

## *Ms. Papeika's Class!*

This month's theme was Native American Heritage Month. Throughout November, the students listened to Native American music and read-alouds about different Native American tribes and traditions. We learned about the Native American tradition of making dream catchers. Our students made their own dream catchers and we displayed them in the Westlake hallway.



For Community based instruction, we planned a picnic lunch by creating a brown bag lunch menu and grocery list. We went food shopping at Shoprite and then prepared and packaged our lunches before going on our CBI trip to the Sensory Trail at Watchung Reservation. The students enjoyed their lunches and spending time in the Great outdoors!

Our students also continued to study pumpkins for the Fall theme and participated in a Pumpkin Investigation. We measured pumpkins and counted seeds for Math, learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin and predicted if the pumpkins would sink or float for Science, we also learned pumpkin vocabulary, sight words and sequenced the steps of pumpkin growth for Reading and Language Arts.

Overall, November was a fun month, filled with many hands-on activities!



## Travel Training!

Several students participated on a travel training trip with Mrs. Swisher. We met our guide Louis at the train station where he showed us how to read a schedule and purchase tickets. We then rode the train to Kean University for a small tour and we ate lunch at one of the cafes. On the way back we stopped in the Barnes and Nobles bookstore at Kean University.









## *Class Trips!*

**Mr. Kurt's class went to Esposito Park in Clark. They walked the nature trail, played games in the field and played on the playground!**



**Ms. Schiumo's class went to ShopRite for Community Based Instruction. The lesson started in the classroom, students learned to create a shopping list. They brought the list to ShopRite to help them shop for their items. They checked off the items as they found them. The students also learned how to use the self-check out station!**

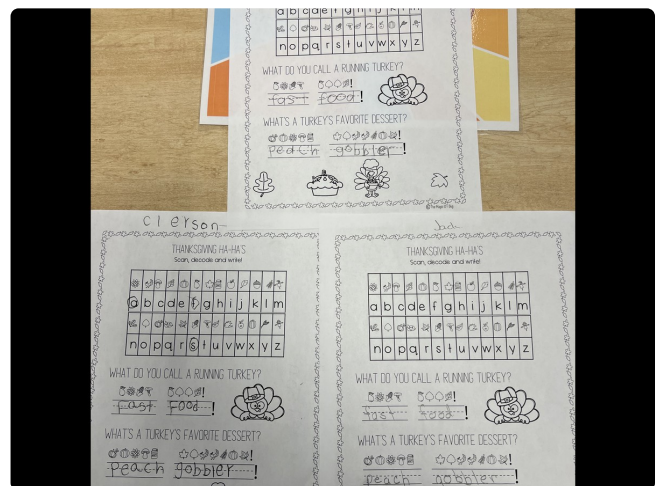
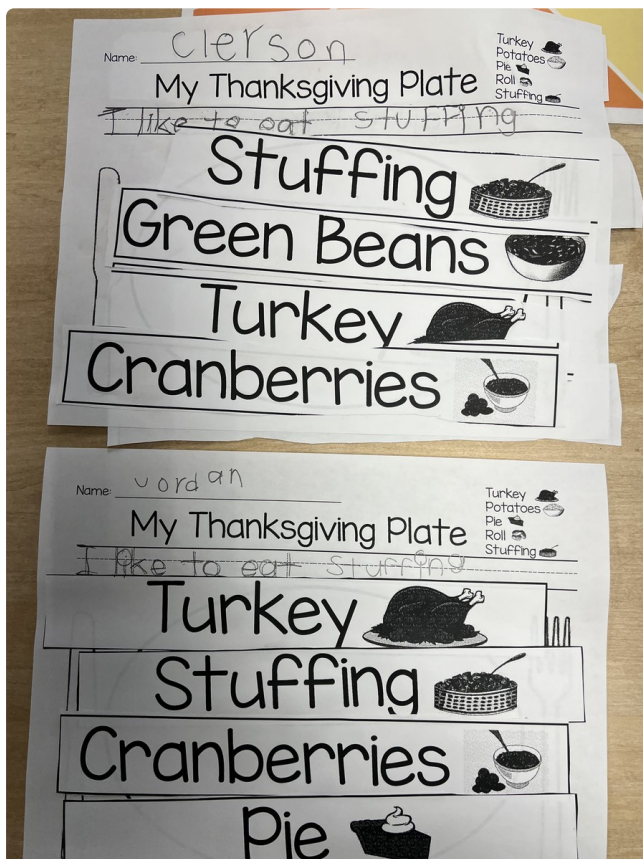




