



East Brunswick Education Foundation

Dedicated to enriching and enhancing the curriculum for students
in the East Brunswick Public Schools

CELEBRATING

30 YEARS

2024

**Partner in Excellence & Hall of Fame
Award Dinner**

April 2, 2024

Honoring

Danielle Blalock Marilyn Edge

Dr. Arvin Gopal Lindsay B. Schiappa, Esq.

Inducting **Brian Selznick Michael Barkann**

**WE'RE
HERE.**
For you.

**NORTHFIELD BANK IS PROUD TO
SUPPORT THE EAST BRUNSWICK
EDUCATION FOUNDATION!**

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East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Partner in Excellence Award Dinner

Welcome	Jack Levitt, President East Brunswick Education Foundation
Resolution	Laurie Lachs, President East Brunswick Board of Education
Remarks	Dr. Victor Valeski, Superintendent East Brunswick Public Schools
Remarks	Dr. Dana Zimbicki, President East Brunswick Education Association
Proclamations	Mayor Brad Cohen East Brunswick Township
Resolutions	Senator Patrick Diegnan, Assemblyman Rob Karabinchak and Assemblyman Sterley Stanley The 18th District
Partner in Excellence Award Presentation	Jack Levitt, President East Brunswick Education Foundation
Acceptance of Award	Dr. Arvin Gopal
Remarks	Huseina Basrai, President Joseph Citro, Liaison East Brunswick Education Foundation Student Association
Partner in Excellence Award Presentation	Jack Levitt, President East Brunswick Education Foundation
Acceptance of Award	Lindsay B. Schiappa, Esq.
Remarks	Glen Pazinko East Brunswick High School
Alumni Hall of Fame Induction	Jack Levitt, President East Brunswick Education Foundation
Acceptance	Michael Barkann



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Partner in Excellence Award Dinner

Alumni Hall of Fame Induction

Jack Levitt, President
East Brunswick Education Foundation

Acceptance

Brian Selznick

**Partner in Excellence
Award Presentation**

Jack Levitt, President
East Brunswick Education Foundation

Acceptance of Award

Marilyn Edge

**Partner in Excellence
Award Presentation**

Jack Levitt, President
East Brunswick Education Foundation

Acceptance of Award

Danielle Blalock

Music By

East Brunswick High School Chamber Orchestra
Conducted by Chris Beckett



2024 Partner in Excellence

Danielle Blalock



Danielle Blalock is humbled to be receiving this award from the East Brunswick Education Foundation. East Brunswick has been home to Danielle and her family since she was in First Grade at Bowne Munro School. With her husband Jack, teacher at East Brunswick High School, they are raising their two children, Mallory, 16, Patrick, 14, along with their foster daughter Allie, 10.

She has worked as the Supervisor of Student Services; Health and Wellness, for the past 11 years. Prior to that she served as a School Counselor at Hammarskjold Middle School and prior to that a Special Education teacher in Colts Neck. She is also an adjunct professor at Kean University in the Graduate School of Counseling.

As the Supervisor of Student Services, she oversees the district's Crisis Counselors (Student Assistance Specialists) and School Nurses. Her and her team work closely with children and families experiencing a variety of hardships. She serves as the District's Homeless Liaison, helping to support families struggling with housing and food insecurities. She also serves as the liaison to DCPD.

Danielle has a Bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University in Special Education, a Master's degree from Monmouth University in School Counseling, and her Administrative Certificate from NJEXCEL. She has served on many committees such as the East Brunswick Board of Education's Student Services Committee as well as the Safety Committee.

In addition, she serves on the East Brunswick Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse. She has been an active member of the community since she started working for Recreation Camp at 14 years old, and eventually went on to become a supervisor there while teaching. In addition, she spent many years working at Crystal Springs (where she met her husband) and became a manager there. One of her favorite jobs of all time was at Camp Daisy where she worked in High School and college as a counselor and eventually a supervisor.

Danielle is especially thankful to the East Brunswick Education Foundation for their generosity. The grants that the foundation provides, benefit students in so many ways and help to make their school experience even more enjoyable!



2024 Partner in Excellence

Marilyn Edge



Marilyn Edge has been a passionate and dedicated educator at East Brunswick High School for over 20 years. An engaging biological sciences teacher, she also advised the EBHS Academic Team for 5 years, served as liaison to the EBHF's Student Association, and is currently the Assistant Director for the High School's drama productions. In 2021, Marilyn was recognized by Monmouth University - William Roberts Charitable Foundation with an Outstanding Teaching Award. This award is especially meaningful as winners are nominated by their former students, who, as they get ready to graduate with a Bachelor's degree, reflect on the secondary school teachers who made the greatest impact on where they are as students.

In addition to her student advising roles, Marilyn has volunteered countless hours as a union representative for the local, state and national education associations. She currently represents East Brunswick High School for the East Brunswick Education Association (EBEA) as a member of the Middlesex County Education Association's (MCEA) Representative Council. She previously served as an Executive Committee member and as the Government Relations Chair for the MCEA. Marilyn was also on the Board of Directors for the National Education Association and was a member of the New Jersey Education Association Delegate Assembly.

