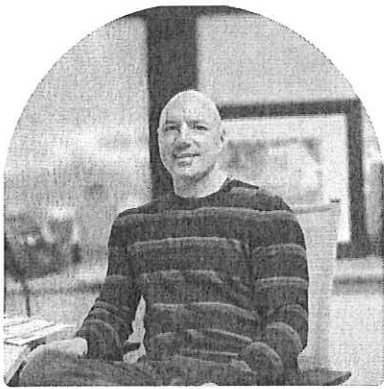




# *Westlake's* **MONTHLY REPORT** **JAN 2023**



## **Supervisor's Message**

Hi friends,

It's been said that "A house is made of bricks and beams. A home is made of hopes and dreams." While Westlake School is not a traditional home, it does evoke the same feelings of a warm, inviting and comforting place for students to dream, learn, develop and grow to their fullest potential. With the assistance of our students, families and staff members our shared sense of place and purpose is now becoming our ever evolving Westlake School

or perhaps more appropriately our "Westlake Community".

January's Social-Emotional Learning focused upon the topics of Leadership and Courage. Displays of this were exhibited throughout the school with formal and informal teacher designed lessons and activities that connected SEL concepts with authentic actions and opportunities for students to provide peer to peer modeling and instruction through student led functional group activities. Students participated in courageous self exploration lessons that required them to identify and understand that we all have personal strengths, "needs improvements" and things we are scared of and interventions that can be practiced and exercised before and after to manage a perceived "scary" and/or unanticipated situation.

Robert Peneno  
"Mr. P"

---

## January Data

Enrollment - 61  
Acceptances - 2  
Intakes - 4  
Referrals - 6  
Disenrollment - 0  
Fire Drill - 1/18/23  
Lock Down (Internal Threat) (2 of 2) - 1/19/23

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## Westlake's December Spotlights!



### Student of the Month

Elijah is always willing to go the extra mile through his actions and efforts and consistently demonstrates kindness and caring for both peers and Westlake staff.



### Principal's Award

Jeremy has shown steady improvement from the start of the school year, being able to effectively communicate his wants and needs appropriately.



Teacher Spotlight



Therapist Spotlight

- She grew up in Florida and Massachusetts
- Her daughter is often a sub at Westlake, and a fantastic one at that!
- She has a dog named Luna
- She has been married for 25 years

"Caring goes beyond medical interventions- it is caring for people in a wholistic manner. I always advise working in the health care field while attending nursing school so there is a "taste" of what's ahead in the profession."

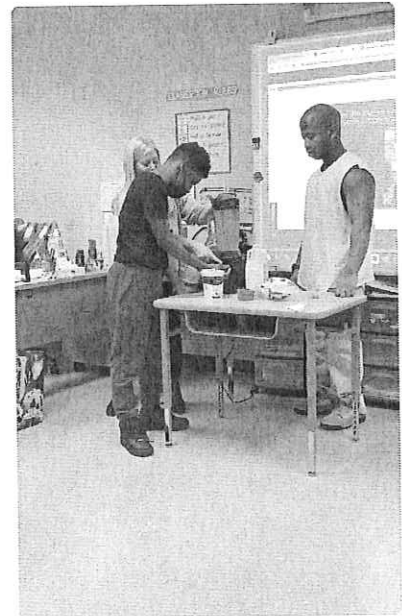
"Get to know each student carefully- not a single one is the same- nuances take a while to learn but each impacts the student and families differently- the more familiar you become, the stronger the bonds and trust are. This is what makes or breaks trust between staff and student/families.

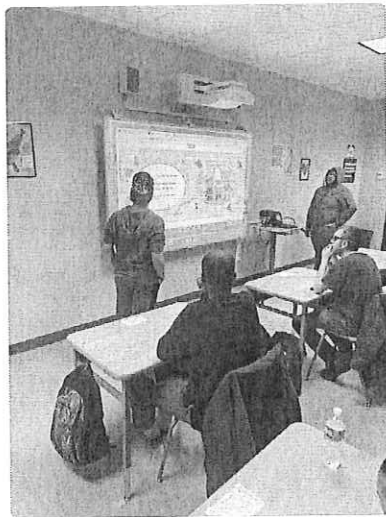
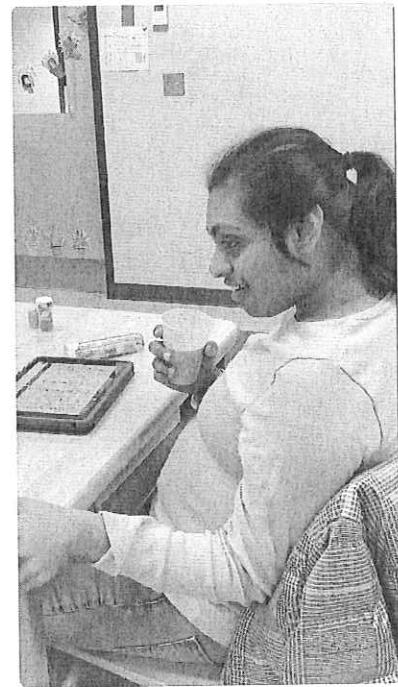
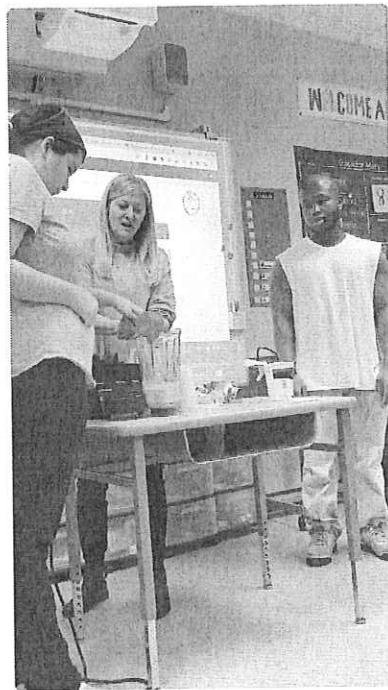
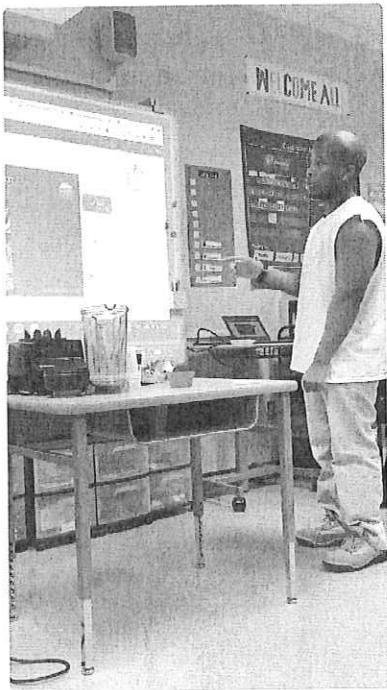
"Being a speech therapist is rewarding in so many ways. Helping students communicate their wants and needs had been the best part of being an SLP!"

### Ms. Schiumo's Classroom

This month we experimented with peer leadership. We invited students WB and EW to help guide our class through two cooking lessons, pizza and strawberry smoothies. The benefits were immediately apparent as students were happily volunteering to complete the steps. We will continue to build upon this learning strategy as we were able to work on important life skills and make it enjoyable for all.

In line with this month's theme of courage our class listened to Sebastian's Roller Skates written by Joan de Deu Prats. The primary themes were overcoming shyness and gaining the self confidence to try something new. This gave us an opportunity to discuss how that may feel and possible strategies or tools one can use to accomplish something that is unfamiliar . We spotlighted the students and staff examples of their ability to try new things. One example of this is that one of our students found the courage to join another class for Karate. We loved



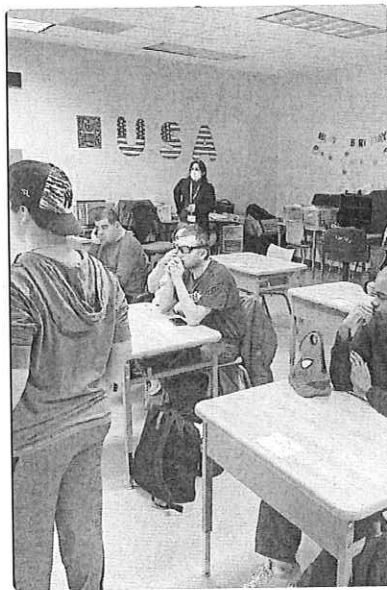
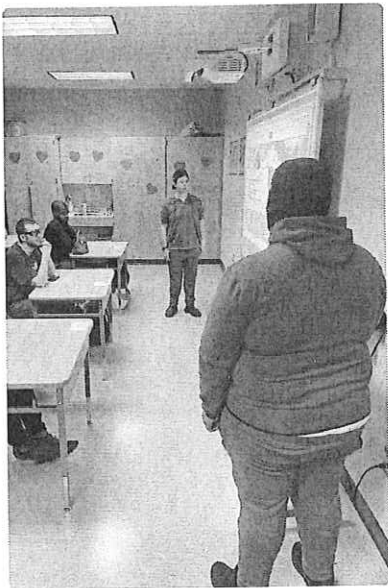


### **Mr. Carten's Classroom**

Now that we are back in Westlake School, my students are excited to have a wonderful opportunity to have a co-op-learning experience with Ms. Finver's class at Lamberts Mill Academy. Prior to the flood at 1571 these two schools had built a good rapport amongst our student populations. Mr Carten's and Ms. Finver's students will be interacting every Friday for the rest of this school year. The students engage in a Language Arts activity. The students from Lamberts Mill Academy read a story to my class and ask them questions. This opportunity provides SEL ( Social Emotional Learning) for all students. The students work on communication skills, taking turns, answering questions and

appropriate social interaction. The students from Lamberts Mill Academy model appropriate behavior which is then mirrored by Mr. Carten's students. These types of experiences are critical and necessary for the success of both populations in the post graduate world.

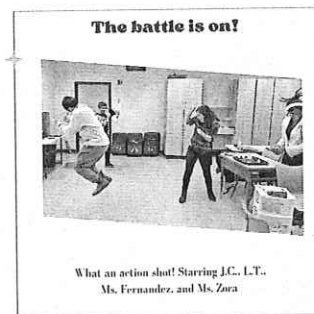
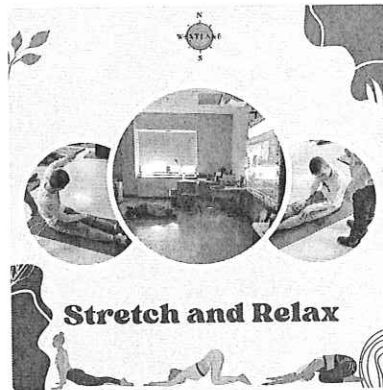




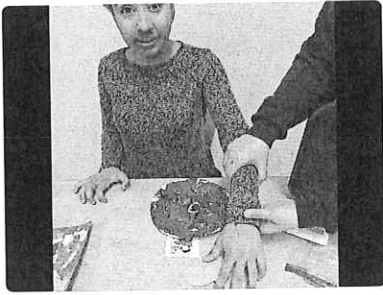
## January at Westlake!



