

EHS Boys Soccer Team Wins State Sectional Title in Dramatic Victory Over Hunterdon Central

Several heroes rise to the occasion as EHS evens score in regulation, wins in shootout 4-3



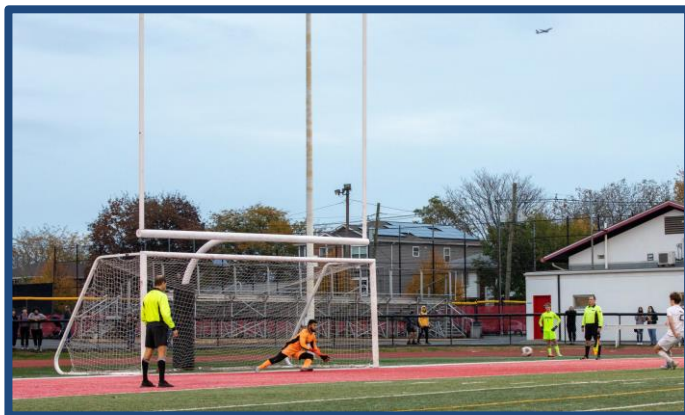
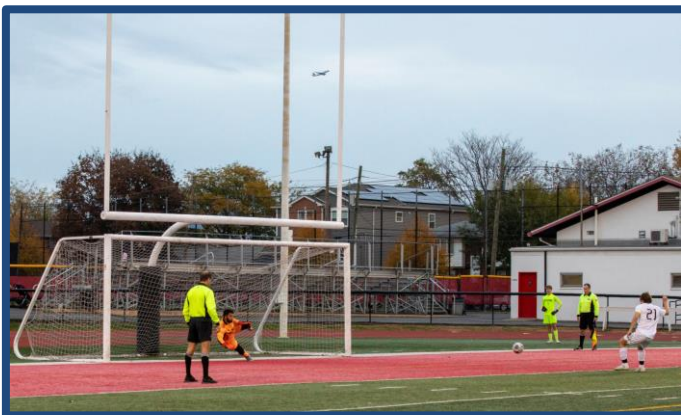
The Elizabeth High School Boys Soccer team showed its resiliency and determination in earning a comeback victory to claim the NJSIAA/Wawa North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 sectional championship, outlasting No. 2 Hunterdon Central in penalty kicks 4-3 yesterday at Williams Field in Elizabeth.

For the Minutemen, ranked No. 11 in the NJ.com Top 20, this journey began nearly a year ago to the day, when the team suffered a heartbreaking and controversial loss to Monroe in double overtime of the Central East F, Group 4 (MX/UN) sectional championship in a soccer landscape realigned due to the pandemic. They left the pitch that day dejected and feeling like a special opportunity had been taken from them.

EHS Boys Soccer Team Wins State Sectional Title (cont.)

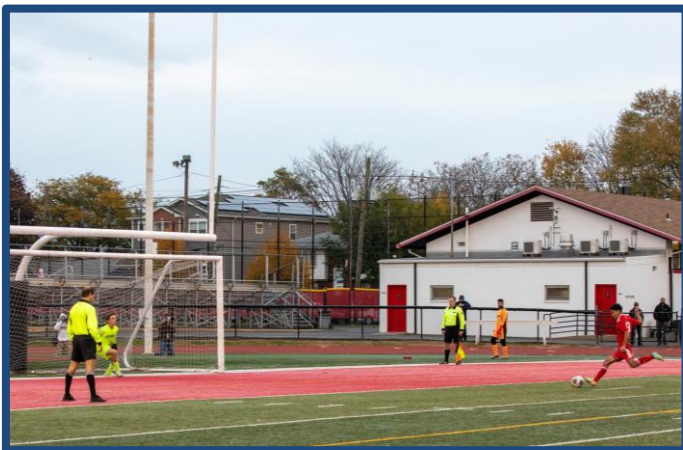


A year later, Elizabeth is determined to write a different ending to their season and were not going to be denied a state championship. After falling behind early 1-0 on a goal in the 12th minute, the Minutemen would find an equalizer early in the second half. Senior forward and Union County Conference Player of the Year candidate Mathew Giraldo, recently returning from injury, played a beautiful cross into the box that was headed in by sophomore midfielder Justin Cedenro from about 15 yards out to level the match at 1-1.



The teams remained knotted at 1-1 through regulation and two overtime periods, setting the stage for a penalty shootout to determine the North 2, Group 4 champion. Senior goalkeeper Matthew Pires, who had already made several big saves throughout the course of the game, took centerstage in the shootout by stopping two Hunterdon Central penalty kicks to set up the victory.

EHS Boys Soccer Team Wins State Sectional Title (cont.)



