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ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**September 2024**



*Celebrate*

**NATIONAL  
HISPANIC  
HERITAGE MONTH**



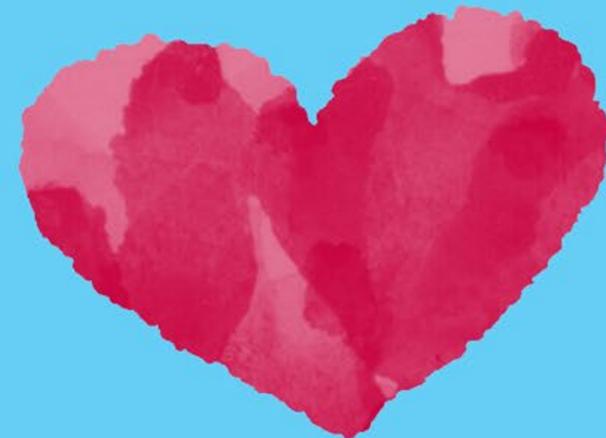
ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
*Every Child, Achieving Excellence*

SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15



September is

*National*  
**Self Care**  
*Awareness Month*





ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Every child, Achieving Excellence*

# **Important Upcoming Events**



# Senior College Boot Camp

September 21

**EHS-FJC**  
40 Morell Street  
8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



SATURDAY  
**SENIOR  
COLLEGE  
BOOT CAMP**  
&  
MINI COLLEGE FAIR

#### CONTACT

Aimee Saluccio  
District College and Career  
Coordinator  
(908) 436-6669  
saluccioai@epsnj.org

Graduation is on the horizon! Are you thinking about college? Learn about the next steps at the **Senior College Boot Camp**. There will also be a mini college fair featuring local colleges and universities.

**This event is for seniors only.** Parents are welcome to attend.

#### Sessions include:

- COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS
- ESSAY WRITING
- COMMON APPLICATION
- SCOIR
- FINANCIAL AID

Sessions will be available  
in English and Spanish.





# Stepping Up To Mental Health Summit

## September 21

Oak Ridge Park  
Oak Ridge Rd., Clark, NJ



# **STEPPING UP TO MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT**



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21  
8AM-1PM • OAK RIDGE PARK**