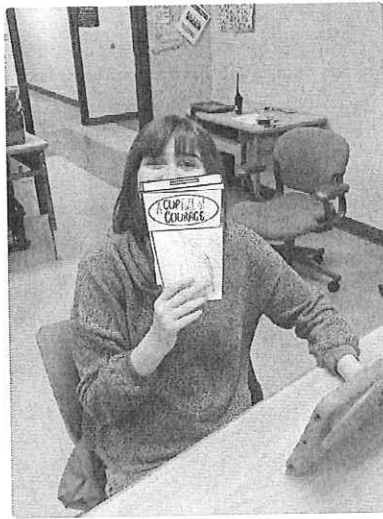
For Law Enforcement Appreciation Day we want to express our gratitude to our Safety Officer former Chief of Detectives Tim Fitzgerald! He does an amazing job of keeping us all safe and keeping our spirits high!



"Courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it." -Nelson Mandela



Mrs. Robles' class showed how they could change the world!



Mrs. Alison made cups FULL of courage with her Occupational Therapy Group!



Mrs. Shaw's class explored their struggles, fears, and strengths!

## Westlake's Unsung Hero

### Wellington Campos

Wellington has made a lot of progress since he started attending Westlake School. In the beginning he was a very quiet and shy student. As Wellington became more confident in his abilities, he became more talkative and comfortable in group settings. This year he had an accident and fell off his bike into the street. He healed quickly, but what motivated him in his recovery was his desire to come back to school so he could be with his friends. When he came back he demonstrated his maturity and courage and never complained about his injuries.

Wellington is a very helpful student. He is always trying to help other students and staff with their tasks. Whenever he sees a student needing help he is the first one to go over and give assistance. When the class was in the Holy Spirit School (our alternate location) he was the first student to get the baskets that held the cooking supplies that we would have to carry down to the kitchen. This was always a job every day; carrying the supplies from one floor to another. Wellington is always willing to try new tasks; he never says no to any tasks that Mrs. Palmer gives him during vocational time. He has learned to stay focused, clean up the work stations, and be as accurate as possible. When he is in Food Prep class he measures all the ingredients accurately. He is able to follow the class schedule and let the staff know when there is a change in the schedule. He lights up the room with his handsome smile and upbeat personality. Wellington's positive attitude and kind, helpful approach makes him a valuable addition to the class.



Mrs. Palmer went around the room and asked each student to describe Wellington. Here are their

Warren said, "He is helpful."

Ousmana said, "He is polite."

Tamar said, "He is very nice."

Elijah said, "He is considerate and helpful."

Tiffany said, "He is very nice to everyone."

Mrs. Palmer said, "I wish more people in the world were as kind and helpful as Wellington."

Mrs. D said, "He is friendly, easy going and adapts well to any situation."

Mr. Nelson said, "He's always smiling and in a good mood."

Visit us on Instagram!

Visit us on Facebook!



### Contact Us

**Website:** [www.ucesc.org/schools/westlake\\_school](http://www.ucesc.org/schools/westlake_school)

**Location:** [1571 Lamberts Mill Rd, Westfield, NJ, USA](#)

**Phone:** [908-232-4181](tel:908-232-4181)



**Robert Peneno**

Robert is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

# The Work Readiness Academy

January 2023 - Monthly Report



## Director's Message

Dear WRA Families,

It's hard to believe we have reached the end of January -- the halfway mark of the school year. We are extremely excited to be in our new home at 970 Suburban Road in Union, New Jersey (see more below)!

As a reminder, we will be sending out one official newsletter at the completion of each month. Other important updates will still be sent out via email or letters home with your child.

Below is a recap of some highlights from the month of January.

Sincerely,

Josh Bornstein

Director at the UCESC Work Readiness Academy

## January Data

Enrollment as of Jan 3, 2023

Actual: 27

Changes: Entered: 0 Exited: 0

Referrals: 2

Intakes Scheduled: 7 (Jan & Feb '23)

Accepted:

January 20 - Fire Drill







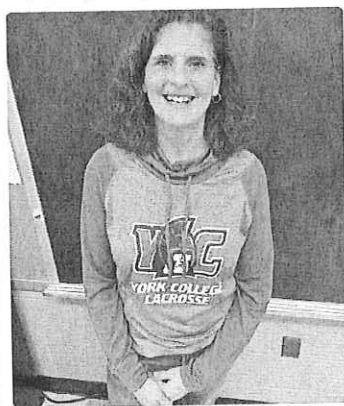
## Weather Closings & Delayed Openings

As a reminder, in the event that we need to close the program or delay our opening due to inclement weather, you will receive a message via our Honeywell First Alert system.



### WRA Student of the Month

Our Student of the Month for December is **Justin Seigerman!** Justin is intelligent, quick-witted, and compassionate. He is also very resilient having successfully overcome some recent medical challenges. Justin also designed the poster for this month's "Souper Bowl" canned food drive while at his internship at TC Graphics in Cranford (see more information below in the newsletter). Congratulations Justin!



### Staff Spotlight

**Name:** Sharlene McQuade

**Position:** Special Education Teacher & PE/Health Teacher

**Years with UCESC:** 9; started as a Paraprofessional & PE/Health Teacher at Crossroads School.

**Interests/Hobbies:** Photography and Hiking

**Quote to Live By:** "The more you give, the more you receive."

**Something Most People Wouldn't Know About Me:** "I am the sixth out of seven children!"



### Community Business Partner Spotlight

For over 10 years Summit Health (formerly Summit Medical Group) has served as a host business for Work-Based Learning Experiences for students from the WRA. Currently we work with Mail Room, the Pediatrics Office, and the Classic Cafe. Formed by the 2019 merger between Summit Medical Group, one of the nation's premier independent physician-governed multispecialty medical groups, and CityMD, the leading urgent care provider in the New York metro area.



## Home Sweet Home

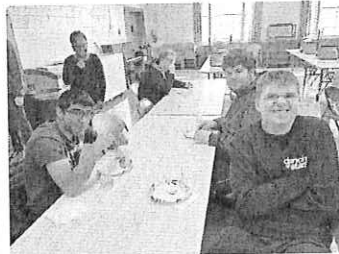
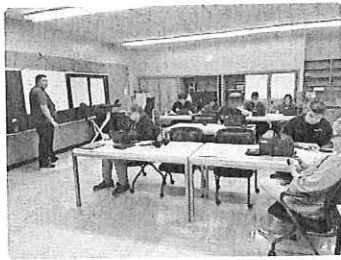
We are thrilled to be settling into our new home located inside what was formerly the Holy Spirit School building located at 970 Suburban Road in Union, NJ.

We will be hosting an **"Open House"** for WRA parents & families on **Wednesday, February 22nd from 7-8pm**. Please RSVP to [mwakeman@ucesc.org](mailto:mwakeman@ucesc.org) if you plan to attend.

This move will provide our program with more space to support additional programming and enrollment. Additionally, the new building features the following enhancements for our students:

- Larger classrooms to accommodate our adult-sized students.
- A large multi-purpose room with a gymnasium floor and stage that we will use for fitness class, yoga, lunch, community meeting, and other special events.
- A larger, expanded kitchen space to support our food safety & independent cooking skills cycle class.
- Separate, dedicated bathrooms for both male and female students.
- We are working on designign a "Zen" room that will serve as both a recreational "break room" space and a room to use in the event a student needs some quiet time away from class. Stay tuned for some pictures next month.

Enjoy some pictures of our new space below!



## Community Service

As part of our ongoing efforts to support our local community, the Work Readiness Academy has launched a "Soup R Bowl" collection of canned goods to donate to GRACE, located in Summit, New Jersey. The collection will run **from now until Friday, February 10th**. Any canned soups, fruit, vegetables, or protein is preferred.



<https://www.gracegivingreceiving.org/>

**A special shout out to WRA student Justin Seigerman** for helping to design our poster for the canned goods drive (see below), while at his internship with graphic design shop TC Graphics in Cranford.



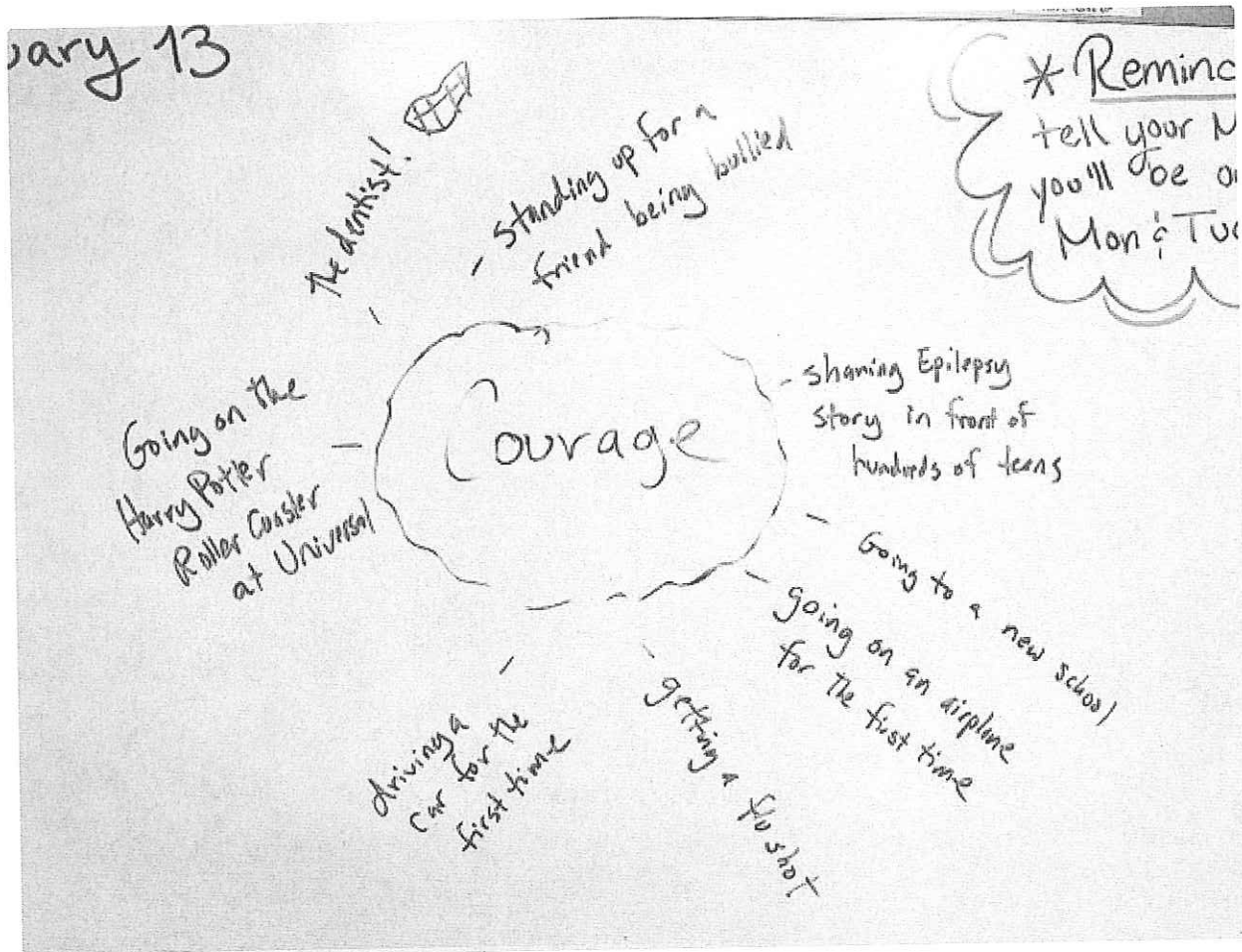
## December Pictures from our Work-Based Learning Experiences

Click on each picture to enlarge and see more information!