## Ms. Sara's OT

In Occupational Therapy this month we have been focusing on the school wide SEL themes which are Gratitude and Native American culture. We planned and completed fine motor and functional/ADL activities such as making a Thanksgiving Plate and completed Thanksgiving Decoding worksheets to work on fine motor, visual perceptual, and handwriting skills to help our students meet their IEP goals.

We have also pushed into yoga once a month with Miss Shannon which has been wonderful for our students to work on sensory organization/self regulation skills.







## *Ms. Pajewski's Class*

November has been a very busy month as we learn about veterans, Native Americans, gratitude and Thanksgiving.

We started the month celebrating Veterans Day. We are thankful to the men women who served in our military. To show our gratitude we created posters and sent them to the Lieutenant Commander. Jenilee Gruber in the US Navy. November is also Native Americans Heritage month. Together we have explored the various groups of Native Americans throughout our country, Northwest, Southwest, Plains and Woodlands.

As we explored these cultures, we learned about how Native Americans once made their homes, farmed, and their way of life without modern conveniences. Students enjoyed designing totem pole, tee pee, and weaving.

November has shown us many things to be thankful for, especially our friends and family.





Ms. Pajewski's class also worked with Groundwork Elizabeth. The Director of Operations, John Evangelista helped students plant a fig tree in the Westlake raised bed garden.







# Social Media!

Follow us on Facebook!

## Log into Facebook

Log into Facebook to start sharing and connecting with your friends, family, and people you know.

[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Follow us on Instagram!

[https://www.instagram.com/ucesc\\_westlake/](https://www.instagram.com/ucesc_westlake/)

[instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com)



**Robert Peneno**

Robert is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters





# Hillcrest Academy South Campus

## November 2023 Monthly Report



### Dr. Balsamello's Message

Dr. Balsamello presented at the UCESC Board of Education meeting during the November meeting. He discussed the successful opening of the school as well as new initiatives such as credit retrieval updates and the implementation of Pathful Explore. At Hillcrest Academy south Campus (HAS), students were able to enjoy two incentive days with activities in observance of Native American Heritage Month and Thanksgiving themes.

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### November 2023 Enrollment Data

- Enrollment-81 (as of 11/29/23).
  - New Students-Two with three to start the week of 11/27/23.
  - Intakes-10
  - Disenrollments-One (conduct)
  - Emergency Drill-11/6/23 Evacuation (non-fire) On-site.
  - Fire Drill-11/7/23
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# People Spotlights!

## Student of the Month for October!

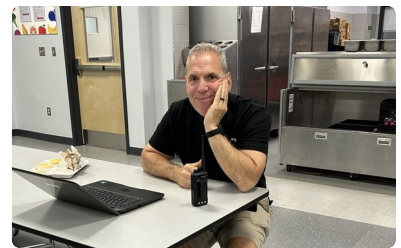
Congratulations to our Student of the Month for October, Martha! When asked about her work ethic, her teachers replied;

- Martha is an excellent student and a role model to her peers. She is on task every day, puts effort and thought into her assignments, and is kind.
- She went above and beyond what she needed to do for the course.
- Martha is an extremely hard worker who is always willing to help her classmates in math class.



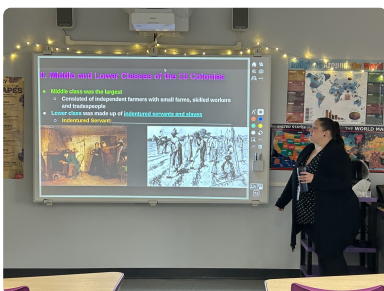
## Staff Spotlight Mr DiOrio!

Mr DiOrio is our Safety and Security Monitor who has been with us since the Lord & Taylor days. From grilling chicken wraps, to monitoring the hallways here at 1571, there is nothing that this individual can't do! Before coming to HAS, Mr DiOrio was a man of the law for 30 years. When he retired, he spent his time working as a Safety Monitor in schools for 12 years. When he is not keeping HAS safe, he loves traveling the world with his wife. He is an avid NY Mets fan and his hobby is to keep in shape at the gym.



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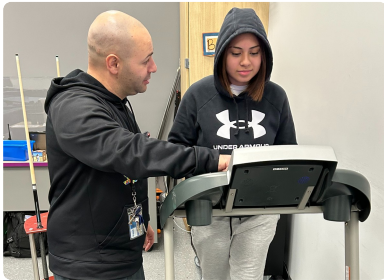
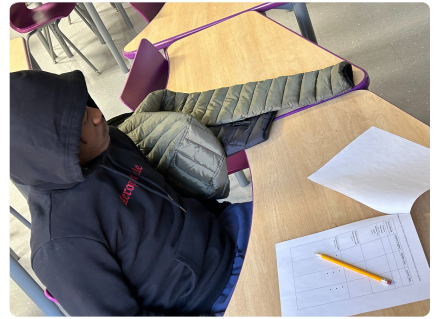
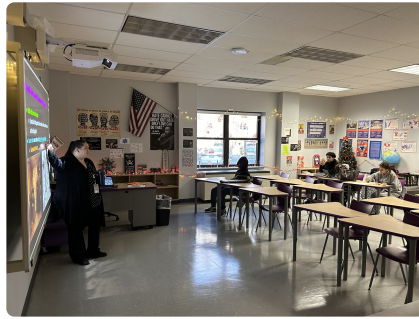
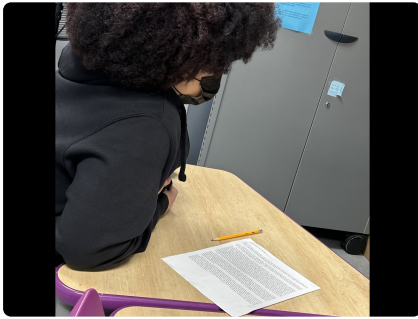
## Classroom Spotlights



### Ms Wrzesinski's History Classroom

The month of November in Mrs. Wrzesnski's US History I classes was spent learning about colonial foundations. Students learned how each colony was founded, the hardships that they faced and the new relationships they made. Students also learned the economic differences between the colonial regions and industries that they had. Students in World History focused on the Greek and Roman Empires. Students learned about key events as well as people and the impact of spreading culture throughout the world. In 20th Century Civil Liberties, students researched women's rights and suffrage movements. As a bonus for Thanksgiving, Mrs. Wrzesnski's class learned about Plymouth Rock and the First Thanksgiving.