Scan here  
to register



inside

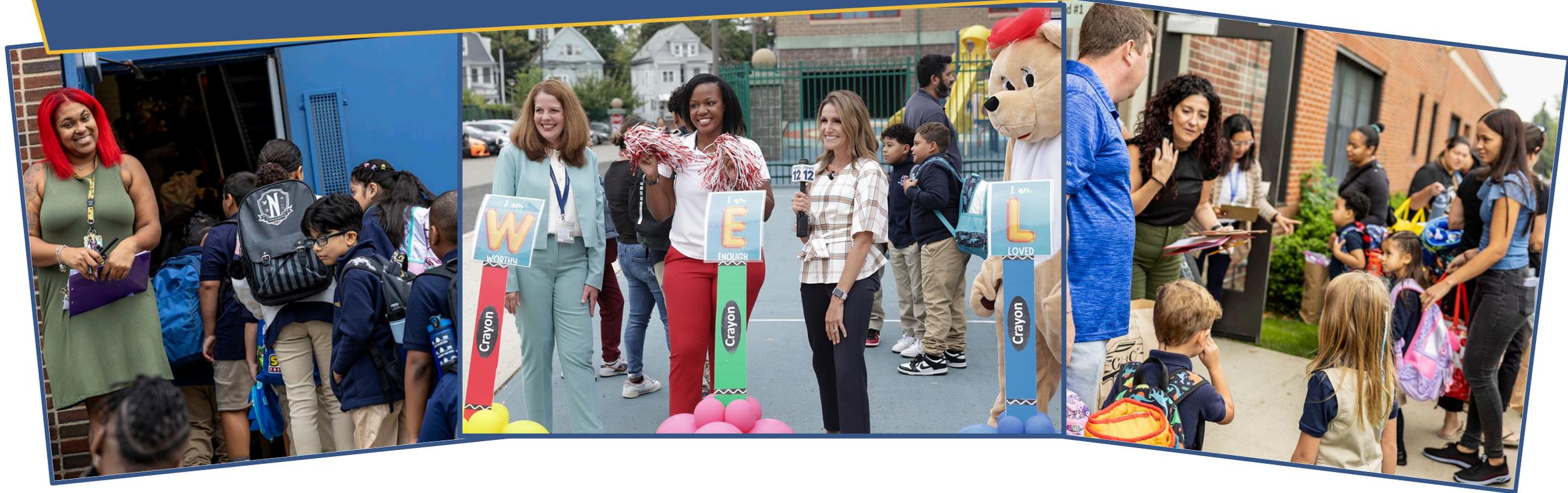
EPSS



**News From Central**

Elizabeth Public Schools, Elizabeth, NJ

# EPS WELCOMES BACK STUDENTS AND TEAM MEMBERS FOR 2024-2025



Elizabeth Public Schools opened its doors on September 6 to officially to welcome back students and team members for the 2024-2025 school year. Member of Elizabeth's city government, members of the Elizabeth Police and Fire Departments, Elizabeth Board of Education members, and administrators from Elizabeth Public Schools central offices visited schools throughout the district to interact with students as they arrived for their first day. EPS also welcomed News 12 New Jersey who stopped at Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30 to highlight the return of students in Elizabeth as part of their Fall Back Into News12 segment.

# US NAVY COMMEMORATES ELIZABETH AS BIRTHPLACE OF SUBMARINE EPS HOSTS NAVY, SERVES VITAL ROLE IN CEREMONY



Elizabeth, New Jersey, was the scene of a historic celebration on September 11 as the United States Navy officially recognized the city as the birthplace of the U.S. Submarine Force. The event, held at Veterans Memorial Park, was highlighted by the unveiling of a modern 3D art replica of the USS Holland (SS-1), marking a significant milestone in naval history and celebrating Elizabeth's maritime legacy.

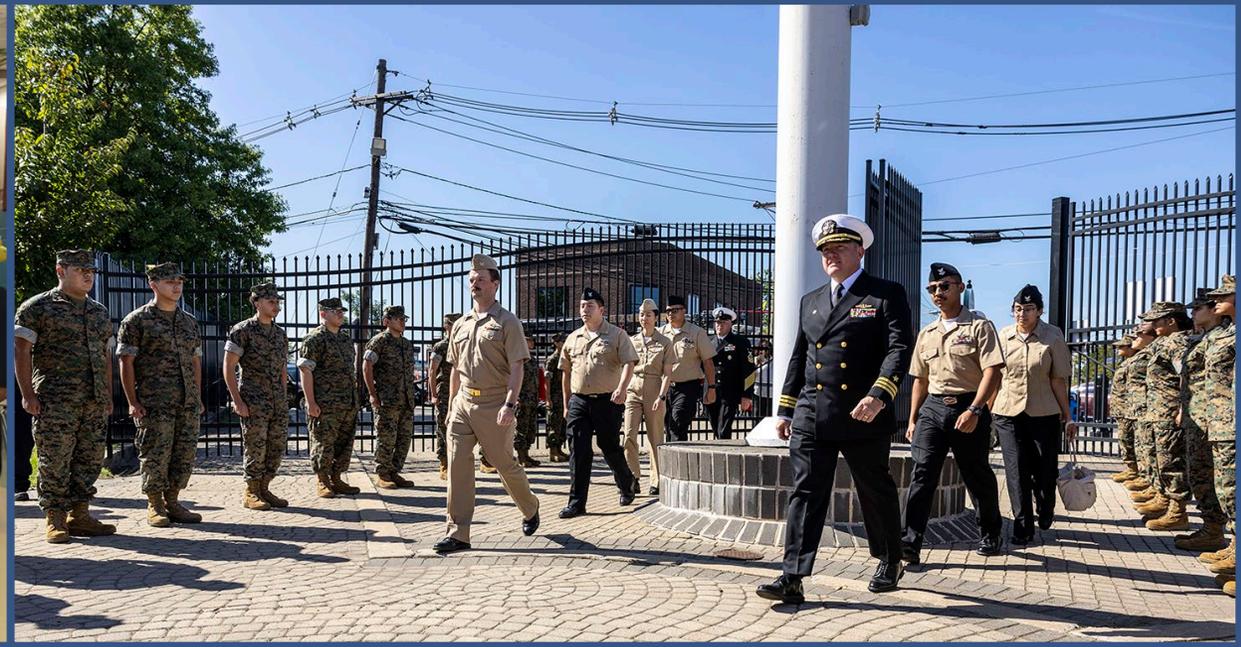
## US NAVY COMMEMORATES ELIZABETH AS BIRTHPLACE OF SUBMARINE EPS HOSTS NAVY, SERVES VITAL ROLE IN CEREMONY



