



# CROSSROADS MONTHLY REPORT

June 2024

## Message from the Administration

As we conclude another fantastic school year, we are excited to share our Social Emotional Learning themes for the month: Diversity and Celebrating Different Perspectives. These themes are close to our hearts, as they underscore the importance of embracing and valuing the unique backgrounds and viewpoints each member of our community brings. Throughout the month, we have engaged in meaningful activities and discussions that highlight our commitment to inclusivity and respect for all.



June has been a month full of wonderful celebrations. We began with our Preschool Stepping Up ceremony, where our youngest learners marked an important milestone in their educational journey. It was a joy to see their smiles and enthusiasm. Our 8th Grade Commencement was another highlight, celebrating the achievements and growth of our students as they prepare to transition to high school. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and perseverance, and we look forward to seeing all they will accomplish in their High School placements. Additionally, our Field Day was a tremendous success! Complete with inflatables, delicious food, and an abundance of fun, it was a day filled with laughter and joy. These events would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated staff and wonderful families. Your commitment and involvement are what make our school community so special.

As we head into summer, I want to wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable break. For those not attending the Extended School Year program, have a fantastic summer, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the fall. For our ESY students, we are excited to see you on July 1 for more learning and fun. Thank you again for an incredible school year.

Warm regards,  
Matt, Danielle, and Stacey

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## General Information

### Enrollment as of June 26, 2024

**Actual:** 52

**Changes:** Entered: 0 Exited: 7 (post 8th grade commencement)

**Referrals:** 4

**Intakes Scheduled:** 2

**Accepted:** 1 acceptance (for September 2024)

### June Drill Schedule

**Fire Drills:** 6/10/24

**Emergency Drills** 6/12/24 (Lockdown)

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### Upcoming Dates

**July 1, 2024** - First Day of ESY Program

**July 4, 2024** - School Closed

**July 5, 2024** - School Closed

**August 9, 2024** - Last Day of ESY

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## Crossroads Staff Spotlight



### Staff of the Month - Crismely Tapia de Macario - TA

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

I have been working at Crossroads school for a wonderful six months

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

When I first started my early child education at the Universidad Nacional Evangelica, I knew that that was what I would love to do. When I did my internship at the catholic school ( Sagrado Corazon de Jesus ) this experience taught me a lot about the profession and



how busy some family's schedules can be". Moreover, after my graduation I came to this country and got my certification from Union County College in English as a second language. Here I am working for Crossroads School.

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

My vacation dream is Dubai. I've always wanted to sleep in a seven-star hotel and see the best the Arab Emirates has to offer.

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

My favorite meals revolve around seafood, specifically buttered lobster tails or any variation of them.

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

My greatest accomplishment was to buy my house in 2020 right at the time when the housing market boomed in price and interest rates. In my most recent job, I was responsible for managing the orientation and training programs for our new employees. The content needed improvement. While it was necessary information for new employees to have, we found that only 55% of new employees completed the training. I decided to rework the training program to make it relevant and interesting based on the industry's best practices and made sure to pay attention to as much feedback as possible. Today, 93% of participants complete the training and provide positive feedback about their experiences. My manager was so pleased with the improvements that she asked me to lead a training seminar in our main office.

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## **Honors and Accolades**

### **Congratulations Diana on your retirement**

Congratulations on your retirement, Diana! Your dedication and hard work at Crossroads School have made a lasting impact on countless students and staff members. Your commitment to creating a positive and supportive learning environment has not gone unnoticed. As you embark on this new chapter, know that your contributions will be fondly remembered and greatly missed. Best wishes for a fulfilling and joyful retirement!



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## Classroom Spotlights

### Ms. Jennifer's Classroom

It is hard to believe that the end of the school year is here! We had many fun activities this month. On our final CBI trip to Clark Commons, we shopped for some decorations for the 8th grade commencement ceremony and then practiced our pedestrian safety skills as we walked to Panera. At Panera, we worked on ordering food and paying for our meals. We also worked very hard preparing and practicing for commencement. For our end of the year Middle School trip we were able to go to the Cranford Movie Theater to see Garfield and then to McDonalds for lunch.



On June 12th, we were honored to come together to celebrate seven of our students at the 8th grade commencement ceremony. Teachers and therapists spoke for each of the students, sharing fond memories, many accomplishments, and our well wishes as they move on to High School.

Lastly, we had a field day with lots of good food and fun activities for everyone to enjoy. Our students especially loved all of the bubbles and the slides. From everyone in 220A, we wish you a restful and fun summer vacation and are looking forward to a great ESY and new school year in the fall!



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## Specials Spotlight - GYM



**Mr. Rich**

As another school year comes to a close, students have continued working efficiently on their health and physical education activities. At times, due to commencement, the gym wasn't available but the students adjusted well. Students are continuing to make progress from week to week socially, emotionally and physically. Stressing things such as structure, routine, and reviewing classroom expectations have remained a constant which has made things much more efficient for everyone.

Students have been practicing a multitude of skills and have participated in various activities during class such as: (walking, running, stretching, relay races on foot and scooters, obstacle courses, agility courses, letter, number, picture and color matching activities, striking a beach ball with both 1 and 2 hands, striking a balloon with a tennis racquet, striking a tennis ball with a racquet, catching, bean bag balancing, scavenger hunts, throwing (underhand, overhand, one and two handed to staff as well as targets) and following single and multi step directions) Moving forward into ESY, we will continue to build off the above mentioned activities and slowly add new and more challenging ones that match student ability levels.

In health class, students have continued to work in groups as well as individually to practice following directions and turn taking while playing various games as well as answering questions on flash cards and a touch screen monitor that include topics such as healthy habits, different foods and things around the house. We have also continued our fitness portion of class by walking/running laps around the building and performing exercises. This helps students improve their cardiovascular endurance as well as learn a valuable skill for life long health.

Fitness groups/individual sessions continue to go well and are giving students a chance to participate in some things that they might not necessarily get to in a typical physical education setting. Students have been engaged and are enjoying the extra time in the gym. Students have also had the chance to be more independent and practice making choices on what activities they participate in. This has helped to keep them on task and take more of an interest in the activities they do.

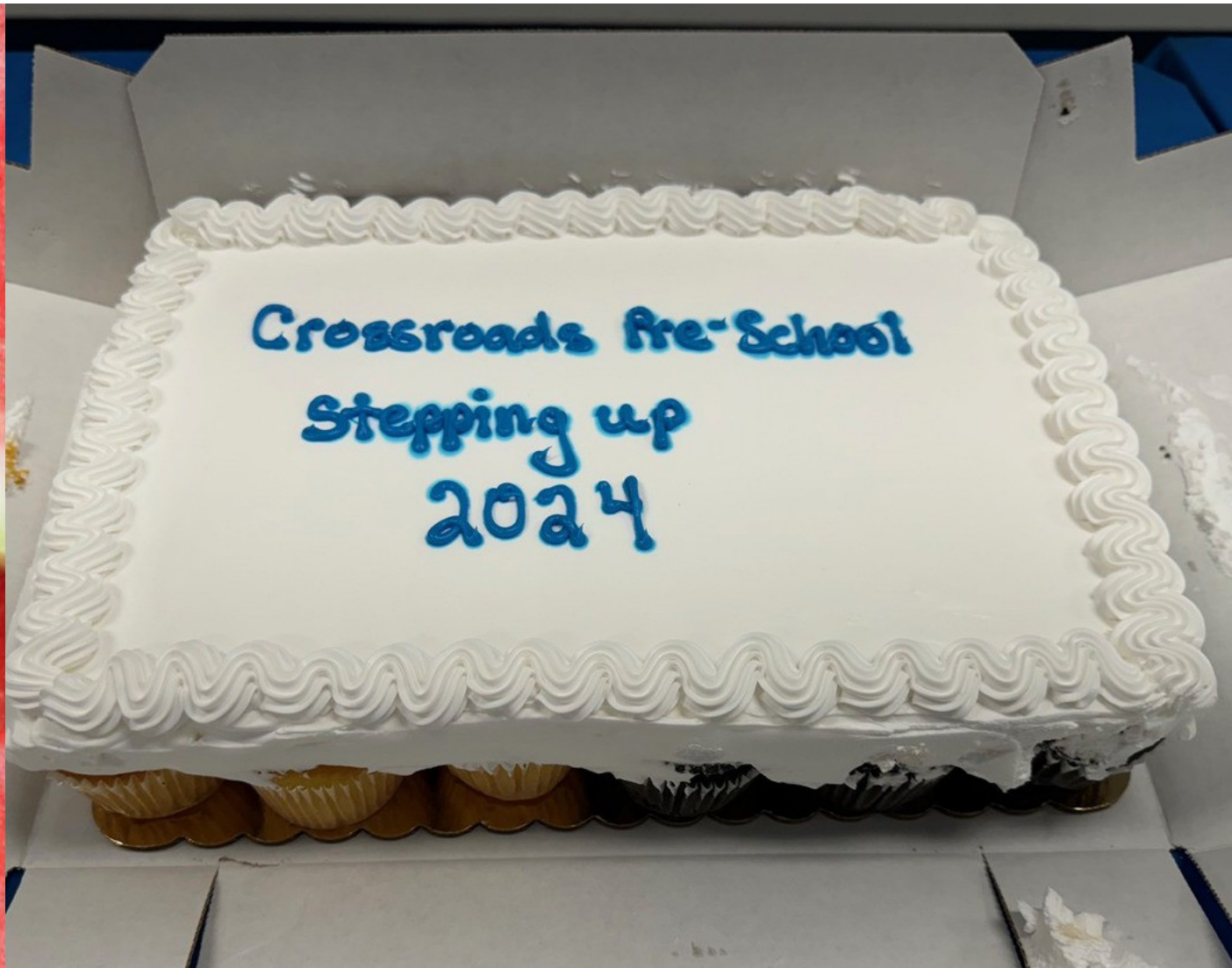


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## June Celebrations @ Crossroads

### Preschool Stepping Up











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## 8th Grade Commencement











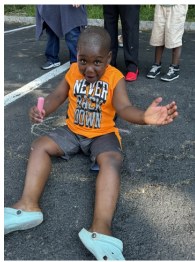
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## Crossroads Field Day 2024













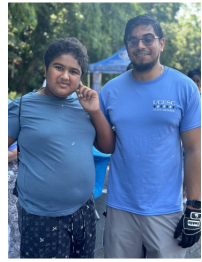


















We wanted to give special thanks to the following individuals/organizations whose without their support the day would not have been possible.



- Shine Avi Learning Center
- Just Smile Photobooth Rentals ([justsmileboothrentals.com](http://justsmileboothrentals.com))
- Rob's Deli (<https://robsdeli.com>)
- TD Pizza ([www.td.pizza](http://www.td.pizza))
- Lennys Plumbing ([lennysplumbing.com](http://lennysplumbing.com))
- Diamondettes Baton & Dance, Union NJ
- White Birch Landscape LLC
- The New York Jets
- So Delicious Ice Cream ([sodeliciousicecream.com](http://sodeliciousicecream.com))
- Shoprite of Clark
- Trader Joes of Westfield
- Wegmans of Woodbridge
- NJ Party Time Rentals ([njpartytimerentals.com](http://njpartytimerentals.com))
- Mr. Hector Macario
- Ms. Julia Kaplun
- Ms. Jillian Guarini (On behalf of Camille Widdows)

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## Crossroads in the Community





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## 🎨 Community Art Show 🎨



Crossroads Students had their artwork displayed at the Peanut Gallery in Summit as part of the Artfully Abled Showcase



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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)

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# Hillcrest Academy South Campus

## June 2024 Monthly Report



### Dr. Balsamello's Message

This June students finished strong with attending school and completing coursework through June 21st. I think back on the year and remember many good times and laughter with students, families, and staff. I look forward to seeing all students who are returning in September and wish only the best for all HAS students graduating with their Elizabeth Academies!

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### June 2024 Enrollment Data

Enrollment-98 (as of 6/19/24).

New Students-1

Disenrollments-1 (Attendance).

Emergency Drill-Lockdown, external threat 6/3/24.

Fire Drill-6/3/24.

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# People Spotlights!

## May Student of the Month

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

- Extremely dedicated to her school work
- Very kind and very respectful
- Always polite
- Willing to work hard



## Student of the Year

Congratulations to our Student of the Year, Nathan! He has excelled in all aspects of his senior year; academics, attendance, and conduct. Nathan is looking to enlist in the US Airforce and we wish him the best of luck!

