



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

June 28, 2022

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Learning Community:

At the start of the 2021-2022 school year, after nearly 18 months of varying levels of virtual instruction, we finally reached the exciting moment of welcoming all our students and team members back to our school buildings for in-person learning while seeking to “reclaim excellence” by bringing a greater sense of normalcy to the learning community.

I am proud to say that through this school year, our students, team members, and families have again risen above the challenges to reclaim and reaffirm the standard of excellence at Elizabeth Public Schools.

Academically, we had multiple schools ranked among the best in New Jersey for elementary and middle school level education as well as multiple high schools ranked among the most challenging in the United States by U.S. News and World Report. One of our schools was awarded the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award by College Board for their work in closing the gender gap in AP Computer Science Principles while another was recognized by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture as the first place winner of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program’s Very Impressive Produce (VIP) Award. Elizabeth Public Schools appeared in the National Speech and Debate Tournament for the 26th time, with its sole representative reaching the final 30 out of 252 competitors. We also have a graduating Class of 2022 that will be attending colleges throughout the nation this fall, including multiple students attending Ivy League schools.

Athletically, we had several state championship level teams and individuals. In the fall, the EHS Varsity Boys Soccer Team won its third North 2, Group 4 title in four years. During the winter, the EHS Varsity Boys Basketball team won the North 2, Group 4 championship, its first Group 4 title since 1991, and its first Tournament of Champions victory since 1990, making the final four of the last ever TOC while the EHS Varsity Track and Field 4 x 800 relay team won the Union County Relays, Group 4 State Relays, and Emerging Elite National Championship at the Nike Indoor Nationals. In the Spring, the EHS Varsity Boys Track and Field team won the North 2, Group 4 state championship, the EHS Varsity Girls Softball team, largely with underclassmen, finished runner-up in the Union County Tournament, and the Elizabeth Varsity Competition Cheerleading Team earned first place in the High School Game Day NCA Division.

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

In the arts, Elizabeth Public Schools was awarded the Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation for the third year in a row and the sixth time in the past seven years. The district also received a \$22,000 Intro to Music Grant from Sound Start Foundation, in partnership with the Save the Music Foundation, to help boost music education programs at the K-5 grade levels. The EHS Marching Band won the NJMBDA Class AAA State Championship in the fall, the EHS Winter Color Guard won three Mid-Atlantic Indoor Network (MAIN) Class Scholastic A competitions in their return to competitive action after a decades-long absence, and a former Elizabeth Public Schools student who competed for Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy was named State Champion of the 2022 NJ Poetry Out Loud (NJPOL) Competition in the spring.

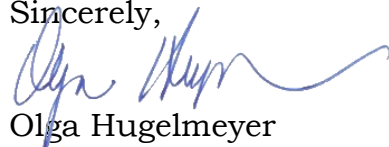
In closing out the 2021-2022 school year, I am filled with gratitude and appreciation in reflecting upon the many successes we have to celebrate as we continue to move beyond the challenges presented by the pandemic the past couple years. Successes that were made possible by the contributions of each and all of our students, team members, and families that make the Elizabeth Public Schools learning community a truly special place. I hope you take pride in the commitment, dedication, and determination you have shown in putting excellence back to the forefront at Elizabeth Public Schools.

To our Class of 2022 graduating seniors, who contributed to many of the amazing successes of this school year, I wish you great prosperity in all your future college, career, and life endeavors.

Thank you once more to the entire Elizabeth Public Schools learning community for your tremendous support throughout the 2021-2022 school year. I look forward to working alongside our students, team members, and families to have another successful year in 2022-2023.

Enjoy a healthy, happy, and safe summer with family and friends.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer