

Confronting Climate Change in Elizabeth

Second Gentleman, WHCEQ, NJ First Lady, NJDEP, Mayor join EPS students on Elizabeth River Trail to explore green spaces, discuss climate issues



Elizabeth Public Schools high school students escorted Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff and New Jersey First Lady Tammy Murphy, among several honored guests, along the Elizabeth River Trail to detail the work being done locally to preserve green spaces and address climate issues.

The students, Second Gentleman, and First Lady of New Jersey were joined by Brenda Mallory, the first African-American Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), New Jersey Commissioner of Environmental Protection Shawn LaTourette, City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, and representatives of the National Parks Service and Greenworks Elizabeth to tour the Elizabeth River Trail and local green spaces.

Addressing Climate Issues Within The Community

The Elizabeth River Trail tour was held to showcase the great work Groundworks Elizabeth and their Green Team, consisting of current and former Elizabeth Public Schools students, has been doing with environmental projects on the Elizabeth River Trail.

Confronting Climate Change in Elizabeth (cont.)

Groundwork Elizabeth is a 501c3 non-profit, founded in Elizabeth, N.J. in 2003 with the goal of building healthy, sustainable and equitable communities. For the past decade we have worked daily in Elizabeth N.J. and regionally, in surrounding Union County communities to develop programs and projects that educate, improve and enhance our local urban challenged environment and address quality of life issues of environmental and food injustice.

The Green Team, a youth program of Groundworks Elizabeth, are young stewards learning, working, and teaching about the environment. They have created nature trails in Elizabeth, done vegetation control throughout Union County, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and several National Parks, and led nature explorations for adults and children. They are based at the Elizabeth Nature Center (ENC), which is home to electronic field guides, outdoor demonstration gardens, and an observation deck overlooking the Elizabeth River. Among the Green Team members on the tour were Alan and Alexis Zavala of Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy and Allison Bravo and Wesley Corea of Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy (EHS – FJC).

EPS Supervisor of Physical Education and Health Joseph Przytula lauded the work of the Green Team, specifically their efforts in cleaning up the River Trail. Prior to the pandemic, he and his wife would join the Green Team in River Trail cleanups one Saturday per month from April through October. When they started in 2018, the trail was littered with literally thousands of water bottles and other floatables washed through storm sewers. At the onset of COVID-19, there were none. Unfortunately, the remnants of Hurricane Ida has brought more back, but the Green team is up to the task. Przytula plans to have Green Team students present to the district's physical education teachers in the future.



Blending Environmental and Physical Education

Elizabeth Public Schools was asked to participate because the district's high school PE classes use the city's green spaces and the River Trail for nature walks and activities such as yoga. EHS – FJC physical education teacher, and 2020 Governor's Educator of the Year Award recipient, Chrystal Rinehold has a fitness/wellness project in the works in collaboration with Groundworks Elizabeth. As part of a senior health project, Chrystal's students will be installing QR codes along the trail that will use the Trail's existing infrastructure for fitness exercises. First Lady Tammy Murphy had particular interest in the students' environmental education endeavors as she was instrumental in infusing climate change and environmental awareness into the state's physical education comprehensive standards on all grade levels.

Confronting Climate Change in Elizabeth (cont.)



Tweeting along the river trail...



Groundwork Elizabeth @gwelizabeth · Oct 19

Visit complete! Thanks to @FirstLadyNJ and @NatiParkService for reaching out to @SecondGentleman Emhoff to join @gwelizabeth @MayorBollwage @NewJerseyDEP to talk youth, trails, #EnvironmentalJustice @GovMurphy



Tammy Murphy @FirstLadyNJ · Oct 19

Beautiful visit to the Elizabeth River Trail with @SecondGentleman and @gwelizabeth members. With bold investments in climate action, the Build Back Better Agenda will safeguard our natural resources and create good-paying jobs.



1 3 10



Chris Bollwage @MayorBollwage · Oct 19

Spectacular Autumn day in Elizabeth as @SecondGentleman Emhoff, @FirstLadyNJ, @NewJerseyDEP, @NatiParkService joined @gwelizabeth and me on an informative walk of our acclaimed Elizabeth River Trail. We spoke w/student reps about #environmentaljustice and #urbanrevitalization.



1 4 23



Joe Przytula @patc1 · Oct 20

Thanks @SecondGentleman @FirstLadyNJ for your visit to @CityofElizabeth @MayorBollwage RiverTrail. @gwelizabeth the hard work is paying off—water is cleaner with new wildlife coming back in. "Act local, think global"—Pete Seeger.



Douglas Emhoff @SecondGentleman · Oct 19

Great to be back in New Jersey, a place that will always feel like home.

@FirstLadyNJ and I heard from an incredible group of young people about how restoring public green spaces helps our communities, our environment, and our economy. #BuildBackBetter



34 199 1.7K

Council on Environmental Quality Retweeted



Brenda Mallory @BrendaMallory46 · Oct 19

I was pleased to join @SecondGentleman, @FirstLadyNJ & @RepDonaldPayne today as we heard from young leaders at @gwelizabeth on the work they are doing to address environmental injustice and confront climate change in New Jersey.