## Staff Spotlight Dr Balsamello!

Dr Balsamello has been with UCESC for the past 21 years. He first started his career as a teacher at the SCESC before coming to the Commission. His first two years at UCESC were as a Supervisor of Instruction at Centennial High School then he became the principal of HAS. Some interesting facts about Dr B... When he himself was in high school, and in college, he played trumpet. Dr B has been married since 2002. Dr B has stated that one of his many achievements is that he received a 3rd Dan (Black Belt) in Taekwondo. Martial arts is his family's activity of choice as his father received a 4th Dan and his daughter a 1st Dan.



## Staff Spotlights



## Mrs D'Emilio - Administrative Assistant

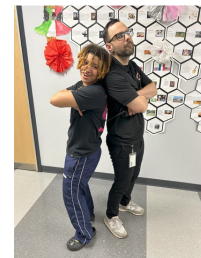
Mrs D'Emilio has been very busy with end of the school year protocols. She planned our Senior Recognition & Awards Night ceremony where seniors and underclassmen who won awards were celebrated for all of their hard work this year. She also helped with our end of the year bbq by organizing, ordering supplies, and physically helping with the distribution of food. When Mrs D'Emilio is not helping the students, She is working diligently with the staff behind the scenes. She is making sure teachers' end of year orders are in on time and that any assistance we need is available.



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## Mr Van Cleef - Supervisor of Instruction

As the school year nears an end, we are happy to report that ALL seniors at Hillcrest Academy South had their learning portfolios approved by the State! Thanks to their hard work, as well as the efforts of Ms. Cioffi, Ms. Fern, Mrs. Ferrari and Ms. Vlastaras, these students were able to reach their benchmark targets in English and Math. A database of their work has been developed as proof of their achievements. Next stop, graduation!



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## *Senior Recognition and Awards Night*

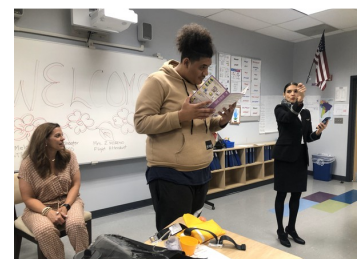
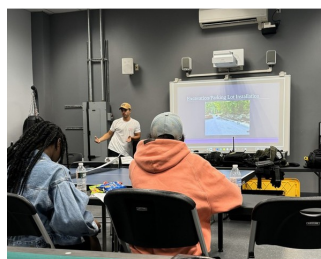
This year's Awards Night was extra special because it was the first one we've had since 2019. First it was the pandemic and then last year the Canadian Wild Fires that caused this ceremony to be canceled or shifted to a school luncheon. Seniors, underclassmen who won awards, and their families came to celebrate. Students received their awards and certificates while dining with family, faculty, and staff in celebration for all their accomplishments from the year.





## Career Day

Mrs Schulhafer planned and executed an extremely successful Career Day. With the help of faculty and staff, students met individuals from many different fields such as law enforcement, military, technology, medical, banking, airlines (flight attendant), construction, mechanics, entrepreneurship, etc. It was so successful that a few students during their down time that same day, looked up and researched these professions and applied for available opportunities!







## Pride Month

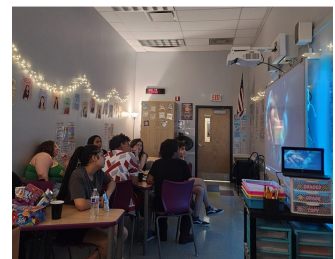
For the month of June, we focused on the SEL themes of diversity and celebrating different perspectives. These themes were perfect with this also being LGBTQ+ month. During this month, as we have done with all other themed months, we made sure that our students who celebrate Pride Month are seen and understand that they are loved. For those who do not celebrate, we used this month as a means of education and understanding.



Pride Representation



Pride Spirit Day



Movie Day

## Senior Trip



Every year to honor our seniors, they are treated to their own trip where they can celebrate the promise of graduation. Whether they were here for 4+ years or less, our seniors are always shown they are welcomed, celebrated, and always loved here at HAS and they will be missed dearly. This year's trip was to a hibachi buffet where they had their own private room and got a chance to reminisce, have fun, and eat to their hearts' content.



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## *UCESF Outstanding Scholarships*

Congratulations to Alex L. & Giselle V. who were recipients for the UCESF Outstanding Scholarships that will assist paying for college.

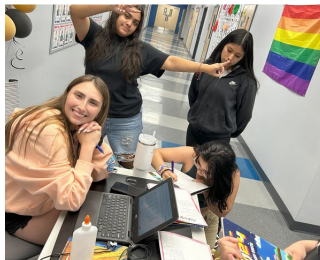




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## Yearbooks

Yearbook distribution is always the highlight of June. Students get the chance to see memories from the past year and the seniors run around trying to get as many signatures as possible before graduation. Students and staff get to relive, through these books, the growth of the year and how things have changed in these short 10 months.



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## End of the Year BBQ

The last week of school is a very momentous occasion; it marks the completion of a 10 month school year. Here at HAS we take that last week to relax and celebrate all the accomplishments of the school year by having a bbq! Hamburgers, hotdogs, and side dishes were plentiful for our students, faculty, and staff to enjoy while enjoying the hot summer weather (or the ice cold air conditioning based on preference). A big thank you to Mr Barone and Mrs Flores for grilling and to those faculty who brought in extra sides like Mrs W's delicious mac and cheese and Mrs Fern's famous tres leches cake!





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## ***Our Students In and Out of School***

### **Senior Class of 2024!**

We are very proud of our Senior class. Some of our seniors are ready and have registered for college courses in the fall. Some of our seniors already have lucrative jobs lined up and waiting for them to get that coveted high school diploma. Some of our seniors are enlisting into the armed forces with Marines and Airforce already listed. Either way, the administration, faculty, and staff here at HAS wish all of our graduates the best of luck! We will miss you!



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## ***In Memory***

This month's newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Anthony C. We love and miss you!





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## About Us

Hillcrest Academy South is an alternative high school for students from the Elizabeth Public School District. 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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# HILLCREST ACADEMY NORTH

*JUNE 2024*

## Principal's Message



Dear Hillcrest Academy North Campus (HAN) Students and Families:

Wow! Where does the time go!