The USS Holland, launched on May 17, 1897, is renowned as the U.S. Navy's first modern commissioned submarine. The newly unveiled sculpture pays tribute to John Phillip Holland, the visionary behind this revolutionary vessel. Holland, an Irish immigrant who settled in Elizabeth, transitioned from a schoolteacher to a pioneering boat-builder.

The historical significance of the USS Holland's birthplace is rooted in the Crescent Shipyard of Elizabeth, which today is the site of Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28. This is the location where the vessel was originally laid down as Holland VI. The John Holland Torpedo Boat Company was tasked with building the 54-foot submersible vessel developed by Holland. Within a year, the USS Holland was officially accepted into the U.S. Navy, marking the inception of the U.S. Submarine Force.

# US NAVY COMMEMORATES ELIZABETH AS BIRTHPLACE OF SUBMARINE EPS HOSTS NAVY, SERVES VITAL ROLE IN CEREMONY



Elizabeth Public Schools, as a contributing organization, played a pivotal role in the successful visit to Elizabeth by the Navy to commemorate the city as the submarine's birthplace. The Minuteman, our athletic mascot and a long-heralded figure here in Elizabeth, was historically famous for being ready in a moment's notice. Likewise, with only four days from the start of school until the ceremony, our team members and students were called into action with very little time for preparation afforded. Proudly, they came together and performed extraordinarily. Here are some of the key people and groups that helped make this an outstanding day to remember.