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection @NJDEP · 21h

The children are our future.

Commissioner @shawnlatur joined Second Gentleman @DouglasEmhoff and @FirstLadyNJ for a walk along the Elizabeth River Trail and met with members of @gwelizabeth's Green Team—a group of young stewards learning and teaching about the environment.



New Jersey and Governor Phil Murphy

2 11

EHS Soccer Players Ring Opening Bell at NYSE

EHS Boys/Girls Soccer Teams Visit Stock Exchange; show off ball skills to Coach Ted Lasso



Elizabeth High School varsity soccer players Allyson Navarro and Mathew Giraldo participated in the world-famous bell ringing ceremony on October 18 as part of a visit to the New York Stock Exchange by members of the boys and girls varsity soccer teams.



Through the support of Abbott, the Real Madrid Foundation, and the Ducatus Foundation, members from the EHS Boys and Girls Soccer teams took a trip to the Marriott in Downtown NYC for an event outside the NY Stock Exchange.

The Real Madrid Foundation and Ducatus Foundation already partner with Elizabeth Public Schools to provide an after school academic and sports academy at Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28. The program teaches values such as teamwork, respect, motivation, social integration, inclusion, and equality as part of Real Madrid Foundation's specific methodology "For a Real Education: Values and Sports". It consists of four separate groups of 15 students, divided into two groups receiving ESL instruction and two groups participate in soccer activities, which rotates after 45 minutes.

EHS Soccer Players Ring Opening Bell at NYSE (cont.)



FUNDACIÓN
Real Madrid

On the pitch outside the stock exchange, the athletes met and interacted with award-winning actor Jason Sudeikis, who plays the title role of Coach Ted Lasso in the 7-time Emmy Award winning show Ted Lasso, as well as with representatives from Abbott and Real Madrid. Sudeikis stepped into his "coach" role on a soccer pitch with members of the EHS teams as they demonstrated their soccer skills through a series of dribbling, passing, and goal-scoring drills.

At the event, Abbott announced it has entered into a three-year agreement to be the Health Sciences and Nutrition Partner of the Real Madrid Football Club and Global Partner of the Real Madrid Foundation—an organization founded by the club to promote the values inherent in sport to children globally. The partnership will encompass education, sports and social welfare activities in support of at-risk children in 80 countries, as well as nutritional support for the first men's and women's and Academy teams and new product innovation and development.



***U.S. News Ranks School Nos. 22 and 7
Among Top 50 Elementary and Middle Schools in NJ
Halloran earns No. 6 spot among state's elementary schools;
Reilly ranks as No.11 middle schools in NJ***

William F. Halloran School No. 22 and Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 ranked among the top 50 elementary and middle schools as part of the 2021 U.S. News & World Report Best New Jersey Elementary and Middle Schools rankings.

At the elementary school level, Halloran School No. 22 took the top spot among Elizabeth Public Schools with a state ranking of No. 6 while Reilly School No. 7 came in at No. 39. They reversed places in the middle school rankings, with School No. 7 earning the No. 11 spot in the state and finishing at the top among Elizabeth schools while School No. 22 was second in the district, coming in at No. 50 in New Jersey.



“William F. Halloran School No. 22 and Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 both offer accelerated academic programs with highly rigorous instruction that challenge students to pursue excellence and achieve at the highest levels,” said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. “The ranks these schools have earned are indicative of the outstanding work they are doing to prepare their students for secondary and postsecondary educational opportunities.”

U.S. News analyzed 1,630 elementary schools and 844 middle schools in New Jersey, taking into account data that includes student diversity, teachers, counselors, test scores and district spending.

Elizabeth Public Schools joins Jersey City Public Schools as the only districts to have multiple elementary and middle schools ranked among the top 50 in New Jersey.

“Elizabeth Public Schools is always working hard to provide a high-quality education to our students at all grade levels, whether it is early childhood, elementary, middle, or high school,” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Jerry Jacobs. “Our students and team members at William F. Halloran School No. 22 and Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 should take great pride in their efforts and their performance that has led to them being mentioned among the best elementary and middle schools in the state.”

The 2021 U.S. News and World Report Best New Jersey Elementary Schools rankings can be found at <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/elementary-schools/new-jersey>.

The 2021 U.S. News and World Report Best New Jersey Middle Schools rankings can be found at <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/middle-schools/new-jersey>.

Elizabeth Athletics Hosts 40 Year Reunion of 1981 EHS Football Champs

'81 Team Won First EHS State Football Title With 21-0 Victory Over Union at Meadowlands



Elizabeth Athletics hosted the 40th reunion of the Group 4, Section 2 champion 1981 Elizabeth High School Varsity Football Team at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy cafeteria and Williams Field on October 15.

After finishing 4-5 the previous season, the state champion 1981 team became the first Elizabeth football team in history to reach 10 wins with a season ending mark of 10-1 and started a run of winning seasons that would last 28 consecutive seasons.