Tomorrow wraps up another successful school year at HAN. We have enjoyed all of the end of the year events such as Award's Night, Senior Trip, Senior Recognition Dinner, and our School BBQ. It was so nice to see the enjoyment the students were having

during the events. The smiles on their faces and the laughter I heard always makes me feel so satisfied that we ended the school year on a positive note with much to be proud of. I wish the Senior Class the very best as they enter college or career in September. You have impressed me so much and I look forward to a visit from you soon.

Thank you HAN for, once again, a very productive and meaningful school year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Marquet  
Principal



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## Monthly Data

Enrolled - 88

Accepted - 0

Disenrolled - 0

Fire Drill - June 4th

Lock down Drill - June 6th

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## Upcoming Dates

New Student Orientation - TBD

First Day of School - September 6th, 2024

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## June at HAN



### Chess Tournament

HAN held its Annual Chess Tournament, lead by Mrs. Machado. Students spend time learning how to play the game then play practice games to get ready for the tournament. Congratulations to this year's winner, graduating senior, Janeury!



### Vietnam Memorial

Mr. Kaplan's US II History students visited the Vietnam Memorial. They were lead around the site by three Vietnam Veterans and were able to learn about their lives during and after the war.



### Class of 2024 Mural

Graduating Senior, Leslie, designed and drew the newest HAN mural. The mural depicts life at Hillcrest North and what is important to the students!

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## Senior Trip

The Senior class enjoyed a trip to YESTERcades to celebrate their high school graduations!



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## Awards Night

Awards Night is to celebrate all students for their accomplishments throughout the school year. Students earn awards for Academic Achievements, Perfect Attendance, and Honor Roll. Principal's Awards are also awarded for Most Determined, Scholar of the Year, Creative Services to the School, Student of Year, and more!



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## Senior Recognition Dinner

Graduating Seniors were celebrated for their accomplishments at the Senior Recognition Dinner. Teachers and staff members gave speeches about each senior describing their time in high school and the amazing qualities they all have. It is a special, memorable night for students, their families, and staff!





# Hillcrest Academy North, Class of 2024!



Congratulations on your high school graduation! We will miss you and wish you all the best!

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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 and parents/guardians 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

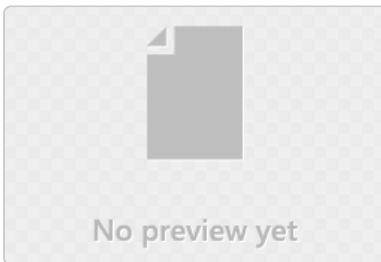
Mr. Thomas Van Cleef, Supervisor of Instruction

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



### 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

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**John Marquet**

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# June Monthly Report

## Supervisor's Message



As the school year winds down, let's take a moment to reflect, appreciate and celebrate many moments and milestones that our school year has brought us.

The Westlake School community is proud to acknowledge and celebrate the following 2023-2024 Westlake School graduates: Josh A., Venus A., Kaseem B., Rylina C., Robbie E., Alex F., Rick G., Sarah M., Josh Mc., Tianna P., Nyrkalens P., Anthony P., Tiffany R., Ian S.

We thank you for allowing us to be part of your amazing journey filled with personal growth, incredible achievements and countless moments of joy, pride and inspiration and look forward to seeing where your exceptional dedication and resilience take you as you begin your next chapter.

The School year provided a vast number of opportunities for students to get involved and participate in special events such as the March Madness Basketball game and cheerleading, Westlake School Carnival, Annual BMW Car Club Race and the Prom, to name a few.

We also would like to honor, acknowledge and congratulate Mrs. Robyn Pajewski, who after 33 years will be retiring at the end of the school year. The Westlake School Community will miss Mrs. Pajewski's commitment to academic excellence for her students, lasting contributions she has

made to the Westlake program and the profound impact she has made on her students for years to come. Thank you, Robyn - we wish you a rewarding and fulfilling retirement just like your teaching career! :)

As the school year comes to an end, we would like to thank all of our Westlake School staff for their continued, unwavering support in providing an inclusive and supportive learning environment for our students to thrive and grow to reach their fullest potential and all our students families and sending districts for your ongoing teamwork and collaboration allowing us to have the privilege to work with your kids.

Till next time my friends...stay cool this summer and as always...be good to yourself and each other :)

Best,  
-Mr. P and Mrs. Tantillo



# Westlake Information!

- Current enrollment: 57  
Referrals: 5  
Acceptances: 2  
Emergency Management Drills:
- Fire Drill: June 3
  - Lockdown Drill: June 12



# Westlake June Spotlight!

## Principal Award Winner!





## *Principal's Award*



Congratulations to N.R, she has been working so hard in June! We are so proud of her!



## Congratulations Mrs. Pajewski!



Robyn has been a dedicated teacher at UCESC for the past 33 years. She has seen many changes and evolved. Robyn gives 110% of her heart and passion to her students. She not only raises the bar for her students to excel, but continuously challenges them to achieve greatness. She enjoys collaborating and sharing ideas. Robyn is highly respected by her staff, peers and administrators. Her kindness and compassion is infectious among anyone who interacts with her. These are the reasons why she will truly be missed. As Robyn sets off into the sunset to retire and start a new chapter of her life, she will be truly missed by staff, administrators and colleagues.







## Spotlight on the Work Based Learning!





As the school year draws to a close, the Work Based Learning and vocational programs celebrate their achievements and milestones. Throughout the year, these programs have provided invaluable opportunities for our students to grow academically, socially, and professionally. From individualized vocational and work readiness goals to Work Based Learning goals each student has been supported in developing their unique skills and strengths. The end-of-the-year wrap up is not just a culmination of academic progress but also a testament to the dedication of students, educators, and community partners who have collaborated to ensure each student's success. A huge thank you goes out to our community partners who have contributed to internal vocational work within the classroom and the school building- Maschio's Food Services, The NJ Sharing Network, and Cranford Jaycee's. We appreciate and thank our external Work Based Learning sites - The Cranford Movie Theater, Olive Garden, Walgreens, Overlook Hospital, Tony's Pizza Delight, and Suplee, Clooney, & Company. We look forward to collaborating with our community partners next year and look forward to creating new relationships.

