Marilyn is also an active volunteer with the EBHF and is often found behind the scenes helping at events, including the EB Dance Off! She was also the recipient of a few EBHF grants and is always encouraging and assisting her colleagues to apply.

Marilyn earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology with an emphasis in secondary education, her Bachelor of Elective Studies in Science, and a minor in theater from Saint Cloud University. She started her teaching career in 1994 at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, MN. After arriving in New Jersey in 1996, Marilyn worked with the New Jersey State Museum's Education and Planetarium Education departments, where she focused on programming for homeless and home-schooled children to help meet educational standards.

Before joining the East Brunswick community in 2001, Marilyn participated in revolutionary war reenactments and programs for Washington Crossing Park as part of an artillery crew, and she taught at the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Academy in Trenton.

In her "spare time," Marilyn has also been a Renaissance Fair actor, a horse and carriage driver, and a Sierra Club hike leader. Some fun facts about Marilyn are that she has appeared in a few plays and has lived in ten states.



2024 Partner in Excellence

Dr. Arvin Gopal



Dr. Arvin Gopal is the orchestra director at East Brunswick High School, where he has overseen the program for the past 10 years. Under his direction, EBHS groups have performed around the northeastern United States, and have consistently received superior ratings at festivals and competitions. Students in the East Brunswick orchestra program regularly fill the honors orchestras at the region, state, all eastern and national level.

EBHS Orchestras are a mainstay at East Brunswick Education Foundation events. The chamber orchestra participates in the annual Barnes & Noble fundraiser at the Brunswick Square mall, and regularly performs at the Partner in Excellence Dinner. Grants received from the EBEF have diversified instruction and the use of technology in the orchestra classroom, as well as aided in programming, production and guest artist costs for EBHS Orchestra family concerts. Each of these grants have directly benefited students and the greater East Brunswick community, and the EBHS Orchestra program is eternally grateful for the support received by the East Brunswick Education Foundation.

In addition to Dr. Gopal's responsibilities at EBHS, he is dedicated to furthering the quality of string education in New Jersey. He maintains professional affiliations with the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and the American String Teachers Association of New Jersey (ASTA). He has served as president of the New Jersey chapter of ASTA and is currently the high school orchestra division chair for the Central Jersey Music Educators Association (CJMEA). Prior to his career as a high school educator, Dr. Gopal performed as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral violist throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas. For two years, he served as assistant principal viola of the Minas Gerais Philharmonic Orchestra in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Dr. Gopal holds a BA in Violin Performance from Penn State University, and MM and DMA degrees in viola performance from the University of Maryland at College Park.



2024 Partner in Excellence

Lindsay B. Schiappa, Esq.



Lindsay B. Schiappa is a local attorney in private practice specializing in residential and commercial real estate transactions for the past 25 years where her motto remains “legal counsel you can trust.” She is extremely humbled to receive this most prestigious honor from the East Brunswick Education Foundation for which she served as the Vice President for the past decade, dedicating her time and effort to such events like the Fall Fashion Show, EB Celebrity Dance Off, Barnes and Noble Day and most recently, Casino Night. She remains an active and dedicated Trustee of the EBEB today. She is also a proud member of the East Brunswick Regional Chamber of Commerce where she continues to cultivate community connections.

Prior to her involvement with the EBEB, she volunteered her time with the Warnsdorfer PTA holding every board position including serving as President for 4 years. She simultaneously held the position of President of the PTA Presidents Council for 6 years where she guided and mentored other PTA Presidents. During this busy time, she also served on the school district’s calendar and safety committees, as well as interviewed candidates for the Board of Education.

Lindsay is a life-long resident of East Brunswick and graduate of East Brunswick High School Class of 1986 where she cultivated her passion for volunteerism participating in student government and establishing the first ever chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). To this day, students and parents at EBHS still sign the Contract of Life, an agreement wherein teens will never accept a ride from a driver who has been drinking alcohol or using drugs and instead reach out to their parents who agree to provide a safe ride home with no questions asked. In addition to being active in student government, she also played tennis for and captained the girl’s tennis team winning the GMACs her junior and senior years.

She attended Boston University as an undergraduate and earned a JD from Seton Hall School of Law. She was the last walk-on to the BU Women’s Tennis team playing singles and doubles and serving as captain of the team her junior year. While in law school, she dedicated long hours to the Disability Law Clinic preparing SSI and SSDI applications on behalf of indigent clients. After law school, she clerked for the Honorable Robert A. Longhi, P.J.S.C. as well as the Honorable C. Judson Hamlin, J.S.C. at the Middlesex County Courthouse. Thereafter, she worked for Convery, Convery & Shihar, a MIDJIF defense firm. She was also entrusted with attending hearings on behalf of the Middlesex County Board of Social Services to assist hearing officers with resolving child support and visitation issues. Judge Hamlin fostered her sense of caring and compassion by regularly appointing her a Special Medical Guardian for incapacitated persons with no family members available to assist doctors and other medical staff in vital medical decisions.

While in law school Lindsay met her husband, Jack Dobrzynski, also a graduate of EBHS and they married in 1994. Jack works tirelessly for his family business, Eighteen Lumber, Inc., a past PIE honoree. They chose to raise their two children, Jake (23) and Alexandra (20), in East Brunswick knowing the excellent quality of the school system firsthand and the profound sense of community in town. Both children have flourished due to the strong education they received at EBHS. Jake graduated in 2022 from the University of Vermont with a Parks, Recreation and Tourism degree and is currently working for the City of Bozeman as a Parks Lead Worker. Alex is a junior at Penn State University majoring in Nutritional Science with a concentration in Dietetics; she plans on obtaining a masters in clinical nutrition and then her RDN credential.



Alumni Hall of Fame

Brian Selznick



Brian Selznick is the author and illustrator of many books for children, including *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, winner of the Caldecott medal and the basis for the Oscar-winning movie *Hugo*, directed by Martin Scorsese. For Todd Hayne's film adaptation of his book *Wonderstruck*, Brian wrote the screenplay. Brian also wrote the story for a new version of *The Nutcracker* at the Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, choreographed by Tony Award winning choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, and his newest book, *Big Tree*, inspired by an idea from Steven Spielberg, was named one of the best books of 2023 by the *New York Times*. Meryl Streep narrated the Grammy nominated audiobook. Brian and his husband Dr. David Serlin divide their time between San Diego, California and Brooklyn, New York.



Alumni Hall of Fame

Michael Barkann



Michael Barkann has become an indelible part of Philadelphia's sports landscape, and one of the market's best-known and most-respected sports media figures, during a 26-year tenure as a host and anchor for NBC Sports Philadelphia and over three decades overall covering the city's teams, athletes and events.

An original member of NBC Sports Philadelphia, Barkann has held a variety of prominent on-air roles including bringing the network on the air at its inception in 1997 as Comcast SportsNet. He currently serves as the host of the network's Philadelphia Eagles and Philadelphia Phillies pregame and postgame coverage.

Previously, Barkann led NBC Sports Philadelphia's daily sports talk and entertainment program, "Philly Sports Talk," previously entitled "Daily News Live," for more than 20 years. He's also been the lead anchor for the network's Flyers and 76ers game day programs, specials and original programming.

In addition to his work with NBC Sports Philadelphia, Barkann has been a high-profile contributor to other media outlets, including radio. For more than five years, he co-hosted a radio program on SportsRadio 94.1 WIP with former Eagles player Ike Reese, entitled the "Mike & Ike Show."

Barkann has covered several national and international sporting events for USA Networks and CBS Sports, including three Olympic Winter Games (1998, 1994 and 1992), two NCAA Final Fours (1996 and 1995) and the U.S. Open Tennis Championships for nearly two decades, beginning in 1991.

Barkann joined NBC Sports Philadelphia after five years as sports director for Boston's WLVI-TV. Prior to that position, he was a sports anchor and reporter for Philadelphia's KYW-TV (CBS) for five years and for New Jersey Network in Trenton for more than four years. Barkann began his career with NBC News in Washington, D.C.

Barkann has collected numerous professional honors throughout his career, including six Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards, and has been named the Pennsylvania Sportscaster of the Year seven times.

Barkann is involved in numerous charities throughout the Philadelphia area including the ALS Association of Greater Philadelphia; Legacy Youth Tennis and Education. In 2013, he and his wife Ellen founded the Barkann Family Healing Hearts Foundation. The charity provides grants to local organizations and families throughout the Delaware Valley who are overcome by the financial burdens caused by family crisis, long term illness, or sudden loss of life.

In 2010, Michael was inducted into the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and was honored by the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the ALS Association for his work with the organization.

A native of East Brunswick, N.J., Barkann is a graduate of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University. He lives in Newtown Square, PA with his wife, Ellen. The Barkanns have two children, Emily, 27 and Matthew, 23.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

In Support of Excellence

The East Brunswick Education Foundation (EBEF) is an independent, non-profit corporation created in 1993 by parents, citizens and members of the local business community to support programs designed to enhance and enrich the curriculum in the East Brunswick Public Schools.

The Foundation raises funds for grants for instructional projects designed to have a positive impact on learning. It also develops partnerships with local businesses, sponsors events for the entire community and builds links among the schools, residents, businesses, government and civic organizations.

Since its inception, the EBEF has awarded almost 1,700 grants totalling over \$2.9 million to teachers throughout the district. The funds have provided a variety of projects, including guest speakers, visiting artists, programs related to history, science, mathematics and world cultures, and purchases of special supplies and materials. The projects may be geared to one or more classes, an entire school or the whole district.

For further information about the EBEF and how you can help, please visit our website: www.EBEF.org.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Jack Levitt	President
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Alexia DeLuca
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Marilyn Edge
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East Brunswick Education Foundation

Student Association

In collaboration with the administration at East Brunswick High School, the EBEF launched the EBEF Student Association, to mirror the Foundation's philanthropic activities in school. The Student Association is run by a group of students who are "hired" to run the organization after a series of interviews with EBEF members and Faculty Liaisons. The organization is run by students, with the support and guidance of Liaison Marilyn Edge. Recently the EBEF Student Association has expanded to Churchill Junior High School with the support and guidance of Liaison Alexia DeLuca.

The charter of the group is similar to the EBEF - they raise money to fund grants for clubs and activities at EBHS and CJHS. When the EBEF launched the Student Association, Dr. Vinella established the policy that only student leaders of a club, not the faculty advisors, can write the grants to the Allocations Committee for approval. Since inception, the EBEF Student Association has awarded \$42,000 in grants.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Huseina Basrai.....	President
Brooklyn Kienle	Vice President
Olivia Krawet	Vice President
Siena Baver.....	Secretary
Elle Jedreicich.....	Treasurer
Ashley Ko.....	Public Relations
Meera Patel	Allocations
Tasneem Basrai.....	Fundraising

EBHS ADVISOR: Marilyn Edge, Joseph Citro

CJHS ADVISOR: Alexia DeLuca



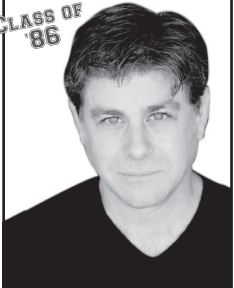
East Brunswick Education Foundation

Alumni Hall of Fame

The EBEF with support from members of the East Brunswick High School administration has created the Alumni Hall of Fame to establish a link to alumni that can have benefits for both the alumni and current students. Inductees must have had notable accomplishments since graduation in the areas of Academics, Athletics and the Arts. In addition to notable accomplishments, it is important that the alumni have a stellar reputation in their field, and represent the District in a positive light and be role models for current students.

★ ★ ★ ALUMNI ★ ★ ★
HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF '86



- Award winning lyricist for stage and screen
- 2011 Grammy Award Winner — Best Song Written for Visual Media — I See The Light (from Tangled)
- Multiple Tony, Grammy, Emmy, Olivier and Drama Desk Award Nominations

GLENN SLATER
INDUCTED 2019

★ ★ ★ ALUMNI ★ ★ ★
HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF '03



- Professional soccer midfielder
- 3 time Olympic Gold Medalist (2004, 2008, 2012) as a member of the United States Women's National Soccer Team
- FIFA World Cup Championship (2002)

HEATHER O'REILLY
INDUCTED 2019

★ ★ ★ ALUMNI ★ ★ ★
HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF '82



Executive Managing Member of Davidson Kempner Capital Management

Member of the Board of Directors of PRINCO

Member of the Board of Trustees of Princeton University


Serves on the investment committee of The New York Public Library

Early backer and long-time board member of DonorsChoose


TONY YOSELOFF
INDUCTED 2020

★ ★ ★ ALUMNI ★ ★ ★
HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF '05



2019 WINNERS of Academy Award and BAFTA for Best Adapted Screenplay (along with Spike Lee) as Co-Producers and Co-Writers of BlackKkKlansman



Currently working on an adaptation of New York Times best selling author Casey Sherman's book on the creation of the witness protection program

CHARLIE WACHTEL AND DAVID RABINOWITZ
INDUCTED 2020



East Brunswick Education Foundation

Alumni Hall of Fame

★ ★ ★ ALUMNI ★ ★ ★
HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF '90



- 23rd Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration 2017-2019
- Elected member of the National Academy of Medicine
- Recognized by Fortune Magazine as one of the "World's 50 Greatest Leaders" in 2018 and 2019

DR. SCOTT GOTTLIEB
INDUCTED 2022

★ ★ ★ ALUMNI ★ ★ ★
HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF '12



- 2015 NCAA National Champion in Discus Throw and Scholar Athlete of the Year
- 2019 USA Outdoor Track and Field National Champion in Discus Throw
- 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics, Discus Throw

SAM MATTIS
INDUCTED 2022

★ ★ ★ ALUMNI ★ ★ ★
HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF '88




- US Drug Enforcement Agency Administrator as of June 28, 2021
- New Jersey Attorney General from 2007 to 2010
- Awarded the Department of Justice Commendation for Outstanding Service and the Department of Justice Director's Award for her work in prosecuting human trafficking crimes

ANNE MILGRAM
INDUCTED 2023

★ ★ ★ ALUMNI ★ ★ ★
HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF '84

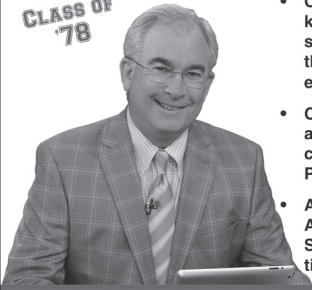


- Author and Illustrator of many children's books, including two which were made into movies, *Wonderstruck* and *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Academy Award winning Hugo)
- Puppeteer who has created pieces for both children and adult audiences
- Audiobook for *Big Tree*, named by the New York Times as one of 2023's Best Books, was nominated for a Grammy

