

## ***EHS Hosts Visit from President of Colombia***

*President Duque, Senator Menendez Participate in U.S.-Colombia Forum*



Elizabeth High School hosted a forum on United States-Colombia relations on September 22 with guests U.S. Senator Robert Menendez and Colombia President Ivan Duque Márquez that touched on various topics, including the Colombian economy and tourism, higher education, and influx of Venezuelan migrants in recent years due to unrest in Venezuela.

According to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey provided by the United States Census Bureau, it is estimated that there are more than 120,000 residents of Colombian descent living in New Jersey, many of which reside in Elizabeth. Hundreds of people, including immigrants of Colombia who have settled in New Jersey and beyond, gathered to participate in the event and welcome President Duque to the Elizabeth community. Many local, regional, and state dignitaries were also in attendance.

## *EHS Hosts Visit from President of Colombia (cont.)*



Senator Menendez and President Duque had already established a working relationship prior to the Elizabeth forum, with Menendez travelling to Colombia in July as a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to advance the U.S.-Colombia partnership. The trip focused on counternarcotics cooperation, human rights, and the impact of the Venezuelan crisis among other issues. The U.S. Senator from New Jersey plans to continue his work toward strengthening the relations between the two nations, including upcoming legislation that focuses on joint efforts pertaining to security and human rights.

President Duque joins President Álvaro Uribe Vélez, who held a town hall meeting at the Ritz Theater in 2005, as Colombian presidents who have visited Elizabeth.

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



## ***EPS First District in U.S. to Mandate Harmony Power Awards***

*Sensei John Mirrione to offer professional development; lead school activities during Week of Respect*

Elizabeth Public Schools has become the first school district in the nation to mandate Harmony Power Awards as part of its character and anti-bullying education programs.

Harmony Power Awards are presented by the Harmony Power Foundation, founded by Sensei John Mirrione with the mission of standing up to bullying and standing for human equality.

The foundation was officially formed in 2015 after several years of Mirrione sharing his personal story at schools and YMCAs of overcoming bullying through self-empowerment, believing in himself, and coming to the realization that anything is possible. The groundwork began in 2010 when Mirrione embarked on a 17-city tour with his own money and through sponsorship from Harmony by Karate, including stops in Chicago, New York City, and Los Angeles.



The successful and inspiring message of Harmony Power has led it to become part of an anti-bullying assembly bill pertaining to the Week of Respect, observed the first week of October each year by school districts in recognition of the importance of social and emotional learning and character education.

The bill (A1983), sponsored by New Jersey District 35 Assemblywoman Shavonda E. Sumter, states, "School districts also shall observe the week by presenting character awards, known as 'Harmony Power' awards, in each school to students who have demonstrated outstanding character by: helping to prevent harassment, intimidation or bullying; contributing to the creation of a respectful atmosphere in the school; serving as a positive role model for other students; performing community service in the school or community; or demonstrating positive characteristics through art."

The bill has been introduced and referred to the Assembly Education Committee.

Elizabeth Public Schools has chosen to take the lead to incorporate the Harmony Power Awards into its character and anti-bullying education. The initiative will kick off at all 36 district schools during the Week of Respect with activities promoting harmony, kindness and respect such as anti-bullying class lessons, art projects and contests, community service projects, and music and dance instruction. Various students and staff will receive Harmony Power Awards as a result of their efforts, which are anticipated to be presented at each school towards the end of October into early November. The partnership with Harmony Power and Mirrione to provide anti-bullying and character education activities throughout the school year comes at no additional cost to the schools.



## *EPS First District in U.S. to Mandate Harmony Power Awards (cont.)*

The district has been highly successful in developing its character education program throughout the district. In May, three district schools (Nicholas S. LaCorte – Peterstown School No. 3, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, and Frances C. Smith Early Childhood Center School No. 50) were among 92 schools to be recognized as a 2019 National School of Character by Character.org. Elizabeth Public Schools is now home to seven district schools that have been designated as state schools of character, six of which have gone on to receive national school of character honors.

Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer welcomes the Harmony Power Awards program to the district, believing the message from Mirrione will be beneficial to students and staff alike.

“Harmony Power delivers a powerful and inspirational message about the importance of kindness and goodness and how they both can have such a significant impact on our lives,” said Hugelmeyer. “Character education is, and will continue to be, a point of emphasis in classroom instruction throughout our schools and Sensei John Mirrione’s program will undoubtedly be a wonderful asset to our learning community.”



Mirrione visited Elmora School No. 12 of Elizabeth Public Schools on Wednesday, September 4 to provide professional development to district school counselors and social workers through his inspirational message and program that has proven successful.

Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie G. Pestana is pleased that Harmony Power will continue to work with district students and staff members this coming school year.

“Young boys and girls yearn for lessons and activities that help them realize the strength they possess within themselves to achieve success and positively connect with others,” said Pestana. “Harmony Power has already had a great impact on our students and team members through its message of empowerment and I look forward to more students being motivated and inspired by Sensei John Mirrione.”