## Westlake Carnival!



**Another cherished Westlake tradition returned this year. After months of preparation and planning, The Westlake Carnival took place on June 7th. Staff and students enjoyed games, ice cream, snacks, bounce houses, a bubble dance party, spin art, tattoos, cotton candy, and the Kona Ice truck!**

**We were lucky to have many helpers from Goldman Sachs, who helped run all the different stations! Thank you for all of your help!**

































# BMW Car Club Trip!



Mrs. Tantillo was joined by Ms. Datillo and group of students on a trip to the BMW Car Club of America! Students were able to race in the cars!











# Graduation 2024!



















## Spotlight on the O.T. Department!

We are having so much fun in Occupational Therapy (OT) in the month of June. Students are seen individually and in groups to work on fine motor skills, sensory regulation, visual motor, activities of living, self-care, and pre-vocational skills. The OT department is made up of 2 full time OT's, Sara Roch and myself, Jennifer Loggia. We have one additional OT Sara Loesch who works part-time at Westlake. Throughout the month we integrated summer crafts in order to work on strengthening the hands while performing multi-step activities. After completing the projects we decorated the OT/PT room with the student's work. In our OT room we have a swing, trampoline, and canoe where our students can work on self-regulation skills. We incorporated summer yoga poses and obstacle courses to help our students with motor planning. Our students enjoyed making a rainbow out of handprints to display diversity and differences between individuals. Some students have started a typing program and practice. We are fortunate to have exercise equipment in our gym, where students ride exercise bikes or walk on treadmills as a part of their OT sessions to increase strength, endurance, and just have fun. When we are not in the OT/PT room, we are in Westlake's own apartment, where we teach students how to make a bed, prepare a meal, and how to do laundry. This month we made pizza bagels and ice cream. Here in OT we work towards increasing students' independence in meaningful, motivating and functional activities. We are looking forward to a terrific Summer!





# Watch Our Garden Grow!



**Mrs. Mund and Mrs. Marshall's Classes have been hard at work in our garden space to grow vegetables and herbs. All of their hard work has paid off, everything is growing!**

**Ms. Shaw's class made a sign for our outdoor classroom! It looks amazing!**













**Talent Show!**





Our amazing staff and students showcased their talents at our Talent Show! A BIG THANK YOU to Ms. Kristen for organizing this event. We saw skits, dancing, singing, drawing, and trivia! It was truly a morning full of joy and smiles!





























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**Last Day of School Fun!**





**Ms. Marshall organized a fun end of the year relay race! All of our students were excited to cheer on their favorite teams!**









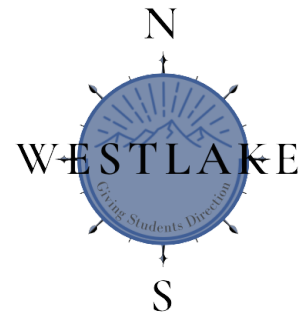


## Contact Us!

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)



## Instagram

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**Robert Peneno**

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## June 2024 Monthly Report

# LAMBERTS MILL ACADEMY



*"Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay it's not the end." -John Lennon*

## Administrators' Message

Good morning,

We hope this newsletter finds you well! As we close out the 2023-2024 academic school year at The Mill, it truly is bittersweet. All of our 12th grade students participated in the LMA graduation ceremonies last week, and we are proud to say all of our 12th grade students have completed all of their coursework in order for their respected home district to award them a high school diploma. Our statistic, 100% graduation rate for the 12th grade class is something we are proud of. Providing additional layers of support, at such an individualized level is the true mission of LMA.



With all of that said, the entire LMA school community is proud of the class of 2024 12th grade graduates, along with our 8th grade students who are being promoted to high school next year. Looking back at this year we are proud of the LMA staff for pulling together, and helping support one another. LMA students have given our school valuable feedback for us to make adjustments during summer for the next school year. The sense of school culture and belonging continues to grow in a positive direction at The Mill.



We are proud of all the student and staff accomplishments for this school year and look forward to more in future years!

Reed & John

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## Monthly Data

1. Enrollment - 49
  2. Acceptances - 2
  3. New Students - 0
  4. Intakes - 1
  5. Referrals - 2
  6. Disenrollments - 0
  7. Fire Drill - 6/3/24 10:05am
  8. Other Drill (Emergency Management - Lockdown External Threat) 6/6/24 9:00am
- 

## Upcoming LMA Events

### July 2024 Important Dates

July 1 - First day of ESY Program  
July 4 & 5 - No School



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## Upcoming Community Events in Union, Essex and Middlesex county





## 2024 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

### Raritan Bay Waterfront Park

O'Leary Boulevard | South Amboy

**Wednesdays 6:30pm—8:30pm**

**June 26** New Jersey Symphony Orchestra \*\*7:30pm to 9:30pm  
**July 10** Danny V's 52nd St Band • **July 17** Sounds of the Street • **July 24** The Wood Vibrations • **July 31** Garden State Groove • **August 7** Zydeco a Go GO • **August 14** Parkway Soul  
**August 21** Underwater Airlines • **August 28** Perry Brothers

### Thompson Park

Forsgate Drive | Jamesburg/Monroe Township

**Wednesdays 2:00pm—3:30pm**

**July 10** Mark Heter Band • **July 17** The Crosswinds Trio  
**July 24** Jersey Polka Stars • **July 31** Sandy Sasso and her Swingin' Big Band • **August 7** Zydeco a Go GO • **August 14** Greg Giannascoli, Marimba • **August 21** St Peter's Brass  
**August 28** Kraus Memorial Band

### Spring Lake Park

Pearl Place | South Plainfield

**Sundays 6:00pm—7:30pm**

**July 7** Mark Heter Band • **July 14** St Peter's Brass • **July 21** Sandy Sasso and her Swingin' Big Band • **July 28** Jersey Polka Stars • **August 4** Perry Brothers • **August 11** Greg Giannascoli, Marimba • **August 18** Garden State Symphonic Band • **August 25** Kraus Memorial Band

### Joseph Medwick Park

Post Boulevard | Carteret

**Thursdays 6:30pm—8:00pm**

**August 1** Parkway Soul • **August 8** Verdict  
**August 15** Greg Giannascoli, Marimba



REPLENISH and Feeding Middlesex County will also be present at each event collecting food donations for the benefit of county residents in need of assistance. Be sure to bring a non-perishable food donation with you to the park, your support is vital! For details, visit [feedingmiddlesexcounty.org](https://feedingmiddlesexcounty.org).