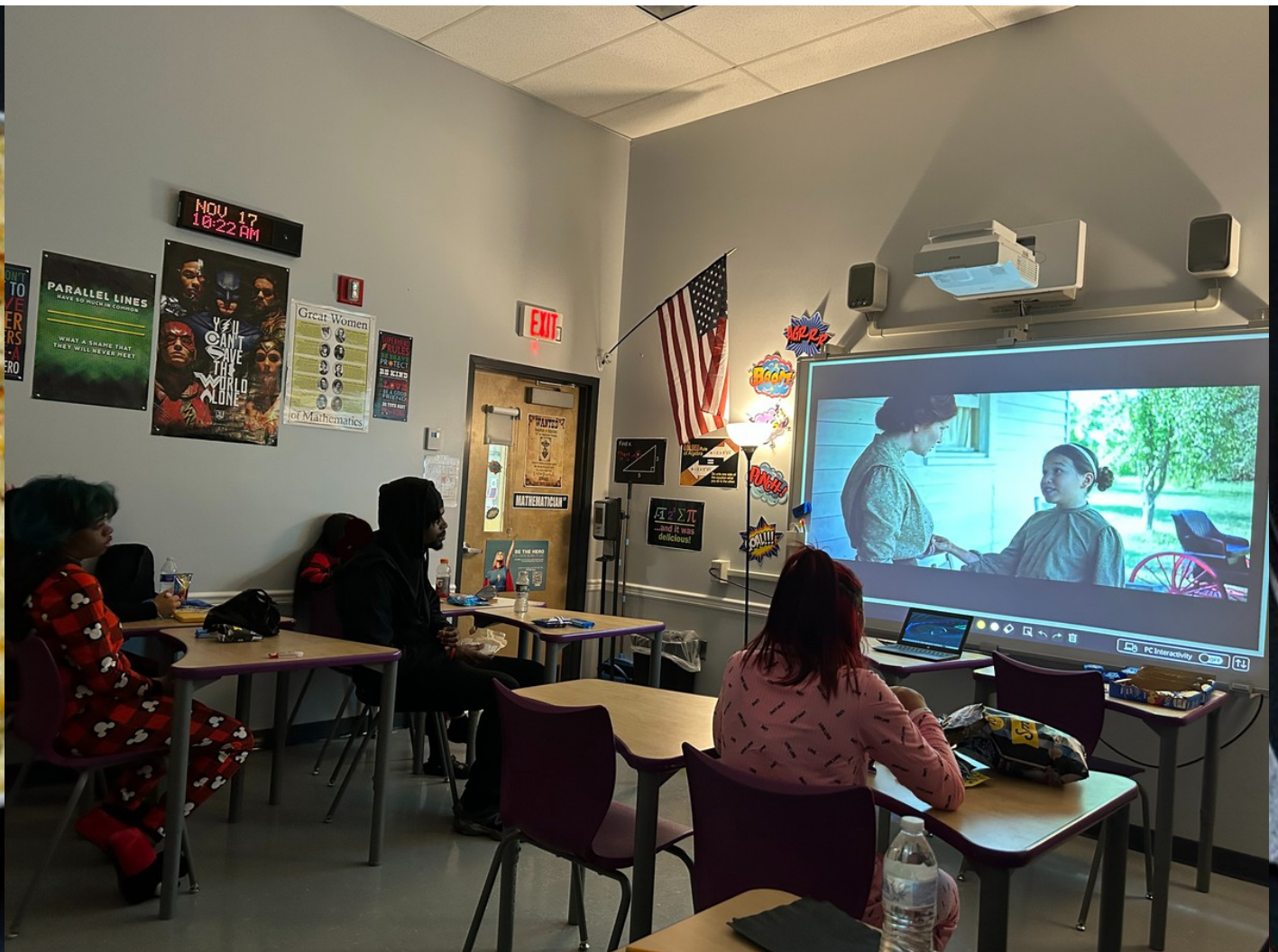
## Mr Barone's Phys Ed Classroom

During the month of November, students have been working on basketball skills and have been involved in mini games on days they have been in the large gym. In the Fitness Center, the students have been able to use the new fitness equipment for individual and group workouts. All students have been benefitting from the new equipment and they have been very excited to continue with their workouts. In addition, students have been playing ping-pong and pool. The friendly rivalries have been fun to watch in all classes. In Health classes, students have completed their Understanding Health and Wellness unit where numerous topics were discussed including health risks, behaviors, and promoting one's health and wellness.



## Native American Heritage Month





## Incentive Movie Day

November was Native American Heritage Month. This month was established to honor and recognize Native Americans as the first people of this nation, celebrate both their cultural heritage as well as an integral importance to our past, our present, and our future. The selection of movies and documentaries that were shown school-wide intended to celebrate the traditions, lifestyle, and cultural heritage of Native American people while also raising awareness to the atrocities that have been committed against indigenous people in North America.

1. Te Ata
2. Gather
3. Unspoken
4. Lakota Nation vs United States

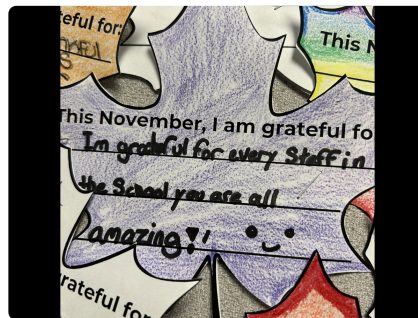
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## Month of Being Thankful

What are you thankful for? That is usually the question being asked during the month of November because of the Thanksgiving holiday. However, HAS has so much to be thankful for all year round. We are thankful that this past September our school had the first normal first day of school since before Covid! We are thankful for our restored classrooms, new desks/chairs, new white boards, and so on because of the flood caused by Storm Ida! We are thankful for our administrators that



guide and support the faculty, staff, and students! We are also thankful for the staff that is there to help the administrators, faculty, and students in all we need! We are thankful for the teachers that are in the classrooms with the students day in and day out! We are thankful for the students who work hard and try their best! We are just so thankful to be a part of HAS!