**BRUCE ELFLEIN, SUPERVISOR OF SOCIAL STUDIES**

**TRACY C. MONTEIRO, SUPERVISOR OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS**



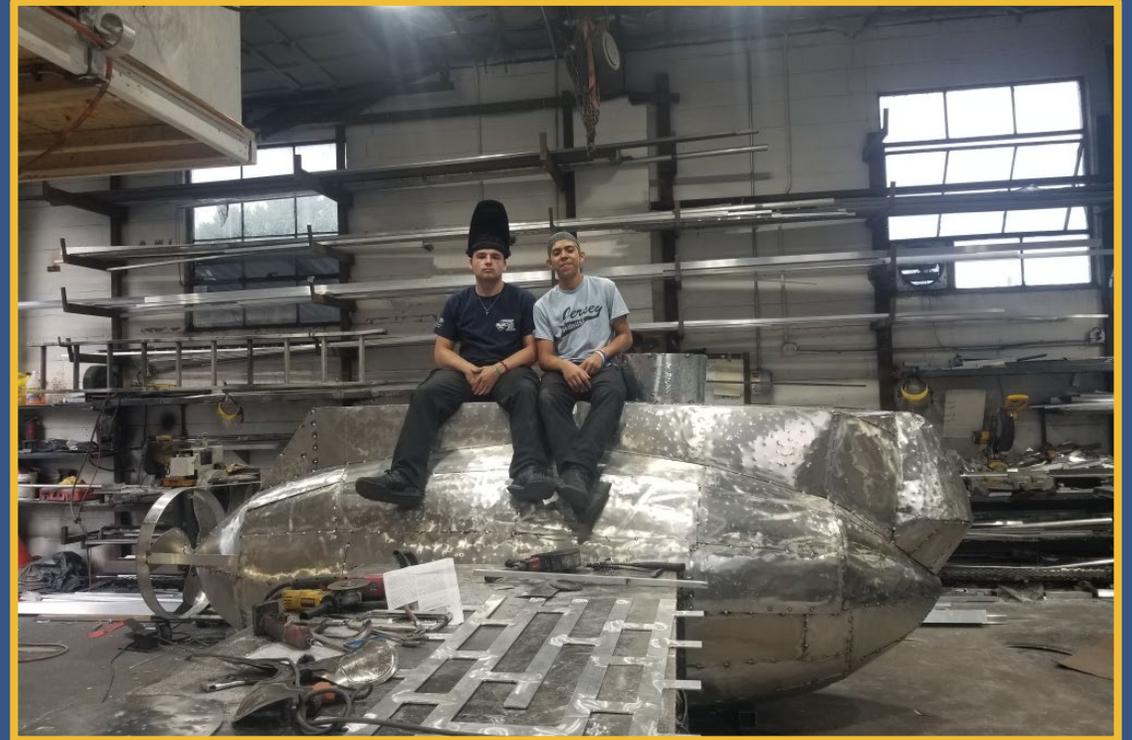
Supervisor of Social Studies Bruce Elflein (far right) and Supervisor of Visual & Performing Arts Tracy C. Monteiro (far left) were instrumental in coordinating the visit of the United States Navy to Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28 and the district's various roles in the ceremony. They collaborated with the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce[GECC], the Elizabeth Renaissance Foundation, the Elizabeth Artistry Commission, the Elizabeth Tourism Office, the City of Elizabeth, and the United States Navy Commissioning Committee of the USS New Jersey Submarine SSN 796 along with Elizabeth Public Schools central administration and school administrators.

# ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS CARPENTERS ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARTS PROGRAMS



EPS carpenters proudly produced 32 intricately designed cutouts of the American flag and United States Navy personnel. The designs represented generals, captains, and enlisted seamen, all carefully adorned with badges of honor and military ranks, showcasing the creativity and dedication of our district's art teachers. This extraordinary group effort took place during a one-day professional development session, which became a powerful platform for the creation of these historically significant works of art. The template for the cutouts was designed by Timothy J. Dunn, art teacher at Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy. His vision was brought to life by the Visual and Performing Arts Department teachers from each of the district's 37 schools. Following the Professional Development day, the painted cutouts were sent to each school, where students eagerly added their own creative touches, painting names and details to represent their schools' contributions to this memorable event.

# THOMAS A. EDISON CAREER AND TECHNICAL ACADEMY COLLISION REPAIR TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM



The USS Holland sculpture was made by Herralbert LLC, a Union County welding business, in partnership with the Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy Collision Repair Technology program. Edison Career and Technical Academy seniors Jaedon Leon and Miklos Martins, under the guidance of instructor Joe Amabile, worked with Herralbert LLC to create the USS Holland SS-01 sculpture which is 14 feet in length, 7 feet in height, 5 feet in width, and weights 350 pounds. The sculpture has a permanent home at Veterans Memorial Park in Elizabethport where it was unveiled during the Navy commemoration ceremony on September 11.

# JUAN PABLO DUARTE – JOSÉ JULIÁN MARTÍ SCHOOL NO. 28 LEARNING COMMUNITY



The School No. 28 learning community, under the leadership of principal Evelyn Rodriguez-Salcedo and vice principals Wayne Scott Donadio and Maria Avella, went above and beyond in welcoming the Navy to their school. They beautifully decorated their building through the collaboration of School No. 28 art teacher Kirsten Woodfield and art teachers throughout the district. Our special guests were also treated to great performances, including “Dragon Slayer” (by Rob Grice) by the School No. 28 Middle School Band, directed by Alex Moreno and “Leaver Her Johnny” (a Traditional Sea Shanty) by the School No. 28 Combined Elementary and Middle School Chorus, directed by Marta Ortega.