## Hamilton Prep Earns FRS-NJ 2019 Bronze Tier Status



Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy recently was among 104 schools to be awarded the 2019 Bronze Tier Status by Future Ready Schools – New Jersey (FRS-NJ).

FRS-NJ is a certification program designed to promote transformational change in schools and districts throughout New Jersey by creating technology-rich environments for students to develop and succeed as members of a digital society and workforce.

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.

FRS provides educators with research-based tools and resources that facilitate the modernization of schools and districts that support personalized, student-centered learning. Since FRS's inception in 2014, more than 3,200 district superintendents have shown their commitment to FRS by signing the FRS District Pledge.

Hamilton Preparatory Academy joined over 260 schools from 72 districts across New Jersey in completing the self-assessment and planning process during the 2019 certification cycle. School Future Ready teams, supported by their district teams, self-assess where they are in the indicators provided by FRS-NJ and submit their self-assessment for review and feedback from the Awards Committee

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.

The school 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.

"Over the past several years, our district has emphasized innovation and technology in its efforts to produce globally competitive students, ensure equitable access to personalized learning, and promote a culture for digital learning," said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "Earning the bronze tier status shows Hamilton Preparatory Academy has embraced the district's commitment to technology as it continues to develop future ready students and learning environments."

## *Hamilton Prep Earns FRS-NJ 2019 Bronze Tier Status (cont.)*

“The Board supports the use of innovation and technology by Hamilton Preparatory Academy, as well as schools throughout the district, to help meet the district’s goals of college preparedness, career readiness, and on-time graduation for every child,” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. “This award, and several others related to technology in recent years, are a great indication that our students are leaving our schools ready to succeed in college and thrive in the global workforce that has become increasingly technology reliant. Congratulations to everyone at Hamilton Preparatory Academy for their excellent achievement.”

## *EPS Celebrates Mid-Atlantic Region Champs Elmora Troopers*

Elizabeth Public Schools joined the City of Elizabeth and thousands of city residents in celebrating the Mid-Atlantic Region Champion Elmora Troopers little league team as they travelled through Elizabeth in a parade on September 6 celebrating their historic achievement of reaching the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The Troopers players and coaches, joined on a float by Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, passed several district schools on the parade route through the city, including Victor Mravlag School No. 21, Elmora School No. 12, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.



Health and Public Safety Academy, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, and Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy. Hundreds of students from the various schools held up banners and cheered as the team passed their respective schools.

The parade travelled down its last stretch on Elizabeth Avenue before arriving at City Hall, where the team was honored in an outdoor ceremony. The celebration included visits by several local and state dignitaries, including Governor Phillip Murphy, Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal, Congressman Albio Sires, and State Senators Joseph Cryan and Nicholas Scutari. Also present at the ceremony were a large contingent of troopers from the New Jersey State Police, who were there to both honor the accomplishments of the team as well as the memory of fallen trooper Thomas Hanratty, the namesake of the field on which they play and the inspiration for the team’s name. Hundreds of students and staff members from adjacent schools attended the ceremony, joining invited guests, residents, and onlookers to offer their support to the team.

For complete photo gallery, please visit

<https://www.epsnj.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=7312&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=57283&PageID=1>

## Elizabeth Boys Soccer Ranked in Top 10 by NJ.com

*Dwyer Technology Academy Senior Earns Conference Player of the Week Honors*



The Elizabeth Boys Soccer team was ranked among the Top 10 teams in the state by NJ.com. In the September 26 rankings, Elizabeth was ranked No. 6 after two huge victories against Union County foes Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood. To see the full Top 20 rankings, please visit

<https://www.nj.com/highschoolsports/2019/09/njcom-boys-soccer-top-20-sept-26-chaos-continues-shaking-up-rankings.html>

Among the stars of the boys soccer team, which is off to a 7-0-2 start, is John E. Dwyer Technology Academy senior Stephen Valencia, who was named Union County Conference Goalkeeper of the Week. To see the profile on Valencia detailing his recent play, please visit

<https://www.nj.com/highschoolsports/2019/09/boys-soccer-union-county-conf-players-of-the-week-sept-24.html>



## WE REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

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



*On behalf of Elizabeth Public Schools,  
best wishes to the entire school  
community for success during the  
2019-2020 school year!*





## EQUITY

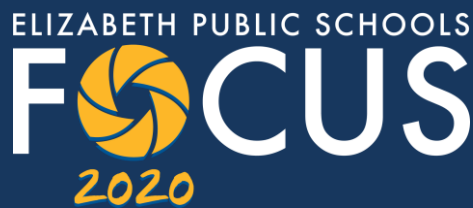
As a nation, America's Promise is that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity or social class, should receive a high quality, academically rich and rigorous public education.

## 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.*