After missing their first penalty kick, the Minutemen would prove their mettle once more in the face of adversity. Junior midfielder Kevin Lopez, sophomore forward Brandon Quishpi-Aquiles, and senior midfielder Cristian Hernandez followed with scores on their attempts and, after saves by Pires on consecutive kicks by Hunterdon Central in their fourth and fifth attempts, the table was set for junior forward Cleff Alexis to add another sectional championship to Elizabeth's trophy case.



EHS Boys Soccer Team Wins State Sectional Title (cont.)



Alexis found the back of the net to set off a celebration and sent the Minutemen team and their supporters into mass jubilation.

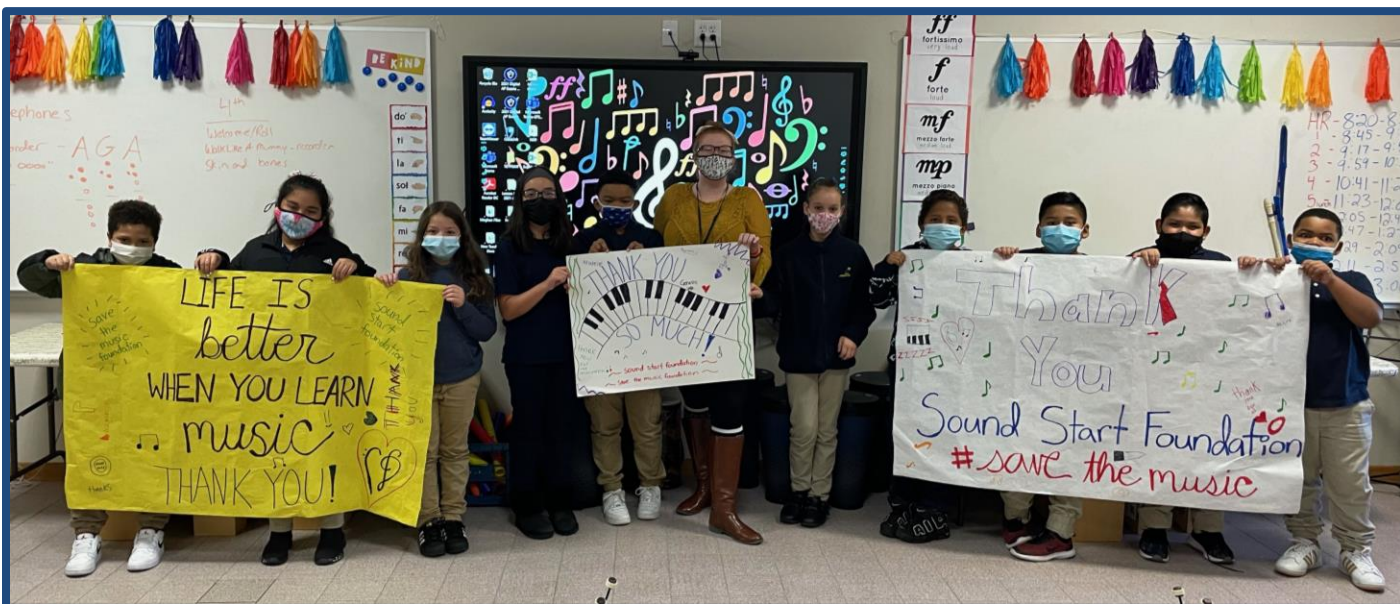
Elizabeth, guided by head coach Jacques Gonzales to its third North 2, Group 4 title in four years since he took the helm in 2018, now looks ahead to a matchup with Kearny in the Group 4 semifinal. Kearny, No. 7 in the NJ.com Top 20, also survived a hard-fought game to reach the semifinal, tying West Orange in regulation before defeating them 2-1 in overtime. Elizabeth will travel for the game against Kearny on November 16.

“After experiencing a sudden end to a season as this team did a year ago, it is very tough to come back the following season and get all the way back there again,” stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. “Not only did they return a lot of the team from last year who felt that pain and built back the mental and physical fortitude to get to this game once again, but also to come back multiple times after falling behind in this game, it shows the tremendous heart and resiliency of this team and is emblematic of the strength of its members and the community that supports them.”

“What a thrilling game and an amazing run that this team continues to take us on, winning three state titles in four years,” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Jerry Jacobs. “The way this team never gives in and battles to the final whistle is truly inspirational. They have certainly established a standard of excellence as one of the best soccer programs in New Jersey. We’re so proud and excited for them as they get one step closer to their ultimate goal.”

EPS Receives \$22K Grant from Sound Start Foundation

Save the Music Intro to Music Grant to Support Music Programs at School Nos. 3, 6



Elizabeth Public Schools 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 Sound Start Foundation has sought to donate 10,000 instruments to children across the world by the 2020-2021 school year to provide the next generation a path to explore the wonders of making music, partnering with the Save The Music Foundation in the United States to ensure each donation is matched with appropriate music education programs.