BRIAN SELZNICK
INDUCTED 2024

★ ★ ★ ALUMNI ★ ★ ★
HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF '78



- One of Philadelphia's best known and most-respected sports media figures, covering the city's teams, athletes and events for over three decades
- Currently the host of Phillies' and Eagles' pre and postgame coverage on NBC Sports Philadelphia
- Awarded six Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards and named Pennsylvania Sportscaster of the Year seven times

MICHAEL BARKANN
INDUCTED 2024



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Partner in Excellence/Hall of Fame

Co-Chairpersons

Vanessa Amaturio

Chris Beckett

Jack Blalock

Diane & Patrick Brennan

JoAnn Chmielowicz

Mayor Brad Cohen

Alexia Deluca

John Dobrzynski, *18 Lumber*

Marisa Guagliardo, *Northfield Bank*

Laurie Lachs, *Board of Education*

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Matthew Schiappa, *Lomurro Law*

Paul Schoen

Lee and Susan Selznick

Lynn Selznick

Ellen Shur

Liz Soder

Holly and Edward Spector

Randy Stevenson, *A.Bailes*

Rebecca Taichman

Diana Toto

Dr. Victor Valeski, *Superintendent of Schools*

Jamie Wasserman, *PTA Presidents Council*

Shari Weeks

Councilwoman Dana Winston

Dr. Dana Zirnbicki, *EBEA*



East Brunswick Education Foundation

Partners in Excellence

Past Honorees

Dr. Jon R. Kopko -1995
Charles M. King -1996
Amy Fisher & Jules Frankel -1997
Melvin L. Benjamin & Gerald M. Ostrov -1998
Patrick Galager & Nancy Paulson -1999
Senator Jack Sinagra & John Calimano - 2000
Dr. David Seiden & PNC Bank - 2001
Mayor William P. Neary & Linda Greenfield/Greenfield Jewelers - 2002
Monté Block & Jeff Venezia/Venezia & Associates - 2003
Congressman Rush Holt & Dr. Jo Ann Magistro - 2004
Dr. Howard Sorkin & Kenneth Kohn/Gabowitz T.V. & Appliance - 2005
Paul Schoen, The Provident Bank & University Radiology Group - 2006
Chris Cimino, David Himelman, Central Jersey Oncology Center &
The Hilton East Brunswick - 2007
Stephanie Margolies, Susan Pomerantz, Constantine Katsifis &
Saint Peter's University Hospital - 2008
Anthony Yoseloff, Mary Ann Savino, Dan Moran &
Advanced Otolaryngology Associates - 2009
Carlotta Miller, JoAnn Yonchiuk, Larry Solomon &
Sherri Moskowitz/InnerWorkings - 2010
Hank Stankiewicz, Vickie Albert, Stuart Kohn/Miller's Rentals,
Ellen Shur & John LaCarrubba - 2011
Patricia LaDuca, Thomas Smith, Dr. Andrew Boyarsky,
Rollie Davis & Stuart Davis/Davis Realtors & Marilyn Friedes - 2012
Norma Comerford, Lois Moskowitz, Eighteen Lumber &
Stephen Jones/ Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital - 2013
Debra Gulick, Marjorie LoPresti, Brenda Hagan,
Northfield Bank & University Orthopaedic Associates, LLC - 2014
Frank Noppenberger, Donna Taylor, Katie Spiegler & Councilman Jim Wendell - 2015
Jeffrey Lesser, Mariann Zema, Dr. V. Raja Bandaru & Dr. Steve Susskind/Susskind Dental - 2016
Dr. Michael Vinella, Michele McCormick, Holly Howard, Lori Silver & Chris Volk/Volk Insurance - 2017
Glenn Slater, Mayor Brad J. Cohen, Dr. Dana Zimbicki & Jack Levitt - 2018
Dr. Michael Gaskell, JoAnn Peterson, Donna Morelli & Dr. Rongsun Pu - 2019
JoAnn Chmielowicz, Leslie Anderson & Jane Mueller - 2020
Dr. Trudy A. Atkins, Dr. Anna Braun, Lisa Citron & David P. Lonski, Esq. - 2022
Dr. Joyce Boley, Susan Mizerak, Katie Motusesky & Douglas Schorpp - 2023



East Brunswick Education Foundation

Letter from the President

Dear Friends of EBEF,

Welcome to the 30th Annual, Pearl Anniversary, Partner in Excellence Dinner and Hall of Fame Induction. I'm proud to say that with the support of the community, district faculty and staff, and our incredibly dedicated board of volunteers, the Foundation has come a long way since its inception, as we approach the \$3 million mark of grants we have awarded. Tonight we celebrate some very deserving individuals who have partnered with us to achieve our mission, to enhance and enrich the curriculum for the students in the East Brunswick Public Schools.

This year has been a banner year for the Foundation. We increased our visibility in the East Brunswick community significantly with our first ever, and VERY successful, EBEF Bear Crawl. Over 400 runners, both young and not so young, enjoyed the various races and town spirit on that sunny November morning. Barnes and Noble was hopping during our Annual Book Fair once again. This year we also became a member of the East Brunswick Regional Chamber of Commerce and almost immediately saw their members jump in to show their support for the Foundation. The EBEF Student Association set all kinds of records in membership and grants awarded this year. And, of course, our Grants Committee was busy awarding over \$100K.