## Recognizing Courage this Month



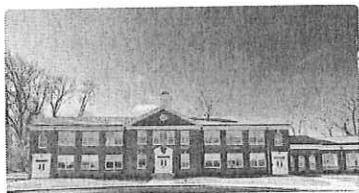
## WRA in the Community

### Happy New Year!

WRA Students **Michael Lombardi** and **Breanna Xavier** had a blast ringing in the New Year at a party held on January 3rd at Harding School in Kenilworth. Special thanks to **Angela Lombardi** (Michael's mom) for helping to organize the event and sharing this information with our WRA families.







## The Work Readiness Academy

📍 970 Suburban Road, Union, NJ, ...

✉ [jbornstein@ucesc.org](mailto:jbornstein@ucesc.org)

☎ 908-633-2704

🌐 [ucesc.org/schools/the\\_work\\_r...](http://ucesc.org/schools/the_work_r...)

[Click here to visit the WRA on Facebook!](#)

[Click here to visit the WRA on Instagram!](#)



# LMA Monthly Report

January 2023

## Supervisor's Message

Greetings,

My name is John Lopreiato, the Supervisor of Instruction and School Anti-Bullying Specialist at Lamberts Mill Academy. LMA staff and students have been incredibly busy for the month of January as we have successfully transitioned back to our permanent location at 1571 Lamberts Mill Road. Students have been getting acclimated to the new, state-of-the art facility with new furniture and technology in each and every room! Please enjoy this newsletter to learn more about our program, see what staff and students have been busy with for the month of January, and upcoming events!



## Monthly Data

Enrollment - 40

Acceptances - 7

New Students - 7

Student Intakes - 9

Referrals - 3

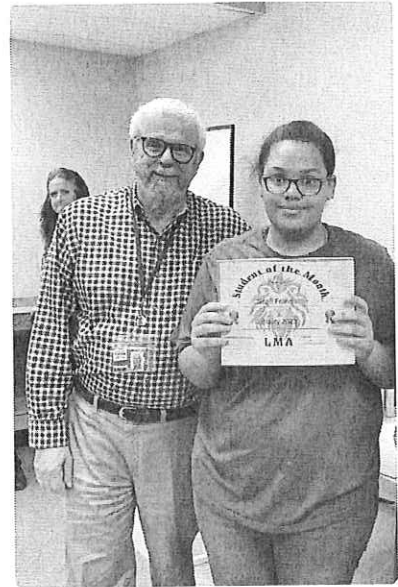
Disenrollment - 3

Fire Drill - (1/18/2023)

# *LMA Student of the Month January 2023*

## **Mary 'Noah' Francis**

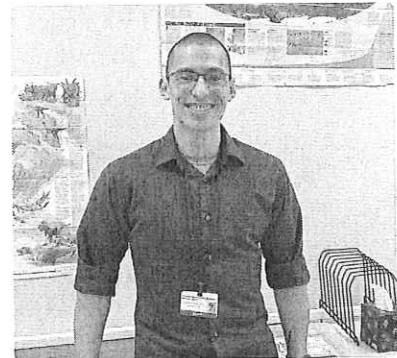
Lamberts Mill Academy is proud to announce our January student of the month, Mary 'Noah' Francis. All staff cast a vote on the student who has made the most progress this month, and Noah won a majority of the votes. Noah has been with Lamberts Mill Academy since the start of ESY in 2019, and has been a wonderful addition to the LMA school culture. Presently, she has completed all her high school credits, but is continuing with LMA in our Post Graduate program, giving herself exposure to a multitude of jobs and careers. Noah is always quick to lend a helping hand both in the school, and out in the community. Working with Mr. Bell to fill daily school store orders, helping Mrs. Reardon with main office operations and helping to implement the recycling program at LMA are just some of the things she does on a daily basis with a smile. We are proud, and honored to have Noah as an LMA student as she encompasses our core values and beliefs!



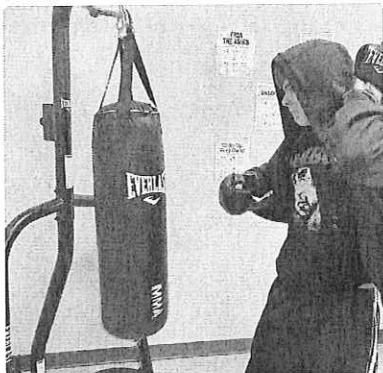
## *Staff Spotlight*

### **Mr. Julian Leal LCSW - Therapist**

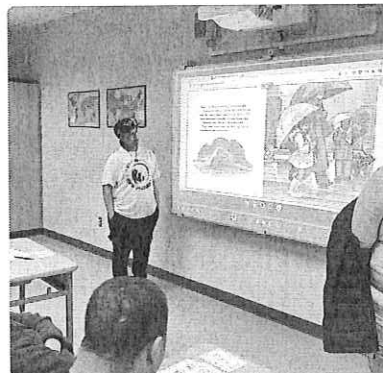
1. Has worked at Lamberts Mill Academy for 5 years.
2. Julian has always wanted to pursue a career in school social work.
3. Attended Rutgers University for both Undergraduate and Graduate work.
4. Enjoys playing the guitar on his free time.
5. Proud winner of the first UCESC Sweatshirt Design Contest.



## *Classroom Spotlights*



**Mr. Peter's class builds their own workouts.**



**Ms Finver's class restarts Cooperative Learning**



New Year. Students have been learning about proper form/technique, weight lifting safety and all the different body parts affected by different workouts. Mr. Peters has been demonstrating, and allowing all students to try different gym equipment. In addition to working out, and increasing physical movement; students are appropriately utilizing workouts to improve emotional regulation and reduce everyday stress and anxiety.

school to provide cooperative learning opportunities for LMA students. In addition to providing public speaking and reading amongst their LMA classmates, students from Ms Finver's ELA classes have been visiting select Westlake class to read them stories. LMA students have been practicing their public speaking skills with Westlake classes, and trying to provide students a role model by taking on this endeavor. We are proud of Ms Finver's students for participating in this cooperative learning opportunity, and hope to make this partnership with Westlake a consistent, long-term opportunity.

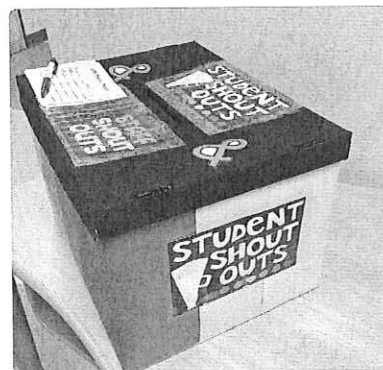
## *Month at School*



**LMA enjoys a show at the New Jersey State Theatre**



**Students receive a guided tour of WPD and see all the inner workings of the control room with Chief Battiloro.**



**LMA is excited to continue Student and Staff Shout Outs in the new facility, continuing to promote positive school culture.**





## Leadership

After overhearing New Day staff report to Mr. Lopreiato that the New Day van had a flat tire and that it would need to be towed back to Elizabeth, LMA students offered to help as a leader would. Mr. Lopreiato supervised as LMA students Adam and Sebastian lead the tire changing process that roadside assistance was unable to complete. New Day staff was thankful of LMA students helping her safely return to New Day in the van without the inconvenience and disruption of towing it.



## Courage

LMA students taking Career Explorations took a guided tour of Westfield Police Department this month. Students learned about the many aspects of law enforcement including job duties, training and being a positive support to the community. Students were also able to discuss the dangers of the job, and the courage required to serve their respected community. Student Ciarra (pictured) plans to pursue a career in law enforcement after graduating LMA this coming June. Visiting WPD and speaking with Chief Battiloro and other police officers was a great experience for Ciarra and her peers.



## Unsung Heroes

Even though National Nurses week isn't till May, LMA is grateful to have Nurse Melida Pelaez as one of our unsung heroes. Nurse Pelaez is an irreplaceable part of the Lamberts Mill Academy program. Starting her day checking on the health and well being of all students and staff, and continuing throughout the day to ensure everyone in the building is staying healthy are just some of the many things she does on a daily basis. Nurse Pelaez helps with the Psychiatrist who visits LMA once a week to ensure all the students that need to be seen visit with the Doctor, and receive their prescribed medication. LMA will always recognize Nurse Pelaez's compassionate and endless work ethic, always putting the school, students and staff before herself.

## School in the Community

1. Mr. Bell and our Post Graduate students continue to participate by helping the local food bank on a reoccurring monthly basis.
2. Assemblies - Community Meetings spotlighting student of the month (LMA overall) as well as student of the month in each classroom.

4. Mr. Bell and students taking Career Explorations visited Westfield Police Department for a guided tour of working in a police precinct.

## LMA Students Outside of the Classroom

### LMA Student Samuel volunteers at his Temple

Mr. Lopreiato: How long have you been volunteering at your local Temple?

*Samuel: I started volunteering over the weekends since last September, and enjoy helping others.*

Mr. Lopreiato: How did you come across this opportunity?

*Samuel: I use to attend Hebrew school for my bar mitzvah at the Temple, and once I graduated they offered me the opportunity to work as a volunteer here. I initially politely declined, as I had some personal issues to work through before I was able to make the commitment.*



Mr. Lopreiato: What are some of your responsibilities as volunteer at your Temple?

*Samuel: I help in Judaic K-2 class serving as an assistant to the instructor. I assist by helping distribute materials, and assisting the younger children with different types of projects. I also help ensure safety at dismissal for all the younger children.*

Mr. Lopreiato: How does volunteering at your Temple make you feel?