Save the Music Foundation is one of the nation's leading nonprofit organizations for music education, having helped over 2,000 schools in states across the U.S. start music programs. Their mission is to help students, schools, and communities reach their full potential through the power of making music, which they aim to achieve through donating musical instruments and technology, providing support services for teachers, and advocating for music education.

The Intro To Music Grant, which is geared towards public elementary schools establishing general music programs in urban communities, helps provide PreK-5 students with sequential standards based general music instruction focused on active music making and engagement. The grant package provides developmentally-appropriate and culturally-relevant instruments and resources, including a digital piano, acoustic guitar, Orff Instruments, world drums, recorders, hand-held percussion, Boomwhackers, a classroom set of ukuleles, method books, and program support for 10 years.

Nicholas S. LaCorte – Peterstown School No. 3 and Toussaint L'Ouverture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6 were selected as EPS schools to receive the provisions of the Intro to Music Grant.



EPS Receives \$22K Grant from Sound Start Foundation (cont.)



"Music has long been a valued part of our school community as we have been selected as a Best Community in Music Education by the NAMM Foundation several times and have been home to award-winning bands at the elementary and secondary level on the local, regional, and national stages," said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "We are excited for Elizabeth Public Schools to receive this grant to further enhance music education within more of our school communities and to provide greater opportunities for our students to experience and embrace the art of music."

"Arts education is a vital part of developing the whole child as we seek to provide a high quality, rigorous, and comprehensive education to students throughout Elizabeth Public Schools," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Jerry Jacobs. "We are grateful for the generous donation from the Sound Start and Save the Music Foundations that will support the music programs and students at Nicholas S. LaCorte – Peterstown School No. 3 and Toussaint L'Ouverture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6 over the next several years."

To the entire Elizabeth Public Schools learning community...

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

EHS Marching Band Wins NJMBDA Class AAA State Championship



The Elizabeth High School Marching Band won the NJMBDA Class AAA State Championship on October 31 at The College of New Jersey in Ewing.

EHS competed in Class AAA, a field that consists of bands with 70-99 members, which included West Orange, Verona, Edison, Ridge, Nutley, Monroe, Old Bridge, Morristown, and Millville.

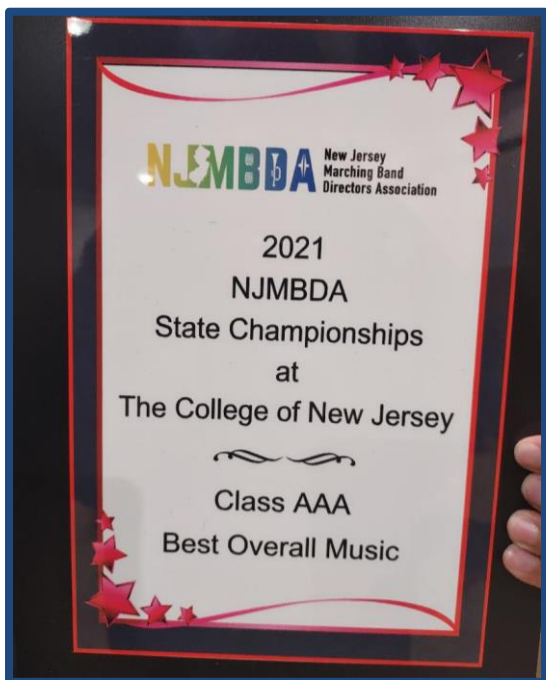
Elizabeth's program this fall, entitled "What We Love," finished with an overall score of 93.700, edging out West Orange at 93.500 to claim the Class AAA state title. The performance included music by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Lady Gaga, and Sting.

"This is a monumental feat for these students, especially after having remote instruction for almost all of the 2020 school year," said EHS Marching Band Director and Music Arranger Benjamin Schwartz. "The students were extremely happy and excited to go back into competition (this fall)."

Elizabeth swept first place for all subcategories in Music Performance, in both individual and ensemble, to claim the Best Overall Music award. The band also received the top mark in the General Effect- Visual subcategory while finishing in second among the 10 bands in Best Visual Performance, and Best General Effect.

Schwartz also commended the dedication of Assistant Band Director Rebecca Ingeri, Music/Visual Instructors Tyler Deverman, Nicholas Ingeri and Caroline Hoynowski; Music Instructor Alex Moreno; Visual Instructor Mateo Acosta; Percussion Instructors Melissa Rowe, Ryan Jaccio, Daquan Sessoms, and Bruna Esteves; Program Coordinator Ed Doscher; Drill Designer Israel Delgado; and Color Guard Instructors Sharon Calixto, Louis Hellenger, Jennifer Sanchez, and Jeannabel Reyes in teaching and preparing the marching band for the season.