Tonight, we are very excited to honor some very worthy Partners in Excellence to the Foundation. Lindsay Schiappa is a proud EBHS graduate, former President of several PTAs, and President of PTA Presidents' Council, EBEF Board member and Vice President and so much more in the East Brunswick community. Dr. Arvin Gopal has been a recipient of numerous grants and in turn has shared the talents of his strings ensembles with us at our various events. In addition to being a grant recipient, Marilyn Edge has been the EBHS Teacher Liaison to the Foundation and the Liaison to the EBEF Student Association. Danielle Blalock, another EBHS Alumna, truly bleeds green in all she does to support students 24x7, going far beyond the call of duty.

Our Class of 2024 Inductees into the Alumni Hall of Fame are stellar examples to show future graduates what great things can be accomplished after leaving EBHS. They are award winning children's book author and movie writer, Brian Selznick and renowned Philadelphia sports broadcaster Michael Barkann.

If you have the opportunity, please stop over to congratulate each of these deserving honorees and join us in thanking them for all that they do.

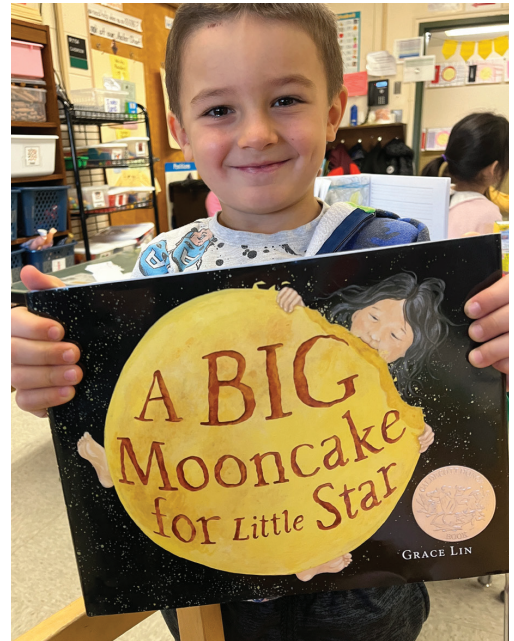
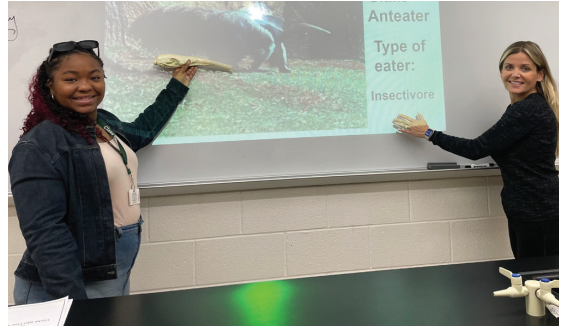
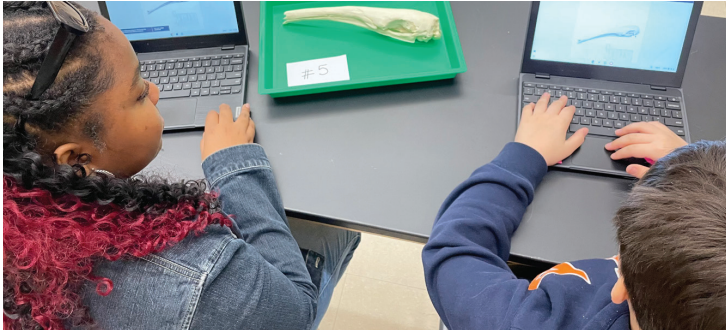
Thanks to each of you, once again, for all your support!



Jack Levitt
President



Grants in Action



Grants in Action



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

WE THE PEOPLE GRANT

With this grant, the Foundation matches amounts donated by outside donors in support of East Brunswick High School students' participation in the National We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Competition. Among these supporters are East Brunswick High School alumni, parents, teachers, local businesses, and community organizations.

East Brunswick High School - We the People National Competition

Marc Mondry

On January 24, 2024, seniors enrolled in the AP United States Government and Politics course competed in the *New Jersey We the People Competition* where they earned the right to be named State Champions, thus the opportunity to represent New Jersey at the national competition in Washington DC April 13-15, 2024. This is the 36th out of a possible 37 times that the EBHS students have won this honor. Grant funds will match those funds donated by supporters to defray the cost of their trip to DC.

FIRST LADY OF THE FOUNDATION GRANTS

These grants, awarded during the fall of each year for amounts that are more than a mini grant, recognize Amy Fisher, a co-founder and past honoree of the Foundation. Amy was instrumental in the Foundation's successful growth.

Bowne – Munro Elementary School - Choose Love

Nancy Kaboski, Karyn Grant, Michelle Marrone, Jennifer Oranchak, and Wendy Tepper

Bowne's Climate Committee collaborated to identify resources meant to enhance the social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum. In doing so they discovered the *Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement*, whose mission is to create safer and more caring communities. Components of this program will be purchased with grant funds, including posters, bracelets and pencils, as well as postcards and stamps that will provide the means for developing a home-school connection.