*Samuel: Volunteering at my Temple is incredibly rewarding, and I feel proud to help my community. My prior knowledge and education is helpful with the instruction of younger children.*

Mr. Lopreiato: How did LMA help you prepare for this position?

*Samuel: LMA has helped me to improve my social skills in order to work with students my age at the Temple. Being able to work as a team and together allows us all to help the younger generation reach a common goal.*

Mr. Lopreiato: What are your future plans and goals outside of high school?

*Samuel: As a short term goal, I would like to work as a camp counselor for the summer for younger students at the Temple. More long term, I would like to work as an instructor in my Temple serving as a leader.*

## About Us

### Contact Information:

Phone: (908)-233-7581

Address: 1571 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, NJ, 07090

Website: [https://ucesc.org/schools/lamberts\\_mill\\_academy](https://ucesc.org/schools/lamberts_mill_academy)

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/ucesc\\_lma/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/ucesc_lma/?hl=en)

Lamberts Mill Academy is a school within the Union County Educational Services Commission.

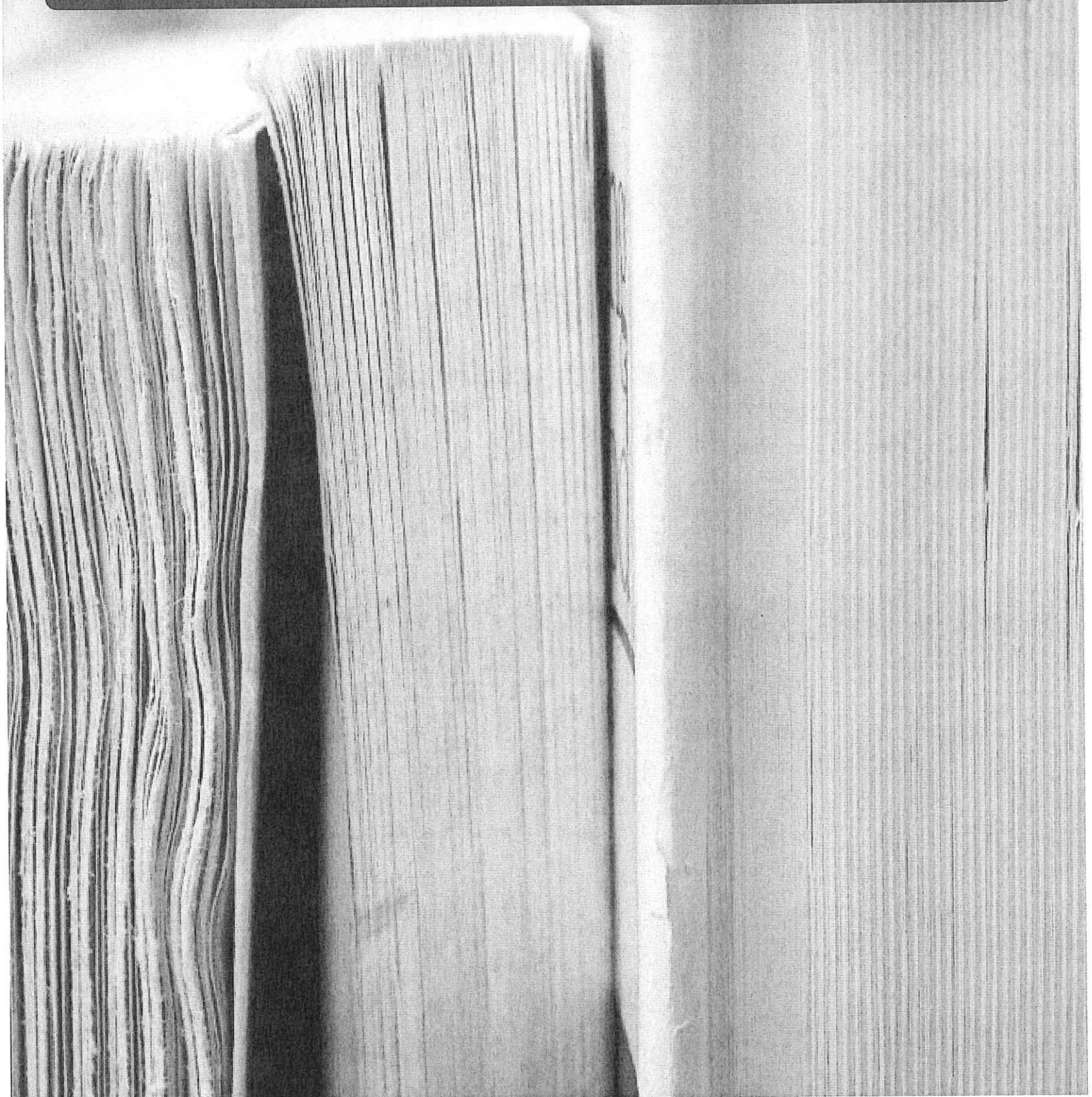
families and community partnerships. Being a public school, we adhere to all NJDOE assessment and curriculum mandates. Our professional learning community strives to increase student achievement and improve classroom instruction to provide students with the most effective educational, social and emotional learning environment possible.

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**LMA Smore**

LMA is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

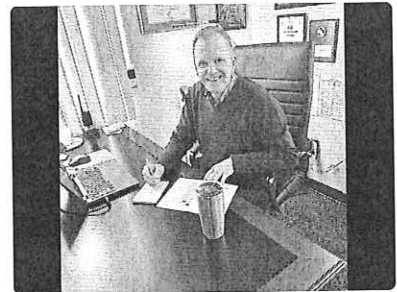






## Principal's Message

The month of January was an exciting time at Hillcrest Academy North. HAN students are working diligently in completing their assignments in classes and reflecting on SEL skills they have learned this month. With Leadership and Courage being the theme of the month, I have observed several meaningful and effective lessons students were engaged in. In particular, the Do Nows that teachers open every class with, have asked very intriguing and reflective questions aligned to this theme. Students have responded very positively to being a part of the discussion and dialogue that teachers are facilitating! When asked to reflect on what was learned from the activity, students have responded with a myriad of very thoughtful responses.



Great job, HAN Superstars!

### Upcoming Dates

February 3, 2023- Union County College Information Session

February 14, 2023- Valentine's Day Senior Bake Sale

February 17-20, 2023- No School for President's Day

March 24, 2023- HAN Career Day





Enrollment- 85  
New Students- 4  
Intakes- 4  
Disenrollment- 5  
Fire Drill: Jan 6  
Shelter-In-Place (Hurricane): Jan 26

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## Student of the Month

Jesiree Santana is our student of the month at Hillcrest Academy North and she has quickly made her mark here. She loves taking on extra projects in the building. For example, she wrote close to 30 letters to troops during the holidays for Community Service. When HAN had a Holiday Door Decorating Contest, she took the lead on her homeroom's door design. Jesiree frequently writes notes of encouragement on sticky notes and posts them in the hallway in effort to spread positivity. These actions, coupled with her academics, resulted in Jesiree earning Student of the Month at HAN.



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## Teacher Spotlight



### **Ms. Machado Math Teacher**

Ms. Machado is our math teacher here at HAN and builds such strong connections with our students, almost like a second mom to some. She graduated from Kean University with a Bachelor's degree in Science and Technology and obtained her Masters in Instruction and curriculum. She has worked at Hillcrest North for the past 12 years! Her favorite thing about working at HAN is building connections with students and working with a big-hearted team! When Ms. Machado was posted on our school's Instagram page, her post was flooded with positive comments from past students really showcasing her strong impact even years later. When asked about Ms. Machado to our current students, here were some of the things they said: "Ms. Machado is such a kind and humble teacher." "I love Ms. Machado! She taught me chess!" and "She always makes me feel welcomed!"

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## **Classroom Spotlights**

My name is [REDACTED]. I am reaching out to showcase my interest in the Flight Attendant position in Dallas, Texas. This position caught my attention as my academic and career background complement the tasks and requirements of this position.

### **Ms. Killeen**

In the month of January my English classes took a step back

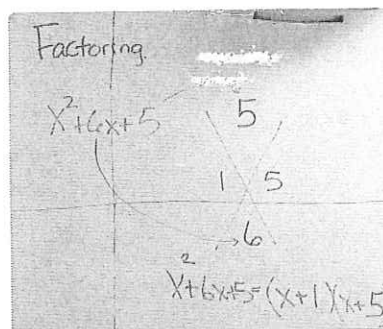
about their careers and how to make a good living. What better way than to combine English and career skills by introducing cover letters!

Students were encouraged to really think about what they would like to do as potential careers, and conducted research through the Occupational Handbook Outlook website. Students gained a lot of insight about their dream jobs including the pay, the job growth, number of jobs available, the skills needed, and the working environment. Then students chose one of the three jobs to apply to by writing a mock cover letter! This has been one of my favorite assignments this school year because it is solely based on students' interests and the skills can be applied to real life.

Pictured is a sample cover letter a student wrote, with their name blocked out for privacy. The student's main goal after high school is to become a flight attendant. He completed research on the skills necessary to be a flight attendant and then crafted a strong cover letter that any employer would be impressed with!

### Ms. Rehwinkel

Factoring quadratics might be the most complicated problem Algebra students have encountered so far in their math education. It is an open-ended question that can force students to consider multiple paths for a solution, and each path could have multiple outcomes. At the same time, most Algebra students still aren't sure how they feel about that "x" they find down every path. But, just as complicated as finding the solution might seem, understanding and mastering the process is just as important.



A math teacher, like myself, might secretly admit that she loves factoring. It is like a little puzzle, a mini game I can play in my head. It's a rewarding game too, because I know I will definitely, eventually, be successful, and factoring that quadratic into two binomials proves once again that math can bring order to the world. But all of the steps - factoring the constant term, picking a pair of numbers, choosing the right sign for each number, and then possibly having to start all over again - can be overwhelming for students, especially those whose mental math skills are a little rusty.

I wouldn't be much of a math teacher, though, if I didn't think that all students could learn to factor and probably learn to like it. I was happy to find a little math game that got the students factoring before I even mentioned the term.

The internet called it a Diamond Chart, and I introduced it as a game to start a new unit. The students saw it as a nice break from multiplying polynomials (not an "x" variable in sight!), and I provided a multiplication chart for the students that benefited from that support. The first example I present is on the left with the solution on the right.