## Diwali

One of the many things we love to do at HAS is share and celebrate our different cultures. Of course it was no surprise that Mrs. Arora, HAS's Science Teacher, was excited to share about Diwali with staff and students. A classroom was decorated with traditional Diwali garland, trinkets, and sweets (candy). Students and staff came in groups to visit the room but not before Mrs Arora gave a traditional Diwali greeting at the door. Once everyone entered, Mrs Arora gave a brief explanation of the holiday, its significance, and what the different decorations represented. Before departing the room, the groups were offered to take sweets in celebration and some students stayed in the room as they volunteered to do henna tattoos for anyone interested.





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## Thanksgiving at HAS



### Free Birds!

On the day before Thanksgiving, all HAS classrooms had a nice relaxing day to make up work and we all watched the animated movie Free Birds! We laughed, we awed, some of us even shed a tear. Overall it was a fun movie and a great sendoff into our long holiday weekend!



### Pajama Day!

On our last day of school before the Thanksgiving break we celebrated with a School Spirit Pajama Day! Students and staff participated in one of our most comfortable spirit days ever! Not to mention, it was an early dismissal day too; what a treat!



### HAS Annual Food Drive!

A perfect way to participate in Giving Tuesday is to start a food drive and that is what we did! After celebrating Thanksgiving, a holiday based on giving and being thankful for what we have, it is time to share with those less fortunate. Here at HAS, students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to bring in nonperishable food items to be later donated.

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## Our Students In and Out of School

### Don't Walk Alone

Francisco already has the entrepreneurial spirit at such a young age. For the past two years, he was planning and designing his own authentic clothing brand that he has just started to manufacture. It all started with his passion for clothing. Unfortunately, he would spend a ton of money on clothing from stores or even online. So one day he decided that if he took matters into his own hands, affordable clothing could be just within reach for all those who appreciate style. Thus, his first clothing design to drop was "Lost Without Me". Francisco was inspired by the current fashion and people around him that encourage him to continue and keep moving forward. As a way to encourage others as he has been encouraged, his brand "Don't Walk Alone" means that for whatever you are going through, you shouldn't go through and walk alone. The hoodie "Lost Without Me" is for the people who should realize that the world would be lost without them in it.





## 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)

**Visit us on Instagram**



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# HILLCREST ACADEMY NORTH

NOVEMBER 2023

## *Principal's Message*



Dear Hillcrest Academy North Campus (HAN) Student sand Families:

November has certainly been a productive month at HAN. Awards for marking Marking Period 1 were handed out this week which demonstrated the hard work that students are putting into their studies. Principal Awards, High Honor Roll Certificates, and

Perfect Attendance Awards all played a part in our celebration of student success! In the classrooms, teaching and learning is at its very best evidenced students continuing to ask meaningful and thoughtful questions, students are organized and completing their work with academic integrity, while being respectful to teachers and one another. Our school climate and culture is stronger than ever here at HAN. Students and staff are feeling safe, supported, and empowered everyday!

Please feel free to contact our main office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Marquet  
Principal



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## Monthly Data

Enrollment - 70

Enrolled - 4

Disenrolled - 5

Fire Drill - November 27th

Offsite Evacuation - November 6th

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## Upcoming Dates

December 22nd -- Early Dismissal

December 23rd - January 1st -- Winter Recess

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## Staff Spotlight - Mr. Grez



Mr. Grez has been teaching Science at HAN for almost a decade. Mr. Grez is adored by his students and is constantly inspiring them to look at the world around them and see how science impacts their daily lives. One of the best features of the Science Classroom is the fish tank! Students are able to observe on an ecosystem works on a smaller scale and how different species of plants and animals interact. Mr. Grez's favorite memory of HAN is the Spirit and Field Days! Students and staff are grateful to have Mr. Grez at HAN!