# ADMIRAL WILLIAM F. HALSEY, JR. HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY MARINE CORPS JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (MCJROTC)



The Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (MCJROTC), under the leadership of Master Sergeant Robert L. Geraldts, Master Sergeant Joel Ramirez, and Gunnery Sergeant Cedric Jefferson, were vital to providing an atmosphere of honor, character, and integrity befitting to a visit and ceremony by the United States Navy. The Halsey MCJROTC had the opportunity to interact directly with several Navy officers during a question-and-answer session and provided a grand entrance to Veterans Memorial Park by standing at attention as the members of the Navy arrived. During the ceremony, the Halsey MJROTC color guard presented the colors as attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and during the singing of the “Star-Spangled Banner” and “God Bless America”.

# ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND AND COLOR GUARD



The Elizabeth High School Marching Band, under the direction of Miguel Bolivar, and the Elizabeth High School Color Guard, under the direction of Sharon Calixto, worked together in concert to provide pageantry to the visit and ceremony. The two groups performed for the Navy, both while providing a welcoming tunnel at the entrance of School No. 28 featuring prominently waving United States, United States Navy, and City of Elizabeth flags, and at the ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park. The band performances included “America the Beautiful” and “Let’s Go Band”.

# NATALIA OCAMPO, VOCALIST THOMAS JEFFERSON ARTS ACADEMY



Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy vocalist Natalia Ocampo, under the direction of Jefferson Arts Academy Director of Choirs Kelly Ann Cubias, gave inspiring performances of “The Star-Spangled Banner” at both the School No. 28 visit and the commemoration ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park. Ocampo also performed a lovely rendition of “God Bless America” at the waterfront ceremony.

# ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND



The Elizabeth High School Jazz Band, under the direction of Meredith Foreman, lifted the energy of the audience at School No. 28, performing “Route 66” which included several extraordinary solos that were equal parts passionate and melodic.

# THOMAS A. EDISON CAREER AND TECHNICAL ACADEMY CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM



Students of the Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy Culinary Arts Program, under the direction of Food and Nutrition Services Supervisor Frank Cuzzola and Edison Career and Technical Academy Culinary Arts Program baking teacher Thomas Melillo, made an assortment of entrees and desserts for the representatives of the United States Navy during their visit to School No. 28. Several attendees who had lunch during the visit paid compliments to the students for the delicious food that they prepared.