Spend your summer evenings with us and enjoy free live music in one of our beautiful parks during our annual Music-in-the-Park Series. All you need is your favorite lawn chair and your love of the arts.

Please contact [Erin Carroll](mailto:erin.carroll@middlesexcountynj.gov) at 732-745-8188 for more information or with any questions.

Music-in-the-Park will be hosting a series of free concerts on these dates:

### Raritan Bay Waterfront Park, South Amboy, NJ

Wednesdays 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

June 26-August 30

**June 26** New Jersey Symphony Orchestra \*\*7:30PM to 9:30PM\*\*

### Thompson Park, Jamesburg, NJ

Wednesdays 2 pm-3:30 pm

July 10-August 28

### Spring Lake Park, South Plainfield, NJ

Sundays 6 pm-7:30 pm

July 7-August 25

### Medwick Park, Cateret, NJ

Thursdays 6:30 pm-8 pm

August 1-August 15

<https://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/find-programs-and-resources/parks-and-recreation/music-in-the-park>



**THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL  
FREE CONCERT SERIES**

## UNION COUNTY SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL 2024



**JULY 20 • OAK RIDGE PARK • 12-4 PM**  
THE LITTLE MERMEN (DISNEY TRIBUTE)  
FAMILY FUN AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL



**JULY 24 • ECHO LAKE PARK • 7:30 PM**  
THE PINK FLOYD PROJECT (10-PIECE TRIBUTE)  
YOGA CLASS 6:30 • CONCERT 7:30

### 5 AGAINST 1

**AUGUST 7 • ECHO LAKE PARK • 7:30 PM**  
5 AGAINST 1 (PEARL JAM TRIBUTE)  
YOGA CLASS 6:30 • CONCERT 7:30



**AUGUST 17 • OAK RIDGE PARK • 12-4 PM**  
TAYLOR NATION (TAYLOR SWIFT TRIBUTE)  
FAMILY FUN AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

**THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PRESENTS**

## FAMILY FUN & FLIX

### 2024 DATES

**FREE TO ATTEND!**

KIDS' ACTIVITIES 7:30 PM  
ICE CREAM FOR PURCHASE

**MOVIES @ DUSK**

**WARINANCO PARK**



**July 16 WISH**

**July 23 MIGRATION**

**July 30 ELEMENTAL**

**August 13 TROLLS BAND TOGETHER**

**August 20 THE LITTLE MERMAID (2023)**

# ucnj.org/summer24

A SERVICE OF THE  
UNION COUNTY BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



UNION COUNTY  
We're Connected to You!

ucnj.org

f y i

The Union County Board of County Commissioners would like to announce the arrival of two free summer programs for families – the Family Fun and Flix series, beginning on July 16th and running through August 20th at Warinanco Park in Roselle, and the Summer Arts Concert Series, beginning on July 20th and held in various Union County parks.

“Music and movies are the perfect ingredients for family fun, especially in the summer,” said Union County Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded. “I urge all Union County residents to take advantage of these free summer events that create laughter, memories, and endless entertainment for the whole family.”

All Family Fun and Flix showings will begin at dusk, with festivities to begin at 7:30pm, and an ice cream truck on site for attendees who wish to purchase a snack. Participants are encouraged to bring their own blankets and chairs. All movies will be shown on a weather-permitting basis. The schedule for the Family Fun and Flix night is listed below:

- Tuesday, July 16 – Wish
- Tuesday, July 23 – Migration
- Tuesday, July 30 – Elemental
- Tuesday, August 13 – Trolls Band Together
- Tuesday, August 20 – The Little Mermaid (2023)

The Summer Arts Concert Series includes various musical acts in either Oak Ridge Park in Clark, or Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. The schedule is listed below:



- **Saturday, July 20** – *The Little Mermer*: A Disney-tribute concert at Oak Ridge Park from 12:00pm-4:00pm, and will include other acts and family fun activities.
- **Wednesday, July 24** – *The Pink Floyd Project*: A 10-piece Pink Floyd tribute with a light show, beginning at 7:30pm, with a yoga class before the concert at 6:30pm.
- **Wednesday, August 7** – *5 Against 1*: A Pearl Jam Tribute band at Echo Lake Park starting at 7:30pm, with a yoga class before the concert at 6:30pm.
- **Saturday, August 17** – *Taylor Nation*: The premier Taylor Swift sing-along tribute band at Oak Ridge Park from 12:00pm-4:00pm, and will include other acts and family fun activities.

<https://ucnj.org/departement-of-economic-development/office-of-lgbtq-services/>



The Essex County Free Summer Music Concert Series offers a diverse lineup of performers who will take center stage throughout our historic Parks System. Pack a blanket, enjoy the cool evening breeze, and dance to the sounds of summer.

*Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.*  
**Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.**  
 Essex County Executive

**2024 • ESSEX COUNTY PARKS**



**SUMMER MUSIC**  
**FREE LIVE CONCERTS**




**HOSTED BY:**  
**Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.,**  
 Essex County Executive  
 the Board of County Commissioners, and  
 the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs

**PUTTING ESSEX COUNTY FIRST**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
 Carlos M. Pomares, President  
 Tyshammie L. Cooper, Vice President

Brendan W. Gill  
 Romaine Graham  
 Leonard M. Luciano  
 Robert Mercado

A'Dorian Murray-Thomas  
 Wayne L. Richardson  
 Patricia Sebold

**FIREWORKS SHOWS**  
 All performances begin at 7:30pm

**NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
 Friday, June 28 • Branch Brook Park, Newark

**MEN OF SOUL**  
 Tuesday, July 2 • Weequahic Park, Newark

**THE INFERNOS**  
 Wednesday, July 3 • Brookdale Park,  
 Bloomfield/Montclair

**ESSEX COUNTY BROOKDALE PARK**  
 All performances begin at 7:30pm

**THE NICHE: A NIGHT OF R&B**  
 Friday, July 12

**EARTH WIND FIRE**  
 Friday, July 19

**MOTOR CITY REVIEW**  
 Friday, July 26

**STEP BY STEP: A TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY MAESTRO**  
 Friday, August 2

**GARDEN STATE GROOVE: TOP 40 HITS**  
 Friday, August 9

**LIVE AT YOUR LOCAL ESSEX COUNTY PARK**  
 All performances at 7pm unless otherwise noted

**SUIT & MAI TAI**  
 Tuesday, June 25 • Yanticaw Park, Nutley

**JERSEY SOUND**  
 Wednesday, June 26 • Verona Park, Verona

**TRILOGY: AN OPERA COMPANY PERFORMANCE OF SCOTT, GARNER, GRAY: SAYS JIMMY BALDWIN**  
 Tuesday, July 9 • Watsessing Park, Bloomfield