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## Classroom Spotlights



### Mr. Kaplan, Social Studies Teacher

The month of November was great for both US1 and US2 here at Hillcrest Academy North. During this month students focused on starting out the new making period strong with a reinterpretation of what they have done so far. Students researched the entirety of their previous assignments and then examined them through an SEL lens. Students learned about trauma and the various definitions for it, then took the role of a psychiatrist. Using this new information, students attempted to diagnose the people living during those times with specific traumas. Once their initial claims were made, they then used primary evidence from the readings to make a final analysis defending their claims.

**Mrs. Prieto, School Nurse**



The health office has been a hub of activity! The nurse has been addressing the health needs of HAN students on a daily basis. This includes assessing for illness, sending students home as appropriate, administering medications, filing state reports, attending UCSC nurses meetings, staff trainings, making daily phone calls to student homes, helping with school activities and much more. The nurse is currently helping one student who would like to pursue a career in nursing navigate the options for colleges.



## ***HANsgiving***

HAN had a school wide Thanksgiving Celebration, commonly known as HANsgiving the day before Thanksgiving Recess. Students and staff enjoyed a pot luck style lunch including turkey lasagna, mac-and-cheese, and so many pies! Everyone is able to enjoy the delicious food and each other's company. Students also participated in Thanksgiving themed lessons. Economics students learned about the economics behind Thanksgiving food shopping and the origins of Black Friday and Science students learned what is legally allowed in their favorite Thanksgiving foods. Mrs. Rivas had students write down what they are thankful for and created a Gratitude Tree for the hallway! It was a wonderful week focused on gratitude!







## ***November at HAN***



### **Pajama Day!**

Pajama Day is always a favorite Spirit Week Day at HAN! Students and staff wore their favorite pajamas to school as a part of National Education Week Spirit Days.



### **Solving Crimes!**

Ms. Miller's Criminal Justice class used problem solving, critical thinking, and communication skills to work together to solve and Unsolved Case File Activity. Students were able to solve three parts of a crime over three



days by using the evidence available in the activity.

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## ***STOPit Solutions***

Students and staff were introduced to STOPit Solutions, a program that allows students and staff to report any concerns about unsafe, harmful, or inappropriate behavior to the HAN Safety Team. Students are encouraged to download the STOPit App onto their phones.



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## ***About HAN***



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. Our goal is to provide a safe, supportive, and empowering school

environment that fosters lifelong learning, mutual respect, creativity, and the joy of learning, with an effective, caring, innovative staff, in partnership with home and the community.

Mr. John Marquet, Principal

Mr. Thomas Van Cleef, Supervisor of Instruction

Location: [2630 Plainfield Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2630+Plainfield+Ave,+Scotch+Plains,+NJ+07076)

Phone Number: (908) 233-9366

Website: [https://ucesc.org/schools/hillcrest\\_academy\\_north](https://ucesc.org/schools/hillcrest_academy_north)

**Visit Us On Instagram**

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## Mission Statement

It is the mission of Hillcrest Academy North that all graduates have demonstrated the following attributes: Responsibility and accountability for themselves by routinely producing quality work through high academic standards now and in the future A sense of pride in who they are and what they can contribute as a

[ucesc.org](https://ucesc.org)



**John Marquet**

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# LAMBERTS MILL ACADEMY

NOVEMBER  
2023  
MONTHLY  
REPORT

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

— John F. Kennedy

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## Principal's Message

### A Message from Mr. Leibfried

Greetings,

I hope this Newsletter finds the LMA School community well! The month of November has been filled with academic learning, and various different school culture bonding activities. Our SEL theme for the month is *Gratitude*, and LMA has been not only discussing it, but actually showing it with different events throughout the month.

Please join me in reviewing all the projects, lessons, activities and field trips that LMA students took part in for the month of November.

Additionally, as the month of November closes out, so does the 1st Marking Period for LMA. I'm proud to have the honor to distribute Academic Achievement Awards with Mr. Lopreiato at our Monthly Community Meeting. This empowered and show cased students who have worked hard by attending school daily, and completing their academic assignments consistently. This also serves



as a motivator to all students in the LMA community, that they too can earn an academic achievement award, and put them closer to successfully completing high school graduation which is a goal for all our students.