# SCHOOL NO. 21 TEACHER AWARDED 2024 AMISTAD EXEMPLARY AWARD

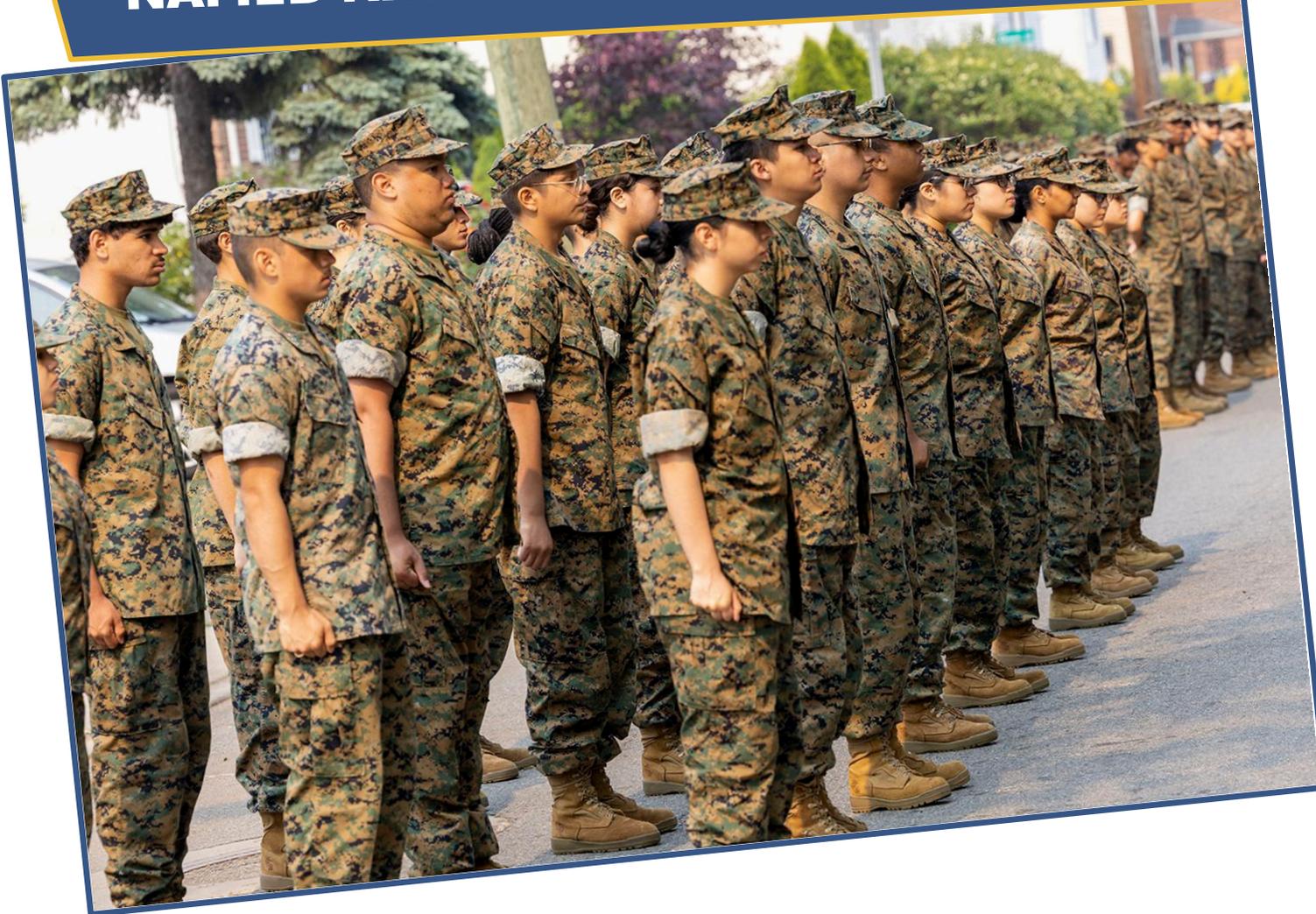


Victor Mravlag School No. 21 music teacher Lauren Ferguson was selected as the winner of the 2024 Amistad Exemplary Award for the K-8 grade category.

The Amistad Commission's Exemplary Award Program, which began in 2021, is designed to promote teaching the Amistad curriculum in New Jersey schools, enhance the social studies literacy of students, and encourage the infusion of African American history into the social studies curriculum.

The program selects two outstanding educators each year to receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award special recognition; one who represents grades K-8 and one who represents grades 9-12. The maximum award is \$2,500 to each winning teacher and \$2,500 to their district of origin.

# ADMIRAL WILLIAM F. HALSEY, JR. HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY NAMED NAVAL HONOR SCHOOL



The Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (MCJROTC) program has been designated a Naval Honor School by the Commanding General of Marine Corps Training and Education Command for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Naval Honor School designation means that a Marine Corps JROTC program is in the top 20 percent of all programs. This marks the fifth time in six years that the MCJROTC at Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy has received this honor.

There are 250 MCJROTC programs worldwide currently divided among four regions. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy is among 54 high schools that make up Region 1.

# JOSEPH BATTIN SCHOOL NO. 4 DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR A NEW PK-8 NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL



The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) joined Elizabeth School District officials on August 22 to highlight ongoing demolition work to make way for a new elementary school.

The SDA says the new elementary school will be a 142,000-square-foot facility, designed to hold a maximum of 1,000 students from Pre-K to 8th grade.

The SDA has invested \$494 million in completed projects in Elizabeth alone, including 10 new schools and 32 health and safety/grant/emergent projects. In addition, the SDA has provided \$13.8 million through funding available for Capital Maintenance and Emergent Grants.