Churchill Junior High School - Climate Change Composition

Susan Meuse, Mary O'Mara, and Sarah Franchino

The *New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Visual and Performing Arts* require that teachers provide a process for students to analyze and contrast how art forms are used to reflect global issues, including climate change. With grant funds the orchestra instructors will commission a local professional musician to create an original piece with a theme focusing on climate change. Upon completion, the composer will work directly with the orchestra students to turnkey his interpretation so that they may perform his piece with authenticity at their Spring concert.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

Warnsdorfer Elementary School - Multicultural Music Makers

Dr. Renee Saccodato-Dutka

The cultural values and contributions of diverse musicians and genres provide a dynamic avenue for students to explore and learn about others; this encourages socialization and tolerance within an educational environment. With grant funds musical performers, specifically selected to best represent the diverse cultural population within the Warnsdorfer school community and the district, will present school wide assemblies for students in grades kindergarten through fourth, one program per month between January and June.

Special notes:

- From these performances, a library of materials and recordings will be created to be utilized in classroom instruction in subsequent years.
- An additional evening performance by *Ball in the House* will take place at the Joann Magistro Performing Arts Center. This performance, date and time to be determined, will be open to the entire East Brunswick community. Attendees will be charged \$10.00 per ticket. Seniors and students will be charged \$5.00. Since *Ball in the House* will already be paid for their services through this grant, 100% of the ticket proceeds will be donated back to the EBEF. Students who participate in the Warnsdorfer Chorus will be invited to perform with *Ball in the House* during this evening performance.

East Brunswick High School - Doubt Performance at Roundabout Theatre

Elizabeth Kenny-Stein, Chantal Hagan, and Matthew Janson

One of the most beloved core texts of the AP Literature curriculum is the play, *Doubt*, by John Patrick Shanley. It raises questions, fosters debate, and hurls students into moral quandaries. Grant funds will allow for the purchase of tickets for 150 AP Literature students to attend a matinee performance of the revival of *Doubt* produced by the Roundabout Theatre in NYC. As per the ELA Supervisor, “This grant will be a great way to connect the literature study in class with a live theater experience.”

Irwin Elementary School - Little Hands, Big Stories!

Kimberly Dombrowski, Jenna Chesler, Kathryn Donenfeld, Roseann Pancione, Vickimarie Wilkins, and Aimee Ritt

The goal of this grant is to support kindergarten readers as they progress from the earliest reading stages towards becoming independent readers. Multiple copies of updated, culturally relevant, responsive emergent storybooks with rich storytelling language will be purchased for Irwin’s kindergarten classrooms. Since there will be numerous copies, students will be able to take the books home to read and reread with their families, thus building on important home-school connections.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

Bowne - Munro Elementary School - Preschoolers Have their Hands all Over This!

Maryann Hyatt

Grant funds will allow for the purchase of a variety of hands-on materials to enhance the preschool curriculum. The new materials will add variety and choice to learning centers and allow teachers and paraprofessionals to work with students one-on-one and in small groups to practice and reinforce important skills that were previously taught.

Bowne Munro Elementary School, Central Elementary School, Chittick Elementary School, Frost Elementary School, Irwin Elementary School, Lawrence Brook Elementary School, Memorial Elementary School, and Warnsdorfer Elementary School - Bringing World Read Aloud Day to Our World

Meryl Becourtney and Lauren Staats

World Read Aloud Day (February 7, 2024) will be celebrated in classrooms throughout the district's elementary schools. It will be a day dedicated to promoting literacy through read alouds, storytelling, creativity, and knowledge. Students at all grade levels will participate in a variety of activities. Grant funds will support this celebration of reading through the purchase of books with a variety of multicultural themes.

EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1989 MEMORIAL GRANT

The East Brunswick High School Class of 1989 has generously funded this grant, matched by the East Brunswick Education Foundation, in memory of classmates that have passed away.

East Brunswick High School - Empowering Scientific Discovery: State of the Art Electrophoresis Chambers

Jessica DiBenedetti and Jennifer Post

The goal of this grant is to acquire state-of-the-art electrophoresis chambers to enhance the research capabilities and educational opportunities for biology students. The new equipment aims to elevate the precision, efficiency, versatility of molecular analysis, and provide students with hands-on experiences using up-to-date science equipment. Ultimately, the aim is to advance scientific discovery, contribute to academic excellence, and prepare the next generation of future scientists for success using the latest technology.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

DR. DAVID LLOYD KABUS **FOUNDATION MEMORIAL GRANT**

On an annual basis, the Kabus Foundation provides a significant donation that will be matched by the East Brunswick Education Foundation. To highlight Dr. Kabus' love of the sciences, especially in his high school years, this grant is directed to the East Brunswick High School's Science Department for programs, equipment and/or materials that advance learning, research and progress in the sciences. Dr. David Lloyd Kabus graduated from East Brunswick High School in 1981. He was valedictorian and won the Bausch and Lomb Science Award.