Enjoy the newsletter as we enter a new Marking Period and the month of December while winding down the last couple weeks of 2023.

Mr. Reed Leibfried

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## Monthly Data

### LMA Monthly Data

1. Enrollment - 41
  2. Acceptances - 4
  3. New Students - 2
  4. Intakes - 7
  5. Referrals - 5
  6. Disenrollments - 0
  7. Fire Drill - 11/7/2023
  8. Other Drill (EM Drill - (Non-fire) Evacuation On-site) - 11/6/2023
- 

## Upcoming Events

### December 2023 Important Dates

December 4 - Field Trip - Gravity Vault  
December 18 - Field Trip - Bowlero  
December 22 - Early Dismissal (1:00 pm)  
December 25-31 - NO SCHOOL Winter Recess



## LMA Student of the Month - November 2023

### Charles W.

LMA is proud to announce our November Student of the Month as Charles W. The staff at LMA vote monthly to determine which LMA student has shown the most growth, and who has positively represented the LMA school community. Charles received the most amount of votes for his behavior and academic performance. In addition to earning High Honor Roll for the 1st Marking Period, Charles has been assisting his younger peers in Music class, proving to be a positive role model for the LMA school community. Even though Charles has started with us at LMA 1571 this



past ESY program, he has made great progress in school, and a lasting impression on the entire LMA school community!



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## LMA Staff Spotlight

### Mrs. Dalal joins the LMA Staff

LMA is pleased to announce the addition of Mrs. Dalal to the therapy team, and the LMA staff. Mrs. Dalal comes to us as a Rutgers graduate of social work. She currently holds her LCSW, and is excited to continue working with adolescents. Prior to coming to LMA, she has worked at High Focus in Cherry Hill. When she is not at work she enjoys traveling and baking. The LMA community is excited to have her joining us!



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# ACADEMIC Excellence

## Lamberts Mill Academy 1st Marking Period Academic Achievement Awards

Below are the students who have earned Academic Achievement Awards for the 1st Marking Period at LMA

### High Honors

Charles W.

Danielle R.  
Niomi M.  
Sam L.  
Abigael G.  
Riley G.  
Mary F.  
Blake D.  
Gabriel B.  
Briana B.

### Honors

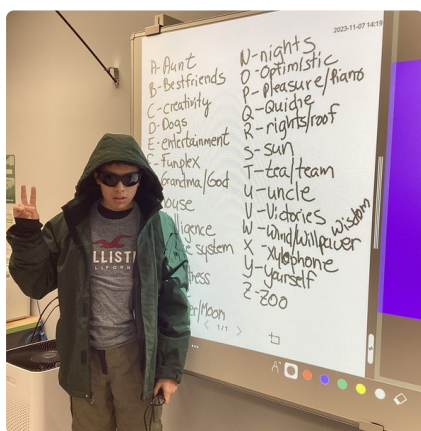
Amir W.  
Nicole T.  
Sara M.  
Brenda L.  
Emili H-G  
Maria H.  
Ma'Kiah H.  
Adam C.  
Jabari F.  
Angelise P.

### Honorable Mention

Owen C.  
Na'Kier B.

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## Classroom Spotlights



### Ms. Finver's ELA Class Discuss Gratitude

Students have been diligently working on completing their argumentative essays. We played various games to around the skills of



### Mr. Peters continues LMA Annual Turkey Trot

All LMA students took part in the holiday tradition here at Lamberts Mill Academy called the LMA Turkey Trot 5K. Students and staff took to the



### Blake D & Mary F. Earn their ServSafe Certification

Mr. Acosta's Post Graduate class has been studying, and reviewing for the ServSafe Food Handler Certification the past couple weeks. While we hope to have all Post



argumentative writing as well as writing our essays. Additionally, students have participated in grand discussions about Gratitude. We completed an alphabet listing of various things we are grateful for, played pick-up sticks gratitude game, and made a "Ways we are grateful" bulletin board all in recognition of Gratitude month.

parking lot and walked/ran the 5K while listening to music and having a blast with their friends.