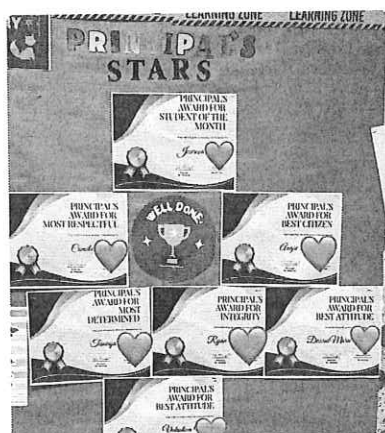
It was a hit. All students found success with the game that first day, enthusiastically searching through the columns and rows of the multiplication chart, if necessary. The next day I demonstrated how the same game could be used to factor quadratics, and the students already

# January at HAN



## Mr. Kaplan making his weekly egg sandwiches for students!

When asked why he does this, Mr. Kaplan said "I do it because students need a good breakfast and they deserve it." Mr. Kaplan makes around 70 sandwiches every Monday so students can have a good start to their week!



## Principal Awards for our students this month!

Our principal awards are a very integral part of our culture here at Hillcrest North. Not only do we nominate our students monthly for Student of the Month, but we choose additional students to shine in other categories. Those Awards are for Most Respectful, Most Integrity, Best Citizen, Best Attitude, and Most Determined. These awards are very important to students' as they feel recognized and gain more pride in themselves.



## Student Art Projects!

Pictured here is our student Joselyn hanging up student work from Ms. Picciano's class. The project is based on dream theory, by putting together different elements to replicate how the unconscious puts our memories together to form random dreams. Our students are very talented and work tirelessly all month to produce such quality pieces!

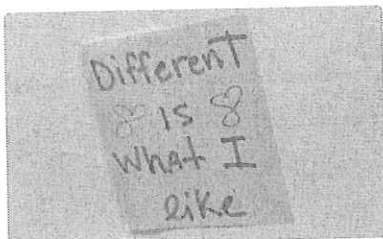
# Theme of the Month: Leadership and Courage





### **Ms. Lederman's Class Working on Do Now Questions**

Ms. Lederman's class has been working hard all month answering Do Now questions related to January's theme of Leadership and Courage. Some of the thought provoking questions included: "Under what conditions would it be courageous to say something? explain something? Ask a question? test a hypothesis? advance a theory? publish a book?" and "Were you born to be a leader? What leadership qualities do you have?" Students had such meaningful discussions with one another based on their answers and learned from one another.



### **Motivational Sticky Notes Around the Hallways**

Our student, Jesiree, loves writing motivational messages on sticky notes and posting them around the hallways! One of the attributes within our Mission Statement is "Great self esteem coming from a positive attitude, confidence, and a sense of self worth" and we at Hillcrest North believe these messages are powerful and can give students confidence within themselves. We also believe it takes a good amount of courage and leadership for our student to go out of her way and try to make others feel welcomed and appreciated.



### **Success Seminar New Year's Resolutions**

Our social worker, Mrs. Goldenberg, has been working with our students and helping them create their New Year's resolutions. Students are writing about the habits they want to break, hobbies they want to try, their new goals for 2023, and a self-reflection for the year 2022. It takes a lot of courage to create new goals and to break old habits.

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## **School in the Community**



### Earning Community Service Hours

Students enjoyed making arts and crafts for the community at the Elizabeth public library!



### Uno Battle Royale at Elizabeth Public Library

Two students made it to the final round!



### "Crafternoon"

Students earning additional community service hours at the Union Public Library!

## About us



### Hillcrest Academy North

Hillcrest Academy North assists students from the Elizabeth Public School District in reaching their full potential by providing an alternative to the traditional high school setting. We offer smaller class sizes with a rigorous and challenging high school curriculum that is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and prepares students for college and career.

☑ [ucesc.org](http://ucesc.org)

Location: 2630 Plainfield Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Phone Number: (908) 233-9366

**Visit Us On Instagram**

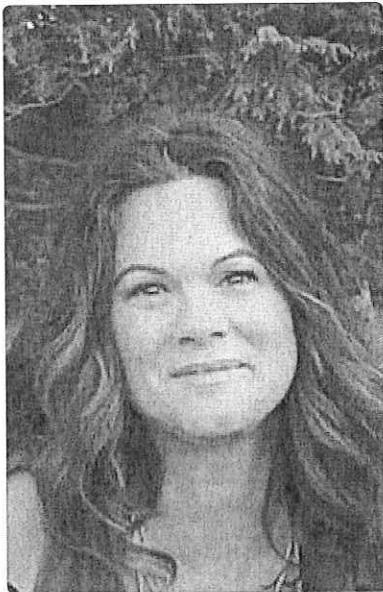






# **CROSSROADS MONTHLY REPORT**

**JANUARY 2023**



## **Supervisor's Message**



The New Year started off with 2 days of professional development for all of our staff. Allison Gebler turnkeyed a series of training workshops on "Critical Communication Skills" that focused on teaching functional communication and how those skills are taught through motivation and individualized instruction. Our behavior department was able to train all of our new staff in Safety Care™, a crisis prevention program that gives our staff the tools they need to help keep students and staff safe and provide our students with opportunities to make choices that help them improve their social-emotional behavior.

During the month of January, the theme of "*Leadership and Courage*" was carried over in our specials classes as well as in the classrooms. Students continue to learn about being brave and trying new foods as well as leaders in the community and community helpers.

Community-based instruction is in full swing with our Middle School program, they are learning so much and having a blast doing it. Visits this month included trips to Shoprite, Target, Cranford Theatre, and BJ's Wholesale. In addition, our preschool team is collaborating to ensure that our new preschoolers are receiving the best intensive intervention possible, this is especially important for our students who were unable to receive early and intensive programming due to Covid-19 restrictions.

We are looking forward to seeing the hard work our staff has put in this month turn into strides for our students!

Best,

Danielle Cicaless

Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction

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## General Information

### Enrollment as of Jan 27, 2023

**Actual:** 45

**Changes:** Entered: 1 Exited: 0

**Referrals:** 9

**Intakes Scheduled:** 4

**Accepted:** 1

**Fire Drills:** 1/24/23

**Emergency Drills:** 1/18/23 (Evacuation)





IMG\_2232 (1)





### **Student of the Month - Josselin**

Our student of the month is Josselin. Josselin is a sweet girl and we are happy to have her in our class. Josselin is doing a great job communicating with her Ipad and delivering messages to teachers and friends during the day. She loves to play with the Barbie Dream House during her breaks. Josselin is eager to learn new things and always excited to come to school!



### **Certified Staff of the Month - Shalini Ascalon - Nurse**

#### **1. How long have you been working at the commission?**

I have been working at Crossroads for almost 3 years now. I came at the peak of COVID-19 pandemic, April of 2020, but my 26 ears of nursing experience helped me navigate through this public health crisis.

#### **2. What would we be surprised to find out about you?**

I know how to say thank you in 14 different languages: French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Polish, Russian, Hebrew, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Bicol (Filipino dialect), Chinese, English, Arabic (greeting).

#### **3. What is your dream vacation?**

#### **4. What is your favorite meal?**

Depending on the mood, I like grilling meat at The Butcher 360 Korean BBQ restaurant, Mongolian hotpot soup at Happy Lamb Hotpot, Texas Roadhouse's bone-in ribeye steak, Sabor Peruano's Peruvian seafood ceviche, Burnet's Portuguese grilled meat, oysters, escargot, mussels, and clams.

#### **5. What is your greatest accomplishment?**

My greatest accomplishment is working as a Certified School Nurse for special needs students during the most difficult and challenging COVID-19 pandemic. It takes a lot of patience, understanding and resilience dealing with the fear of the unknown, psychological effects of long-term lockdowns, and adjusting to the new normal. The greatest reward of being a school nurse is making a difference in creating a safer and healthier school environment for our students and staff.



#### **Jennifer Bace - Registered Behavior Technician**

##### **1. How long have you been working at the commission?**

- I have been working at the commission since March of 2017.

##### **2. What would we be surprised to find out about you?**

- When I am not at work or busy managing my family I love to run outside and not just for exercising, but for the runner's high it gives me. It makes me feel so great about myself and it reminds me that I have to take time for myself more often



- My dream vacation would be Ireland!

**4. What is your favorite meal?**

- Any seafood dish.

**5. What is your greatest accomplishment?**

- My greatest accomplishment would be my family!

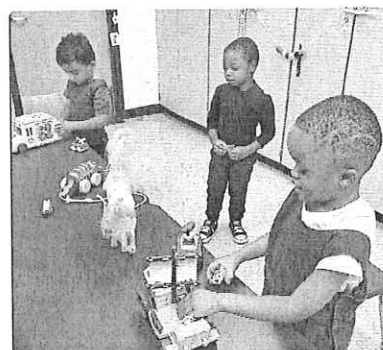
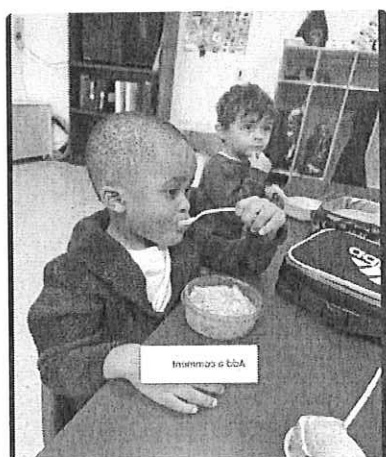
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## ***CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHTS***

### **Ms. Consuelo's Classroom**

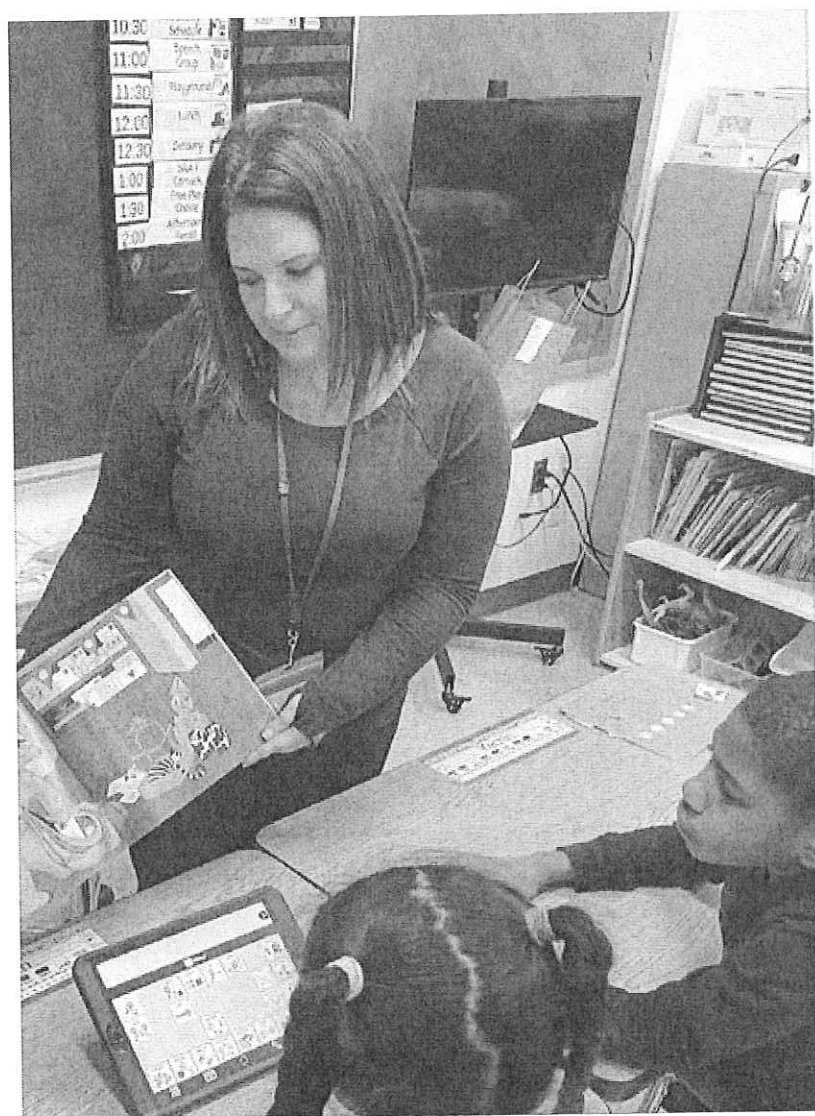
During the month of January, our preschool program focused on developing and enhancing important skills for lifelong success. Some of those skills include but are not limited to social interaction, self-help, communication and pre-academic skills. Those skills are taught through play. To celebrate the season, we engaged the children in a number of projects that were fun and piqued their interest.