EHS Marching Band Wins Class AAA State Championship (cont.)



For the Elizabeth Marching Band, this is another state title to add to an already crowded trophy case.

"The 2021 Elizabeth High School Marching Band has officially added its own successful chapter to the program's well-decorated and storied history," said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "The marching band program continues to make the entire Elizabeth community proud with their extraordinary, imaginative, and elaborate performances year in and year out."

"Congratulations to the boys and girls of the Elizabeth High School Marching Band, along with all who helped guide the band this season," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Jerry Jacobs. "It is wonderful to see them back in action and taking their place among the top marching bands in the State of New Jersey."

Elizabeth Councilman Torres Donates Turkeys to EPS Community



City of Elizabeth first ward councilman Carlos Torres recently donated 25 turkeys to Juan Pablo Duarte- Jose Julian Marti School No. 28 to support families of School No. 28 during the holiday season.

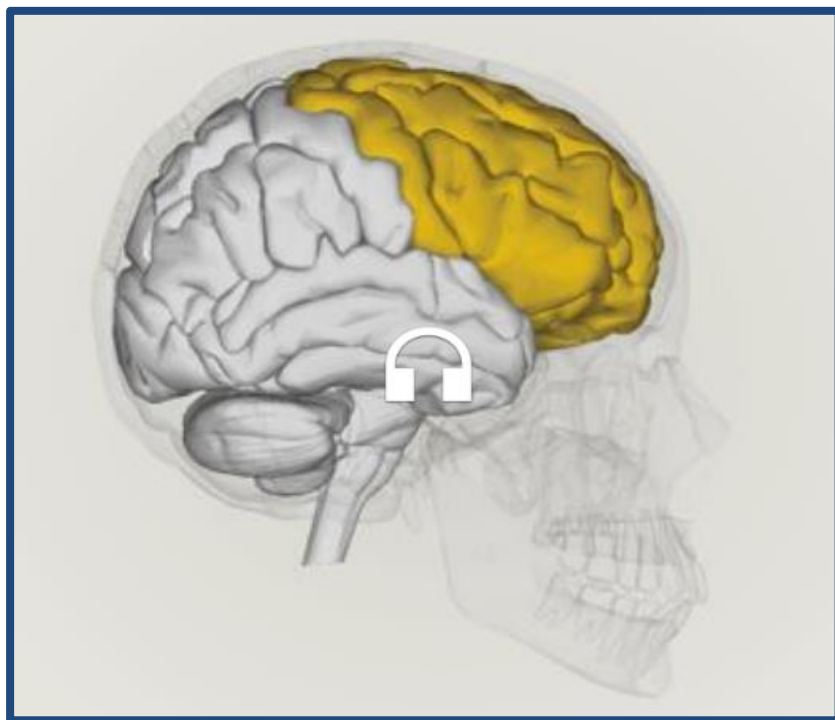
For many years, Councilman Torres has donated turkeys to schools located in the first ward to help provide a special Thanksgiving dinner to those in need.



EHS-FJC Students' Podcast Featured in KQED Youth Media Challenge

A podcast created by Elizabeth High School- Frank J. Cicarell juniors Jane Teran and Byron Vasquez has been featured by KQED as part of its Youth Media Challenges.

KQED is a nonprofit, noncommercial, and member-supported news media company that has served the Bay Area in California since 1954. The company sponsors youth media challenges that inspire students to share their voices beyond the classroom through academic-based projects that are aligned to instructional standards and address multiple content areas. Select submissions are aired on KQED broadcasts and shared with PBS and NPR member stations around the country.



Teran and Vasquez completed the Podcasting With The California Report challenge, which gave them the opportunity to submit an audio feature using the guidelines from KQED's state-wide radio show and podcast The California Report Magazine. The podcasting project is aligned with narrative writing and media arts instructional standards.

Their podcast, "[Bilingual Brains are Interesting](#)," is about the advantages of the bilingual brain and how it affects one of the most important organs of the body. In the artist statement about the piece, Teran and Vasquez shared hope that the podcast would inspire a greater appreciation of being bilingual and encourage those who are not bilingual to learn another language.

The full "Bilingual Brains are Interesting" has been published on the KQED Learn website and an excerpt of their podcast will be shared in a highlights package that is expected to be widely promoted by KQED.

"Our district places a high priority and strong emphasis on bilingual education, which has been recognized as a model program by the New Jersey Department of Education," said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "I am proud of Jane and Byron for embracing the fact that they are bilingual, using this platform to share the benefits of being bilingual, and encouraging those who are not to try to learn another language."

"Diversity is the strength and heart of our community and is something that we are always seeking to further infuse into our district's curriculum," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Jerry Jacobs. "It is great to see our students research and explore aspects of their diversity and how it positively affects them as individuals, as well as the positive impact it has on their community."

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.