier Status

Joins Hamilton Preparatory Academy as 2nd EPS school with bronze designation

William F. Halloran School No. 22 was recently awarded the 2019 Bronze Tier Status by Future Ready Schools – New Jersey (FRS-NJ).

FRS-NJ is a certification program designed to establish a culture of digital innovation, where educators are empowered to deepen and extend student learning through the use of technology, digital content, and media.

The program is a coalition of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), and New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). It is based on the work of the national Future Ready Schools (FRS) initiative, and the structure and success of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Program.

The state model of the national framework has been created by FRS-NJ task forces, made up of hundreds of educators and leaders who dedicate their time and expertise to create the New Jersey Indicators of Future Readiness. These indicators help guide schools and districts towards future readiness by providing them with the knowledge of what successful Future Ready practices look like, while providing support and connections to resources that can help them achieve success.

School No. 22 joined fellow EPS school Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy among over 260 schools from 72 districts across New Jersey in completing the self-assessment and planning process during the 2019 certification cycle.

The Bronze tier is the first step in a school's Future Ready journey once it declares its participation in the certification program, which follows a district level commitment to support its schools' Future Ready efforts by signing a pledge and passing a board resolution. The bronze certification lasts for three years unless it is superseded by successful higher certifications. School No. 22 and Hamilton Preparatory Academy were among 104 schools to receive bronze status in 2019.

Both schools will be formally recognized at the New Jersey School Boards Association Workshop 2019 on October 22 at the Atlantic City Convention Center in the exhibit floor theater.

"As a school that became the first HP Spotlight School in the United States earlier this year, School No. 22 has proven their commitment to innovate classroom instruction in a way that inspires elite-level academic performance," said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "Their recognition by Future Ready New Jersey along with Hamilton Preparatory Academy for their efforts to enhance education through the use of technology is well deserved."

"On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate the students and team members of School No. 22 for their outstanding achievement," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Pestana. "In receiving this recognition, School No. 22 has shown that they are providing innovative and personalized classroom instruction to meet the needs of all students. The strong academic performance by School No. 22 students is further evidence that the district's emphasis on the use of technology in the classroom is yielding positive results."

School No. 7 Recognized as Apple Distinguished School



Distinguished School

Recognized by Apple as a distinguished school for continuous innovation in learning, teaching, and the school environment.

Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 has been selected as an Apple Distinguished School for 2019–2022 in recognition of the school's exemplary learning environment for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence.

The Apple Distinguished School designation is awarded to schools that use Apple products to inspire creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking through innovative uses of technology in learning, teaching, and the school environment. These schools can also present documented results of academic accomplishment due to these practices.

School No. 7 is receiving this unique designation from Apple for the second time after earning the three-year recognition for 2015-2017 and is now among more than 400 Apple Distinguished Schools in 34 countries.

Among the requirements for Apple Distinguished Schools are a one-to-one program that has been in place for more than two academic years; the integration of Apple apps, educational apps from the App Store, books from Apple Books, and other digital resources into the curriculum; and faculty proficiency with iPad or Mac, with a minimum of 75 percent of teachers in the school recognized as Apple Teachers.

MacBook Air laptops or iPads are provided to all School No. 7 students in grades two through eight. These tools alongside the instructional paradigm, challenge based learning (CBL), provides an engaging multidisciplinary approach to teaching and learning that motivates students to utilize technology to solve real-world problems. Challenge based learning requires students to work collaboratively with classmates, teachers, and community experts to develop deep subject area knowledge.

School No. 7 Recognized as Apple Distinguished School (cont.)



Instructional team members at School No. 7 receive training through Apple professional development and in-house workshops in both iWork, and iLife applications. In-house workshops, offered through the school's Apple Distinguished Educator and Apple Vanguard Team, provide additional support and training to staff, students, and parents in all grade levels and content areas. The ability to use device embedded applications like GarageBand, iMovie, and iBooks Author gives students the opportunity to use their performing and visual arts talents when developing creative products that display mastery of skills taught.

Additionally, School No. 7 has hosted a number of visits from educators in other school districts seeking information and best practices associated with their successful technology-related initiatives and continues to act as a beacon of successful one-to-one implementation for schools throughout the country looking to use Apple technologies within their schools.

"The selection of Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 as an Apple Distinguished School for a second time highlights not only our commitment as a district to innovate the learning environment through the use of technology, but also the manner in which School No. 7 students and team members have embraced it as a vital tool for education," said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "Their passion for teaching and learning with technology is evident both to the eye and in the results of their academic achievement."

"In the past three weeks, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education and now an Apple Distinguished School for the second time," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie G. Pestana. "The students and team members of School No. 7 have shown amazing dedication to the district's standard of excellence and they should be very proud of what they have achieved. Congratulations to each and all of you for your contributions to these outstanding accomplishments."

Senator Menendez Hosts Hispanic Heritage Event

Event at Jefferson Arts Academy Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



United States Senator Robert Menendez hosted his Tenth Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration on Sunday, October 13 at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Hundreds of people gathered for the celebration, which included cultural performances, free dinner, remarks by Governor Phillip Murphy and Menendez, and a special keynote address by actress and activist Shakira Barrera.

Among the state, regional, and local dignitaries in attendance were Menendez; Murphy and his wife, First Lady Tammy Murphy; New Jersey Senator Joseph Cryan; State Assemblywoman Annette Quijano; State Assemblyman Jamel Holley; Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders members Angel Estrada and Sergio Granados; City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage; City of Elizabeth Councilwoman-At-Large Patricia Perkins-Auguste; Elizabeth Board of Education members Rosa Moreno-Ortega and Stanley Neron; Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer; Elizabeth Public Schools Business Administrator Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.; and Jefferson Arts Academy Principal Michael Ojeda.

For more pictures, please visit the Elizabeth Public Schools Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/epsnj>



EHS Marching Band Finishes 6th in Mid-Atlantic Region Competition



The Elizabeth High School Marching Band finished in sixth place at the Bands of America Mid-Atlantic Regional Championships held at University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland on October 5.

Out of 26 bands featured in the preliminary competition, Elizabeth placed sixth, earning a top 10 finalist spot for the evening competition. Elizabeth would again place sixth in the finals, finishing higher than other prominent New Jersey bands including J.P. Stevens and Westfield High School. The bands competing were from all over the eastern United States, including Massachusetts, North Carolina, Virginia, New York State, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.



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79.350 — James Madison H.S., VA
 79.350 — Norwin H.S., PA
 78.450 — Spring-Ford H.S., PA
 76.650 — Thomas Jefferson H.S. for Science and Technology, VA
 75.150 — John Champe H.S., VA
 72.750 — Elizabeth H.S., NJ
 72.100 — Westfield H.S., NJ
 71.250 — Cicero-North Syracuse H.S., NY
 70.350 — John P. Stevens H.S., NJ
 69.850 — Rock Ridge H.S., VA

Music - Spring-Ford H.S., PA
 Visual - Norwin H.S., PA
 G.E. - James Madison H.S., VA

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Co-Union County Champ Elizabeth Boys Soccer Ranked No. 4 in NJ

Jefferson Arts Academy Sophomore Earns Conference Player of the Week Honors



The Elizabeth Boys Soccer team was ranked No. 4 in the state in NJ.com's October 31 rankings after earning a Co-Union County Championship with Summit in a 2-2 tie on October 24. To see the full Top 20 rankings, please visit <https://www.nj.com/highschoolsports/2019/10/njcom-boys-soccer-top-20-oct-31-stunning-tourney-upsets-force-new-look.html>. They are the No. 1 seed in the NJSIAA North 2, Group 4 championship and have already secured a 5-1 victory over No. 16 seed Bayonne. They will next play No. 8 seed Phillipsburg on November 1.

Among the stars of the boys soccer team, which is off to a 17-0-4 start, is Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy sophomore Jacoby Calvo, who was named Union County Conference Field Player of the Week the week of October 15. To see the profile on Calvo detailing his play, please visit <https://www.nj.com/highschoolsports/2019/10/boys-soccer-union-county-conf-players-of-the-week-oct-15.html>

Former Elizabeth Star P.J. Walker to XFL Franchise in Houston

Among 8 QBs assigned to franchises for inaugural season

Former Elizabeth football star quarterback Philip "P.J." Walker was among eight quarterbacks assigned to XFL teams on October 15 in advance of the XFL's inaugural draft. He was sent to the Houston Roughnecks.

The XFL is an eight-team professional football league that will begin play in 2020. As it prepares for its February 2020 kickoff, the XFL is largely targeting players who have been released from the NFL or are otherwise unsigned. XFL Commissioner Oliver Luck noted that a small number of players who have college eligibility remaining will be subject to a supplemental draft in November.

Walker ended his Elizabeth Minutemen playing career by orchestrating a three play, 98-yard drive for the winning score in the state championship game against Piscataway High School and went on to receive the Star-Ledger 2012 Offensive Player of the Year, 2012 Star-Ledger First Team All-State Offense, and 2012 New Jersey Mini Max Award Winner from the Maxwell Football Club.

At Temple, Walker was a starter for three and a half seasons, throwing for a school record 74 touchdowns and becoming the winningest quarterback in school history with 28 wins, including a 34-10 victory over Navy in the 2016 American Athletic Conference Championship Game in which he earned Most Outstanding Player honors. He also became one of 102 quarterback in FBS history to throw for more than 10,000 career yards, ending his career at No. 79 with 10,668 yards passing.

In 2017, Walker signed with the Indianapolis Colts as an undrafted free agent and spent two seasons with the team as a member of the practice squad.

EQUITY

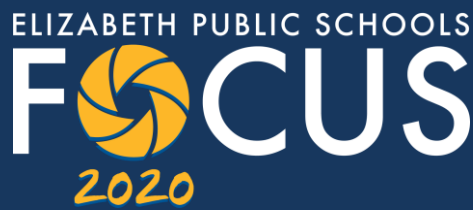
As a nation, America's Promise is that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity or social class, should receive a high quality, academically rich and rigorous public education.

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.