What can be better than a delicious corn muffin, and the students could not wait until they came out of the oven. The class had the opportunity to see how muffins were made from measuring the ingredients, putting them together and baking. Student then practiced their manding to request bite after bite of the food they made.



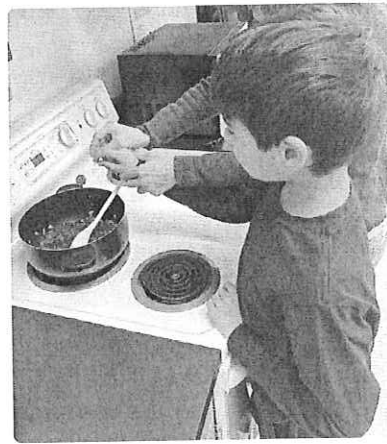
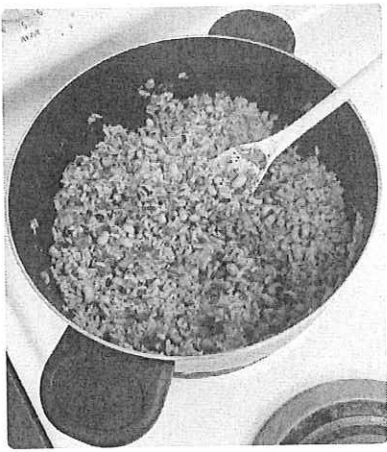
### Ms. Anna's Classroom

Everyone came back from winter break refreshed in room 106! This month in Ms. Anna's we are learning about community helpers. We read a story about a bear who is a Mail Carrier and delivered to all the community helpers. Students did a great job labeling all the helpers in our community. We also read an interactive book, the students had to walk over and choose the correct picture that matched the definition of the community helper. They all did an amazing job!



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**THERAPY SPOTLIGHT**



In January the Crossroads School Speech Department rang in 2023 with themes such as the New Year and the lessons of Martin Luther King, Jr. Core words this month included want, more and all done. Activities included doing a same/different science experiment; building a podium for Martin Luther King, Jr. using popsicle sticks, clay and cardstock; and making dreamcatchers.

In speech group the students helped to make a special dish called "Hoppin' John", which is a southern recipe. Students learned that if they try it they will have good luck in the new year! Here is link to the recipe to try at home: <https://www.vegetariantimes.com/recipes/hoppin-john/>

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## ***JANUARY AT CROSSROADS***




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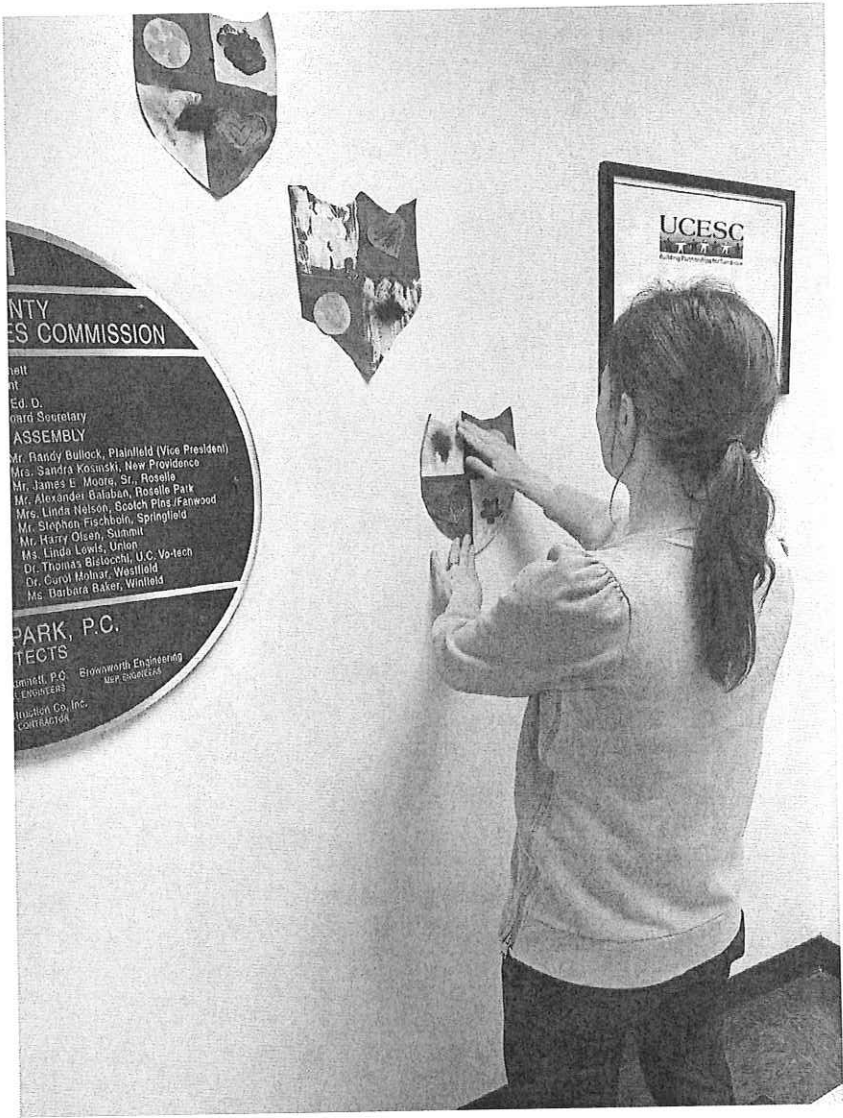
## ***LEADERSHIP/COURAGE AND UNSUNG HERO'S***

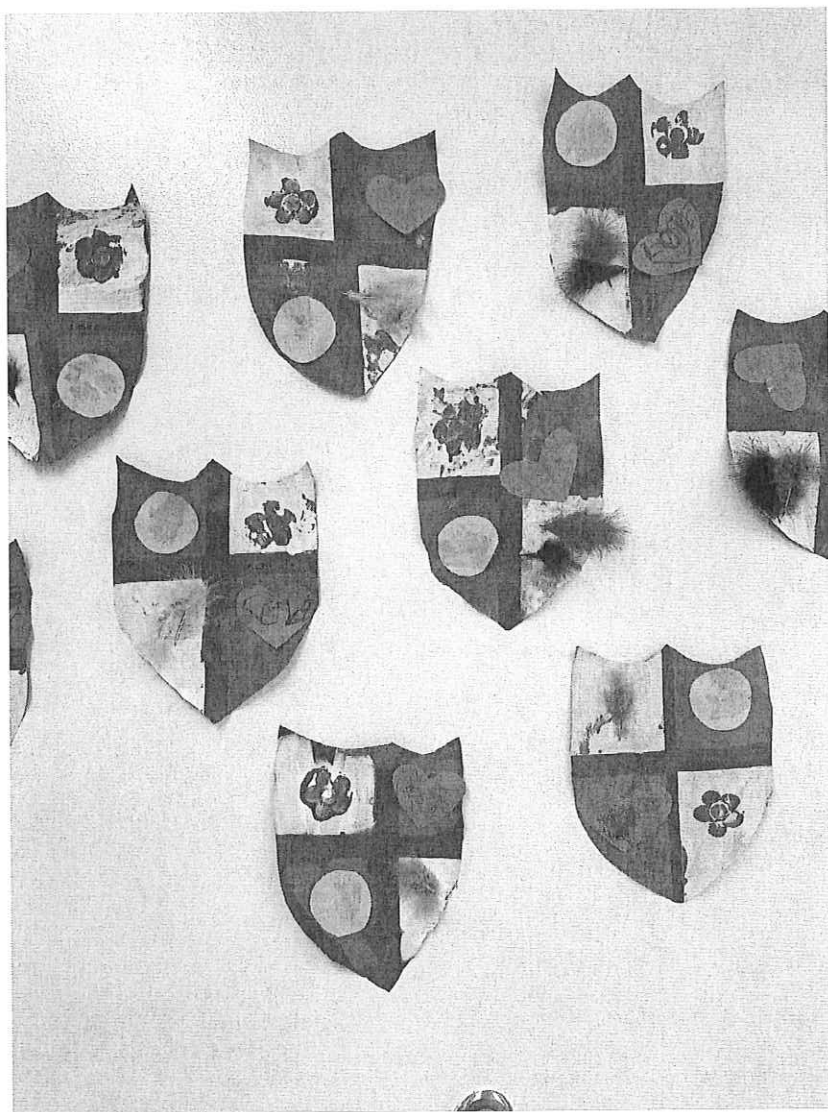
Allison Gebler turnkeying a series of training workshops on "Critical Communication Skills" during





Hanging and displaying student courage shields in the hallway.