# EPS WELCOMES NEW INSTRUCTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS FOR 2024-2025

## Supervisors – Instructional

**Myraida Conceicao** – Supervisor of Special Services

**Marisa Lopez** – Supervisor of ELA 9-12

**Melissa Rabess** – Supervisor of ELA 5-8

**Stephanie Gaeta** – Supervisor of Mathematics K-4

**Liliana Dias** – Supervisor of Bilingual/ESL 5-8

## Principals

**Jerika Fernandez** – Joseph Battin School No. 4

**Maria Gaeta** – Madison-Monroe School No. 16

**Danny Ortiz** – Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy



# EPS WELCOMES NEW ADMINISTRATORS FOR 2024-2025

## Vice Principals

**Christina Madeira** – George Washington Academy School No. 1

**Ana Amaral** – Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9

**Marisa Taborda-Meirinho** – Elmora School No. 12

**Victoria Smutek** – Victor Mravlag School No. 21

**Deborah Ferrao** – Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23

**Faye Best** – Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 Annex

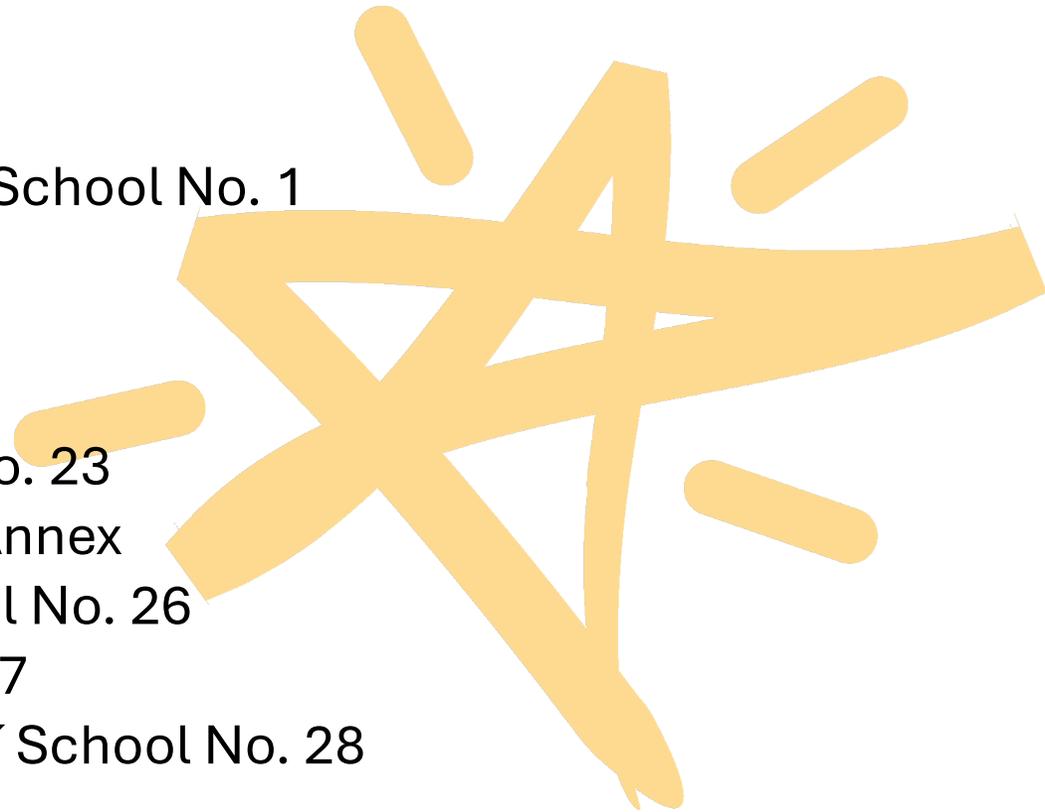
**Edward Long** – Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26

**Ameerah Boone** – Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27

**Maria Avella** – Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28

**Gabriella Richa** – Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

**Justine McConkey** – Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy



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**News From Central**

Elizabeth Public Schools, Elizabeth, NJ



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ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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