**LUIS MOTTA Y SU RUMBA**  
 Wednesday, July 10 • Riverbank Park, Newark

**SOULAR RHYTHM**  
 Tuesday, July 16 • Veterans Memorial Park,  
 Newark

**DIAMOND JUPITER**  
 Wednesday, July 17 • Ivy Hill Park, Newark

**NADINE SIMMONS**  
 Tuesday, July 23 • Vailsburg Park, Newark

**STEELPAN MUSIC**  
 Wednesday, July 24 • Riverfront Park, Newark

**HERE'S ELTON**  
 Tuesday, July 30 • Cedar Grove Park,  
 Cedar Grove

**DANNY V'S**  
 Wednesday, July 31 • Grover Cleveland Park,  
 Caldwell

**VOLARA**  
 Tuesday, August 6 • Independence Park, Newark

**NO STANDARDS**  
 Wednesday, August 7 • Belleville Park, Belleville

**MEMORIES MUSIC**  
 Friday, August 16 • Eagle Rock Reservation,  
 West Orange

**FESTIVALS**

**GOSPEL FESTIVAL**  
 Saturday, June 29 • 12noon – 6pm  
 Rain Date: Sunday, June 30  
 Monte Irvin Orange Park, Orange

**JAZZ AND FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL**  
 Saturday, July 20 • 12noon – 8pm  
 Rain Date: Sunday, July 21  
 Monte Irvin Orange Park, Orange

**CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL**  
 Saturday, August 10 • 12noon – 8pm  
 Rain Date: Sunday, August 11  
 Monte Irvin Orange Park, Orange

**INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL**  
 Saturday, August 10 • 2pm – 9pm  
 Rain Date: Sunday, August 11  
 Ivy Hill Park, Newark

**LATINO FESTIVAL**  
 Saturday, August 24 &  
 Sunday, August 25 • 12noon – 8pm  
 Monte Irvin Orange Park, Orange

Festivals are co-sponsored by the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs.  
 Concert schedule is subject to change. Please check for updates and cancellations.

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/newarknj/essex-county-summer-concerts-fireworks-2024-event-schedule>

## LMA Student of the Month - June 2024

Blake D.



LMA is proud to announce our June Student of the Month as Blake D. He started with us at LMA 2 years ago as a Post-Graduate, and has continued to refine his work based learning skills with guidance and support from staff. Blake has come a long way from when he started at LMA till now. He has demonstrated leadership and great social skills while attending LMA. Presently he is looking to apply to Chili's restaurant in Clark where he spent a large amount of time during this past school year learning about the day to day operations of the restaurant. He received the most votes for June Student of the Month, and we are proud to have the opportunity to work on his career readiness skills for his next chapter in life.



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## LMA Staff Spotlight

### Congratulations Ms. Fort & Mrs. Fay

Not only will LMA say Goodbye to the Senior Class this June, but we are also filled with mixed emotion as both Ms. Fort and Mrs. Fay of LMA, New Point campus retire this month from UCESC. We thank them for their extended years of service with the Commission, and the support they provided our students over the years.



Ms. Fort has been the self-contained classroom teacher at New Point Specialty, the satellite campus of Lamberts Mill Academy since New Point was created. Over the years at New Point she has held the students to a high standard of education, while able to connect with their SEL needs. With a strong background in ELA, she taught the students on New Point the importance of being able to express themselves with public speaking, and writing opportunities. She has been always a team player working with New Point clinical staff to provide educational opportunities for the students at New Point, both in and out of the unit.

Mrs. Fay has spent many years as a teacher first working for Non-Public with the UCESC, than transitioning over to New Point Specialty, working collaboratively with Ms. Fort. Mrs. Fay has always been a dedicated teacher with her students' needs in mind, while advocating for them. With a Mathematical background, she provided students on the unit with opportunities to connect mathematical concepts to real world applications for when they graduate high school.

LMA congratulates both Ms. Fort and Mrs. Fay for their years of service working with the LMA students, and for their classroom dedication.

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## Some Senior Reflections of 2024 Graduates

Owen



Most Influential staff member at LMA?

*Mr. Peters because he has taught me a lot more about GYM and health then anyone ever has before.*



---

## Charles

Most Influential staff member at LMA?

*Ms. Matusz and Mrs. McMahon in my Marine Biology class for all of the knowledge and wisdom they have given me to help me succeed and for the personal talks that made me happy when I was down.*



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## Niomi

Plans for after LMA Graduation?

*I plan on going to college.*



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## Sebastian

Most Influential staff member at LMA?

*Mr. Leal and Mr. Lopreiato for their support and help through all the years I attended LMA.*





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## Classroom Spotlights



### Coding class finishes the year strong!

Students have been working on coding throughout the year, including HTML, CSS, ASCII and block coding. As the year is winding down, students have the opportunity to use a robot to practice their block coding skills and program the robotic car to go on patrols, tour the school, transmit audio and video, as well as use night vision technology.



### New Point goes back in time to Ellis Island with Mr. Bell



The finishing of a week's study of American Immigration culminated with a trip to Ellis Island. First the kids visited the Jersey Central train depot and talked about all the places the new immigrants traveled in America once they passed their inspections. All agreed they had to be quite brave to set out in a new country to make their new lives. They were also amazed that most folks traveled with a small trunk or suitcase that represented the totality of their worldly possessions. Earlier in the week we participated in an exercise where the students had 10 minutes to choose 10



### WBL Experience has finished for now...

Blake and Gabe will finish their work-based learning on June 14, 2024. They both made sure to thank their internship sites for allowing them to come and wrote letters to their future self in class. Blake received an award for outstanding performance at a WBL at our final community meeting of the year. Gabe received an award for Most Improved at a WBL.





things they wanted to bring to America and these had to fit in a typical suitcase. We rushed for fear of persecution. At the Island where we traveled by ferry, some of the students couldn't wrap their heads around a country back then without bridges, tunnels or commuter trains. We visited the great hall where the folks fearfully waited to learn their fate. We also saw the bunk rooms where folks stayed overnight, several of the interview rooms and the hospital building where many of the newly arrived were treated. All week we talked about the places our own families came from and their reasons for migrating. It was agreed that America represented a place of hope and safety on many levels.