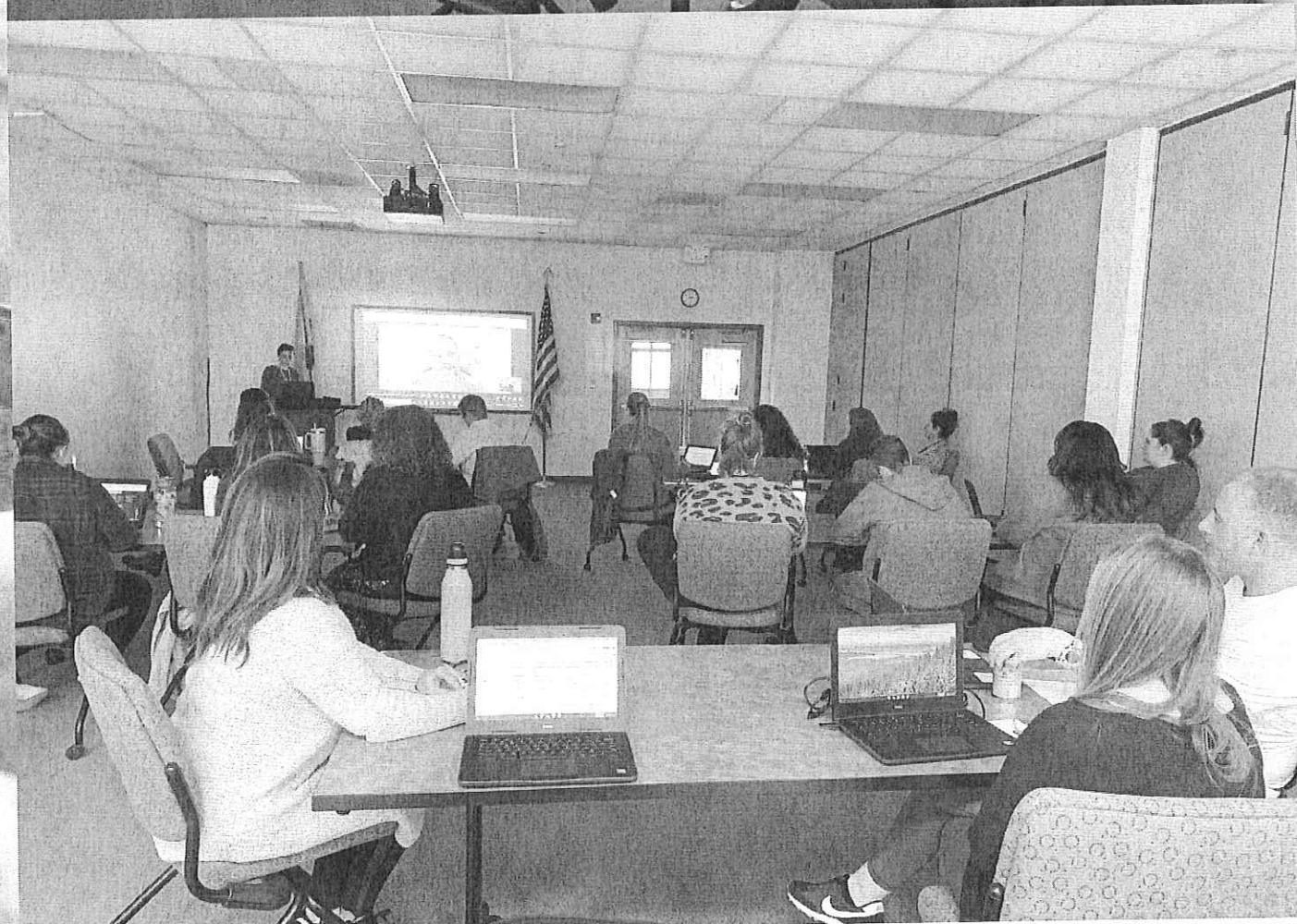
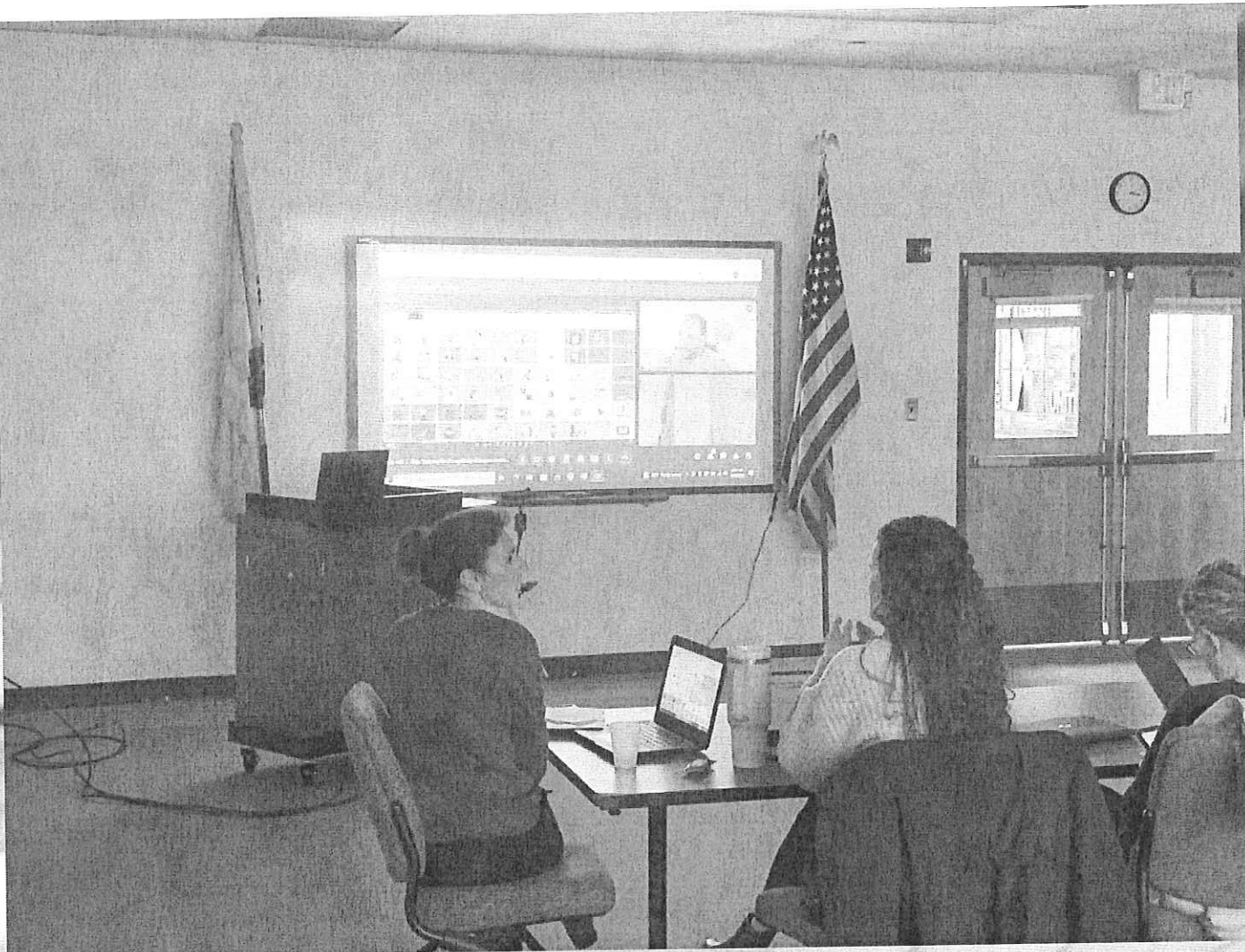




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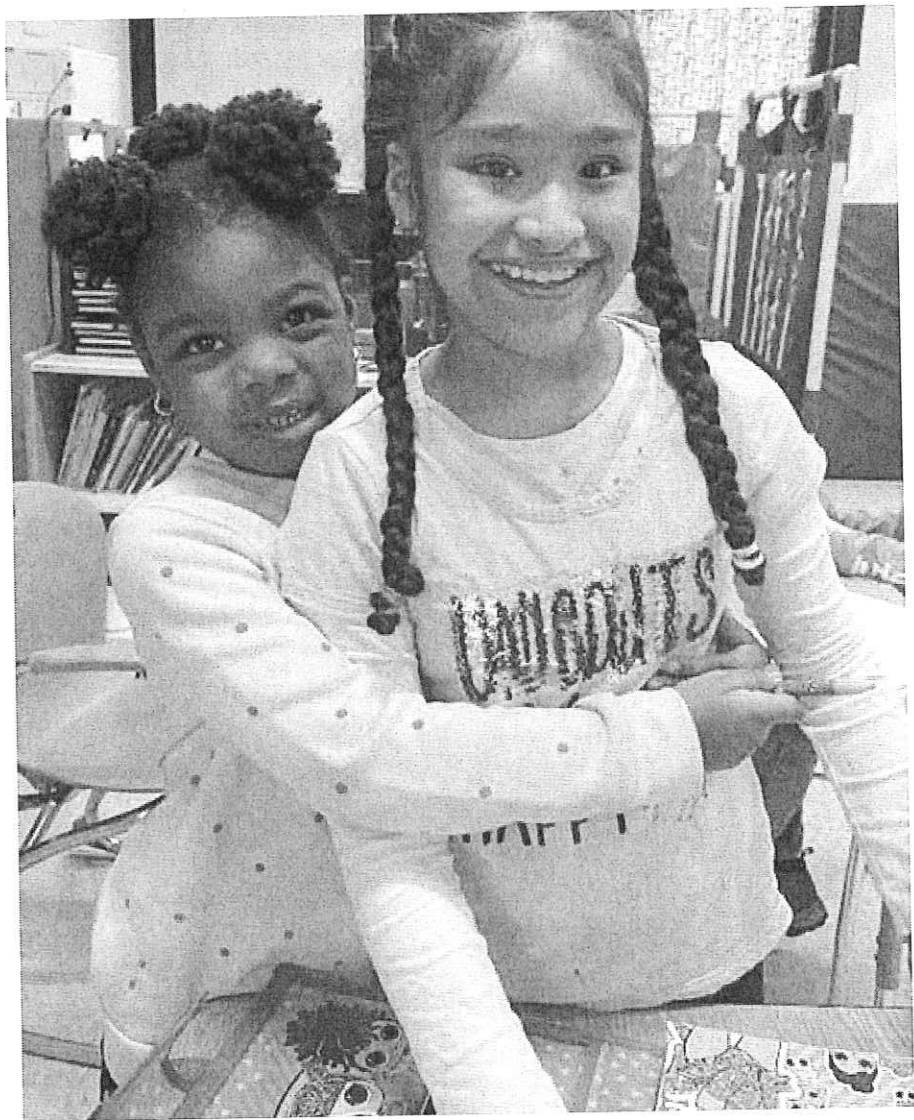
Special Thanks to SLP Hope who organized a staff Web Training for the CoughDrop Communication App







It takes courage to try something new and to make new friends.





## CROSSROADS IN THE COMMUNITY



Community Based Instruction  
trip to Target



Testing out the couches at BJ's



Doing some shopping for the  
school store

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## *A NOTE FROM THE BEHAVIOR TEAM*



The Safety Care Trainers started off the New Year strong with the training of our new staff in Safety Care™. The goal for the Safety Care Trainers is to train 100% of the school staff. Our Safety Care Training team consist of two BCBA's, an RBT, and Safety and Security Monitor. The commission has been using Safety Care for five years and it has made a positive impact district wide. The curriculum's main focus is creating a positive, supportive, and enriched environment for our students and staff. Safety Care also provides the training our staff needs in order to maintain a safe environment in the classroom. The initial training is two full days which is very interactive and includes role play activities to help our staff navigate real life situations.