The '81 team's only loss, a disappointing loss to Union, had turned on Elizabeth in the game's final minutes. After running the table the rest of the way, including a victory over Barringer in the state sectional semifinal, they earned themselves the opportunity for payback with a second game against Union for the sectional title at the Meadowlands. In a contest billed as a meeting of two of the state's best teams, Elizabeth would not be denied. The Minutemen scored touchdowns in each of the first three quarters and the defense dominated on the way to a 21-0 shutout and Elizabeth immortality.



Elizabeth Athletics Hosts 1981 EHS Football Champs (cont.)



Players from the 1981 team gathered inside Edison Cafeteria before the EHS vs. Hunterdon Central game, where a screen was set up to show video highlights from their championship season. The players were all given "See You in the Meadowlands" t-shirts to commemorate the event. Head coach of the '81 team, Don Somma, current Director of Athletics Ben Candelino, and First Ward Elizabeth City Councilman Carlos Torres all addressed the team in the cafeteria. Prior to kickoff, the 81' team joined the current football players on the home sideline to watch the first half of the game.



At halftime, the 81' team was announced one by one over the PA and asked to walk on the E logo at midfield for a group picture. Joining them were Coordinator of Athletics/Special Activities Phil Colicchio, Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer, Elizabeth Board of Education President Jerry Jacobs, and Board members Maria Carvalho and Iliana Chevres.



SEE YOU AT THE MEADOWLANDS

EHS Marching Band Best Overall at NJMBDA Competition



The Elizabeth High School Marching Band won several categories, including Best Overall Band, at the New Jersey Marching Band Directors Association (NJMBDA) competition on October 9 at Woodbridge High School.

Elizabeth finished in first place in Class AAA, competing alongside bands from all over the State of New Jersey, including Absegami, Cinnaminson, Monroe, Manalapan, and West Windsor/Plainsboro.

In addition to Best Overall Band, which they achieved with the highest score of the night at 83.6, the band received Best Music, Best Overall Music, Best Visual, Best Overall Visual, and Best Overall Effect.

EPS Hosts Successful Teacher Job Fair

Elizabeth Public Schools hosted a teacher job fair on Saturday, October 23 at Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51 with approximately 300 prospective candidates stopping in to apply for positions and speak with members of central administration, human resources, and special services, in addition to instructional personnel.

The district welcomed prospective teachers of various disciplines, including special education, bilingual, English, science, and math among others, as well as prospective school psychologists, school nurses, behaviorists, and substitute teachers. Those who attended received information about EPS, including the district's vision, promise, core beliefs, and goals, as well as one-on-one interaction with district personnel who provided more detailed information about specific desired positions.



EPS One of Two District to Pilot Pearson's TestNav Connect Platform

Elizabeth Public Schools was among two school districts in New Jersey to pilot Pearson's TestNav Connect platform during a special virtual administration of the Start Strong assessment for students at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31 and Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27.

School districts throughout New Jersey administered the Start Strong assessments this fall to satisfy the federal statewide assessment requirement for the 2020-2021 school year. EPS reached out to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for guidance about administering the Start Strong assessment to students at School Nos. 26 and 27 since they have started the school year virtually due to flood damage at their schools. The state decided they wanted EPS to administer the Start Strong to students of both schools virtually, creating the opportunity for the district to pilot Pearson's new test administration platform.

Through the TestNav Connect platform, teachers can administer online tests to students testing from home, using video, audio, and chat during the online testing session. Students and teachers can also share their screens when necessary.

NJDOE, Pearson, and EPS met to discuss administration logistics, allowing EPS to use its GoGuardian platform to monitor students as they were taking the Start Strong as well as offering the availability of TestNav Connect for monitoring purposes. The district used TestNav Connect with two groups of students, testing each group in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for a total of four test administrations.

Following the test administrations, the teachers from each group had the opportunity to provide feedback to the support team from Pearson about its ability to help monitor student progress throughout the test sessions as well as the platform's functionality from a hardware/software standpoint. This vital feedback was well received and will be used by Pearson to inform platform improvements to provide an even greater experience between teachers and students in the event a virtual test administration is needed in the future.

Dr. Tasharofi Leads COVID Screening for EPS Team Members



Executive Order No. 253, signed by Governor Phil Murphy On August 23, 2021, requires all preschool to Grade 12 school personnel to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 18, 2021 or be subject to COVID-19 testing at a minimum of one to two times per week.

In compliance with Executive Order No. 253, COVID screening is currently being offered to Elizabeth Public Schools team members at several school facilities throughout the district. Leading the COVID-screening efforts is Kamran Tasharofi, MD of Union County Healthcare Associates (UCHA). Tasharofi is an internal medicine physician and civil surgeon who has been in practice since 2000.

On staff at Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth and Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in Rahway, Dr. Tasharofi has served the Union County area in a variety of practice settings, from Central Jersey Health Care Associates in Elizabeth and Caring Hospice in Edison to his present positions as Medical Director at UCHA (in six locations, including Elizabeth) and Grace Healthcare Services in Edison. He is also the Medical Director at Ascend Hospice, Alaris at Riverton, and Alaris at Care Connections (RWJ Rahway). Dr. Tasharofi has authored several medical publications and participated in several clinical research efforts.

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.