For the month of November students have been working hard mastering their sports specific skills in the Volleyball Unit. Students are practicing skills such as bumping, setting, spiking, digging, and serving (underhand and overhand). We have been partaking in lead-up activities and are participating in 2-on-2 and 3-on-3 games in preparation for a Student vs Staff Volleyball Game.

In Health classes the students continue to learn about Healthy and Safe Relationships. They are learning about demonstrating positive communication skills that will lead to healthy relationships, understanding healthy and unhealthy relationships, and how technology influences relationships in today's world.

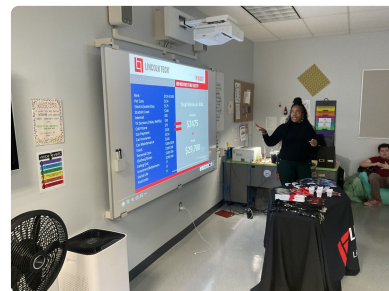
Graduates obtain their certification throughout the year, two students have already completed the coursework, and assessment to earn their certification. Both Blake D and Mary F have successfully completed the ServSafe Food Handler Certification as they proudly display their certificates. All students continue to have Work Based Learning experience at Chili's restaurant in Clark, and opportunities to assist Maschio's food services at 1571. Obtaining this certification, and others in the future will continue to open doors for different job opportunities for all our Post Graduate students!

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## Learning Experiences at The Mill

### Lincoln Tech Meets with LMA Seniors and Post Graduates

Two new and exciting courses that LMA is pleased to offer all our seniors, and Post-Graduate this school year are *Transition Preparation* and *Career Exploration*. Both courses are designed to better prepare our seniors, and Post-Graduate students for life after high school. For the month of November LMA staff we're able to coordinate with Lincoln Technical Schools to have a representative meet with LMA seniors and Post-Graduates to discuss programming, career options and general questions regarding Lincoln Tech. Overall, the presentation was well-received, and students asked great questions about Lincoln Tech and careers in general. Getting students to take genuine interests in their career paths after high school graduation is something LMA is striving to do with all our students.



<https://www.lincolntech.edu/campus/union-nj>

## Union County Sheriff's K-9 Unit visits LMA

During the month of November the Union County Sheriff's office visited LMA students and staff. During the presentation students and staff learned about how the Union County Sheriff's office utilizes the K-9 unit, and we're able to ask questions about the K-9 team.

<https://ucnj.org/sheriff/functions/k-9-search-rescue-unit/>



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## LMA Monthly SEL Theme: Gratitude (Native American Heritage)

The Social Emotional Learning Theme for the month of November was Gratitude. In Life Skills, students participated in a variety of activities that had students identifying the things around them that they are most thankful for. Students kept gratitude journals in the classrooms. Students discussed and shared their Thanksgiving traditions and how they spend this time each year. Life Skills wrapped up the month with Native American Heritage activities where students were able to learn about famous Native Americans from today and from history. The clinical team is proud to introduce our newest clinician, Ms. Heta Dalal!





It's with sad news that the LMA community shares the loss of Enrique Romero, former LMA Student from 2017-2019. Enrique was successful in the LMA school community during those years as he was a social, well-liked student who was focused on his academic school work, and sports. He was successful with LMA, and was able to successfully transition to UCVTS to complete his senior year and graduate. After high school graduation he stayed in touch with LMA, informing us of the various jobs he held prior to enlisting in the U.S. Air Force. It was only recently that LMA was notified of the untimely loss. The entire LMA school community has Enrique in our hearts as we honor him, and all the other Veterans of the United States Armed Forces this month. We will always remember your sacrifices for our country!



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## School in the Community

1. Post-Graduate Program is fully engaged in WBL with students going to Walgreen's and Chili's on a consistent basis.
2. Monthly Community Meetings to celebrate student progress and growth.
3. Students go out in the community to Chester to visit Alstede Farms, and to Edison for Top Golf field trips.
4. Students have been visiting and helping out at The Westfield Food Pantry with retired LMA Teacher, Mr. Convery.

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## 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. We are an out of district public school for students with psychiatric disabilities. We continue to partner with RWJ Trinitas Regional Medical Center to provide clinical services for our students. Our school community prides itself on our relationships with all stakeholders: students, staff, parents, 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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