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### **About Us**

**Website:** [https://www.ucesc.org/schools/crossroads\\_school](https://www.ucesc.org/schools/crossroads_school)

**Location:** [45 Cardinal Drive, Westfield, NJ, USA](#)

**Phone:** [908-233-9317](tel:908-233-9317)





**CR Smore**

CR is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters







# Hillcrest Academy South Campus

January 2023 Monthly Report



## **Dr. Balsamello's Message**

Hillcrest Academy South Campus (HAS) staff and students are excited to be back at our newly renovated school at 1571 Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield! Everyone rose to the occasion by seamlessly making this transition a complete success!

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## **January 2023 Data**

- 1. Enrollment-90**
  - 2. New Students-12**
  - 3. Intakes-1**
  - 4. Disenrollment/ Re-enrolled-1**
  - 5. Transfer to North-1**
  - 6. Fire Drill-1/18/23**
  - 7. Other Drill (Lockdown, Internal Threat)-1/19/23**
-



## January Student of the Month

Oliver R. is our Student of the Month for the month of January. He has only been at HAS since the first day at 1571 but has definitely has made an impact on his teachers. Out of all the subjects, history is his favorite and is in an advanced level in history. Oliver is a writer and actually has his own writing channel on social media. One of Oliver's favorite things is shoes!



## Teacher Spotlight

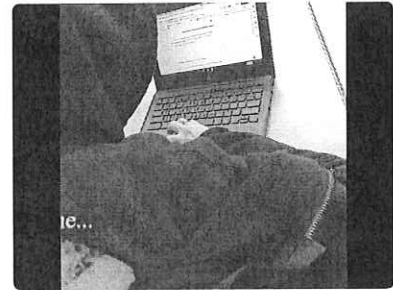
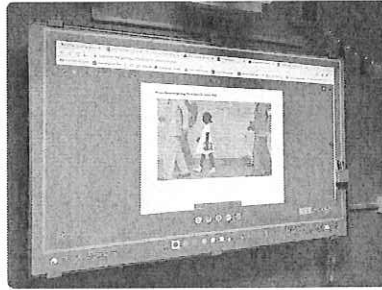
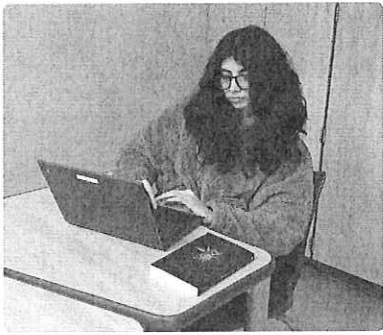
Ms Vlastaras (also known as Ms V) is brand new to HAS/UCESC this year but is not brand new to teaching. Ms V has been a teacher for 8 years before coming to HAS. A few cool facts about Ms V is that she lived in Greece for 12 years, her favorite animal is the penguin, she has an extensive collection of plants, and loves to paint canvases. Ms V is currently working towards a Doctorate Degree at Kean University; Go Cougars!

# Classroom Spotlights

## Ms. Cioffi's Classroom

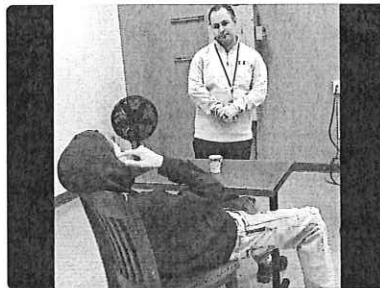
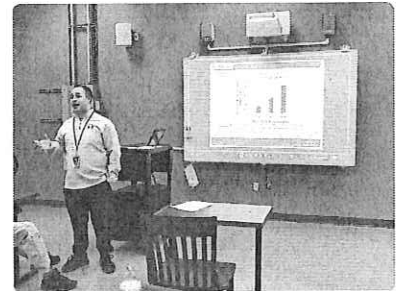
In January Miss Cioffi's English classes practiced reading historical documents and comparing them with other types of texts and art. First, students read an excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech" in preparation of Black History Month and completed a Historical Document Analysis to learn King's purpose and message in his speech. Next, they read and reflected on Claude McKay's poem "America." Students then wrote a constructed response using the R.A.C.E. writing format comparing the similarities in the two pieces. Students then continued to analyze historical documents by reading Sojourner Truth's speech "Aint I a Woman" and compared it to an article about Katherine Switzer, the first woman to race in the Boston Marathon in 1967. Students wrote another response in which they reflected on how Truth and Switzer are similar even though their activism for women's rights occurred over 100 years apart. Lastly, students analyzed another historical document with a piece of artwork. Students read key excerpts from the Supreme Court





## Mr Barone's Classroom

The students in Mr. Barone's Health classes began a new unit covering tobacco, drugs and alcohol. Mr. Barone explained that although the number of people using cigarettes is declining each year, the one concerning new trend is e-cigarettes and vapes. The students also discussed alcohol and learned about the harmful effects on the body and also learned how the body reacts when more alcohol is consumed. In addition, Mr. Barone also had the students see first hand some of the effects of alcohol with the help of "impairment goggles". Students were asked to perform various tasks while using the goggles and found it rather difficult to complete daily simple tasks. This showed the students how dangerous alcohol can truly be.



Back to 1571



### **Welcome Home!**

On January 2, 2023, faculty and staff were able to enter the doors of 1571 for the first time since September of 2021. Excitement filled the halls as everyone checked their classrooms to see what remained the same, what was changed, and for some faculty who got to see the building for the first time! With this month's theme being about leadership and courage, it is without a doubt that the administration, faculty, and staff at 1571 falls under this category.



### **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

The 1571 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony took place on January 3, 2023 to make our home coming official! UCESC Superintendent Ms Dattilo officiated the ceremony where not only the faculty and staff of 1571 was in attendance, but many others who were able to help make the return to 1571 possible. The Mayor of Westfield, Shelley Brindle, was also in attendance and had a few words of encouragement for the faculty and staff of 1571. As part of the ceremony, one faculty/staff member from each school was chosen to cut the ribbon and science teacher Ms Arora was the representative chosen for HAS!



### **Welcome Back School Spirit Day - Wear School Colors**

When news came that HAS would finally be returning back to our home building, a large majority of the student body, and even some faculty and staff members, has never entered or even seen the building before. So it was exciting to see how everyone would take to our "new" and permanent home. With that said, it was no surprise that HAS was full of school spirit on that first Spirit Day at 1571! Students, faculty, and staff wore school colors red, black, and white in celebration of returning to our school building.

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## **Month of Courage, Leadership, and the Unsung Heroes**





## Faculty and Staff of HAS

It is without a doubt that the faculty and staff of HAS are Unsung Heroes. From a global pandemic to being displaced by hurricane flooding, from being virtual to a makeshift school in a department store and then finally back to a school building, everyone at HAS has done their best to continue conducting classes and supporting students in any way they could.



## Wall of Heroes

Students put together a Wall of Heroes. Each student took a "superhero action bubble" and wrote who they believe is a hero. From professions that stepped up during the pandemic like doctors and nurses, to those who risk their lives every day like law enforcement and fire fighters, to someone personal in their lives like a parent or a favorite teacher, these students really put thought into who they think a hero is. Heroes are made by the path they choose, not by the powers they are graced with.

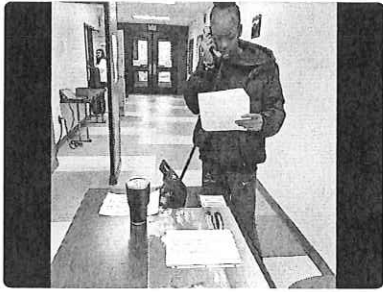


## Superhero Superintendent!

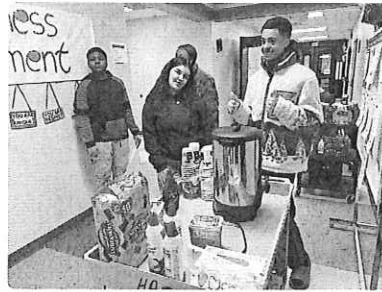
In celebrating Leaders that have been courageous and considered unsung, someone that is noteworthy at HAS is none other than Superintendent Carrie Dattilo. In the midst of a flood, which damaged her office at 1571, she took on the role of Acting Superintendent when one was needed. She was not expecting to take on the role, nor did she know how long this would last, but the courage she demonstrated definitely proved she was right for the job! She is an example of not needing super powers to be a super hero!

# In the Community

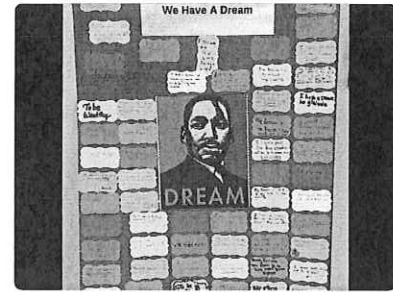
January was a busy month for the HAS Community Service program! HAS seniors are hard at work satisfying their required community service hours through working on the Freerice program and other community outreach activities. The HASCSP honored the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through participating in a Week of Service. During the week, Dr. King's most famous quotes were read at the beginning of each period, allowing students to reflect on their significance in their lives today. Students continued to reflect on Dr. King's commitment to serving others by hosting a food drive to benefit the Community Food Bank in Hillside and a Cocoa for a Purpose fundraiser to



**Dr King's Most Famous Quotes**



**Cocoa for a Purpose**



**We Have a Dream Board**

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## Our Students In and Out of School

### Touchdown!

Taje F. is an Elizabeth football player. He began playing football at the very young age of 5. His love of the sport came from his father who also played football. Taje would watch his father play and that inspired him to do the same. Even though his father passed away when Taje was 15, it motivates him to do well! Every time Taje scores, he says he does it for his dad. Playing football also gives him a sense of joy, relief, and he really enjoys working on a team. His position on the team is wide receiver and his jersey number is #3.



## About Us

Hillcrest Academy South is an alternative high school for students from the Elizabeth Public Schools. Students are referred to HAS by their Elizabeth Academy guidance counselor and administration for an interview at HAS. We provide a small educational learning setting with opportunities to make up courses through our Credit Retrieval Program in a caring environment in order to meet Elizabeth's graduation requirements.

**Website:** [www.ucesc.org](http://www.ucesc.org)

**Instagram:** [ucesc\\_has](https://www.instagram.com/ucesc_has)

**Facebook:** [Hillcrest Academy South](https://www.facebook.com/HillcrestAcademySouth)

**Location:** [1571 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, NJ, USA-Door 3B](#)

**Phone:** [908-233-9317](tel:908-233-9317)

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