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## Clinical Corner

Summer time is a time to slow down, relax and enjoy!

Here are 5 tips to relax and recharge this summer:

1. Make a to-do list of fun activities and set a summer bucket list!
2. Unplug from technology and practice mindfulness. Get lost in a book or go on a hike!
3. Cool down by staying hydrated or going for a swim!
4. Enjoy some fun in the sun. Don't forget sunblock!
5. Establish a healthy, balanced routine by eating healthy, exercising, and restful sleep





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## LMA 'The Mill' Apparel





LMA is happy to unveil the new LMA 'The Mill' T-shirt. All staff, and students who earned student of the month this past school year received a new shirt. We hope next school year we can sell the shirts at the school as a fundraiser. For now, if you would like your own The Mill T-shirt, you can order directly from Custom Ink below.



### Custom Ink Design 'lma24'

View this Custom Ink design, make changes, share it with friends, or order for yourself.

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

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## Nurse's Message

Summer Heat & Sun Risks When Taking Psychotropic Medications- pamphlet was provided to students/families for the prevention of heat illness. During periods of high temperature, and humidity there are things everyone and particularly people at high risk should do to lessen chances of heat illness. Avoiding over- exertion, applying sunscreen, keeping windows shut or blinds drawn during the heat of the day, moving to cooler rooms, drinking plenty of fluids- water!, and dressing in loose fitting light colored clothing. Stay Cool and Enjoy the Summer Safely!



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## LMA Annual End of the Year BBQ

Earlier this month LMA held the annual End of the Year BBQ at 1571. Staff created an outdoor space for students to socialize, eat and have fun. Various types of field games we're setup for students to participate in while getting plenty of Vitamin D. Mr. Leibfried and Mr. Lopreiato grilled



for all students and staff, while support staff help to prepare and serve a nice, hot lunch for all to enjoy.



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## LMA Monthly SEL Theme: LGBTQ Pride Month

During the month of June the SEL theme is diversity and celebrating different perspectives. Throughout our daily groups students have been working on understanding the meaning of diversity such as LGBTQA, cultural diversity, disabilities, etc. For example students were asked to research and present a country of their choice to celebrate cultural diversity. Another activity challenged students to think twice before judging and making assumptions of their classmates. On Friday afternoons, the students engage in a variety of activities to provide a smooth transition into the weekend such as Yoga/meditation, video games, gardening, physical activity/awareness, connecting with nature, and creative expression that promotes self care and overall well-being .

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## LMA Students Outside the Classroom

### Blake attends the Extra Special Prom

Here is what LMA student Blake had to say about his experience attending the YMCA Extra Special Prom.



*The prom was at Berkley Heights YMCA. I enjoyed it very much, the music was loud but it was very good. Dressing up and wearing a full suit was great because I don't get to do it very often. I made a new friend, and we danced and chatted all night. I would recommend this event to anyone that wants to come out of their shell and have a good time.*

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## Community Resources





<https://www.2ndfloor.org/>  
(888)-222-2228



**United by  
Wellness**

**A VIRTUAL WELLNESS CENTER  
CREATED BY: MHANJ'S INDIVIDUALS  
CONCERTED IN EFFORT (ICE),  
JOURNEY TO WELLNESS (JTW) &  
ESPERANZA WELLNESS CENTERS**

**OUR MISSION**

**OUR SCHEDULE**

**HOW TO JOIN**

**HALL OF FAME**

UNITED BY WELLNESS (UBW) IS A VIRTUAL WELLNESS CENTER, SPONSORED BY THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION NEW JERSEY (MHANJ) WHERE PEERS OFFER SKILLS AND TOOLS FOR RECOVERY TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND/OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER(S). THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY PROVIDING NO-COST VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUPS IN A DIVERSE COMMUNITY. TOGETHER, WE EMBRACE THE UNIQUENESS OF OUR MEMBERS AND OFFER HOPE ON THEIR CHOSEN PATH TOWARD RECOVERY.

UBW WAS DESIGNED IN 2021 BY OUR SENIOR PEER LEADERSHIP TEAM BUILT ON THEIR EXPERIENCE OF OFFERING SERVICES ON A VIRTUAL PLATFORM. PEER STAFF, INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITHIN MHANJ'S WELLNESS CENTERS, INDIVIDUALS CONCERTED IN EFFORT (ICE)- ATLANTIC COUNTY, JOURNEY TO WELLNESS (JTW)- OCEAN COUNTY AND ESPERANZA- UNION COUNTY COMBINED RESOURCES TO CREATE UNIQUE AND RESPONSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES TO CURRENT AND NEW MEMBERS.

UBW MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS TO OVER **60 GROUPS PER WEEK**, OFFERED **NIGHTS AND WEEKENDS** VIA ZOOM- VIDEO AND TELEPHONE.



<https://www.mhaac.info/ubw.html>



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needs support now,  
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Talk with us.



<https://988lifeline.org/>

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## School in the Community

1. Post-Graduate Program is fully engaged in WBL with students going to Hilton hotel and Chili's on a consistent basis, while Mr. Acosta establishes new partnership with local organizations in the community for future WBL experiences.
2. Monthly Community Meetings to celebrate student progress and growth.
3. Students participated in the Annual LMA End of the Year BBQ
4. Seniors participated in the Senior Trip to Dave & Buster's in Woodbridge.

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## About Us

### **Contact Information:**

*Phone:* (908)-233-7581

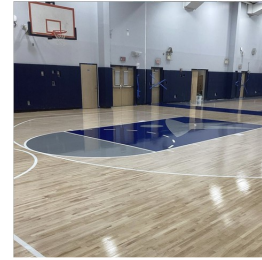
*Address:* 1571 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, NJ, 07090

*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.





## LMA Smore

LMA is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