East Brunswick High School - Bringing Anatomy to Life: Fostering Engaging Learning Experiences with Varied Anatomical Models in Human Biology Education

Jessica DiBenedetti and Marilyn Edge

The goal of this grant is to enrich the learning experience for students enrolled in the Human Biology elective; through the acquisition of a diverse set of anatomical models students will be provided with tangible, hands-on opportunities to explore and understand the intricate structures of the human body. The prototypes will serve as invaluable educational tools: fostering engagement, improving retention, and promoting a deeper comprehension of anatomical concepts among our high school students.

VENU MADHAV BANDARU MEMORIAL GRANT

The family of Venu Madhav Bandaru, East Brunswick High School Class of 1989, has generously funded this grant, matched by the East Brunswick Education Foundation. This grant is directed to the Science or Math Departments at East Brunswick High, Churchill Junior High or Hammarskjold Upper Elementary Schools.

East Brunswick High School - Empowering STEM Education with Pocket Lab Sensors

Jessica DiBenedetti and Steve Vendome

The project aims to integrate cutting-edge technology into the STEM curriculum, providing students with real-world, hands-on experiences in physics and data science. PocketLab sensors offer a versatile and engaging platform that align seamlessly with course objectives. Twenty rugged multi-sensor probes that can attach to almost anything and 2 STEM preventing concussion kits will be purchased with grant funds and utilized in six different science courses to collect a wide variety of data.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

MARIO “CHIC” DE CAROLIS **MEMORIAL MUSIC GRANT**

This annual grant has been funded by donations from the family and friends of Mario “Chic” DeCarolís, who devoted his life to teaching music in the East Brunswick community for over 30 years. In his memory, this grant, matched by the East Brunswick Education Foundation, will fund special events, guest musicians, and other projects that benefit East Brunswick music students.

Hammarskjold Upper Elementary School, Churchill Junior High School, and East Brunswick High School - 15th Annual Night of Jazz Concert

Michelle DaGrosa

The 15th Annual Night of Jazz, featuring the Garden State Jazz Orchestra, will take place on April 3, 2024 in the Jo Ann Magistro Performing Arts Center. In addition to the Garden State Jazz Orchestra, the evening will consist of performances by the HUES Jazz Band, the CJHS Jazz Ensemble, the EBHS Jazz Ensemble and the EBHS Jazz Choir. The evening creates a “comradery” and vertical articulation among students in the secondary schools studying the performance of jazz and learning the techniques of jazz improvisation.

BLUE RIBBON GRANTS

These grants are awarded annually (usually in January) for grant requests between \$2,500 and \$7,500 for special projects or events of enduring value.

Lawrence Brook Elementary School - Making it Visual: Providing Posters to Enhance Academic and SEL Programs ***Aanika Boylan, Hetika Rasania, Colleen Cwiek, Kristina Hoover, and Rachel Weitzenkorn***

Funds will allow for the replacement of a timeworn poster printer with a new more effective and efficient model. As per, Rachel Weitzenkorn, LB’s Interim Principal, “This will be an invaluable addition to our educational resources, greatly enhancing teaching and learning throughout all areas of the curriculum, for every student in our diverse school community.” It is important to note that the vendor agreed to apply a \$3,055.00 credit for the return of the old printer.

Lawrence Brook Elementary School - Swing into Learning

Matthew Facendo, Andrea Ford, Jaclyn Moore, Lori Polhamus, and Amanda Davino

This project will enhance the curriculum for students with diverse learning needs by providing state-of-the-art specialized equipment that goes above and beyond the current curriculum to reduce interfering behaviors by enhancing sensory regulation. This includes emotional self-regulation, as well as bodily self-awareness.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

EXCELLENCE GRANTS

These grants are awarded annually for special projects for amounts between \$500 and \$2,500.

Central Elementary School - Flexible Seating for Flexible Minds

Corina Aresta

When a learning space evolves, student work improves. Grant funds will go towards the purchase of a variety of seating options with the goal being to create a comfortable learning environment; an environment that will allow students to have more control over their learning and to take part in deciding what is best for them.

Warnsdorfer Elementary School - Reading is for Everyone! Warnsdorfer's Read Across America Celebration

Rachel Solomon and Monica Moreira

The goal of this grant is to enhance literacy learning and foster a love for reading during a school-wide Read Across America celebration. Funding will make possible a visit by children's book author, Beth Ferry. As she shares her written works, Beth, a New Jersey native, will also promote an awareness that reading is an integral part of students' daily lives, instill in them a passion for literacy, and model that they too can be authors.

Lawrence Brook Elementary School - Building Cultural Connections Through Food

Kristina Hoover, Daishanea Kemp-Jackson, Ereeny Gebraeel, and Samantha Best

The goal is for students to see that although religions, traditions, and appearances may be different, food is one thing that connects us all; that while we all come from different backgrounds, heritages, and cultures, it is important for students to see that we are more similar than they may think. Food is something that links the entire world together. Grant funds will allow for the purchase of a variety of books featuring diverse traditions and their related foods. The books will be shared throughout the school community as the kick off for Lawrence Brook's annual Multicultural Week.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

These grants are awarded monthly. Applicants must have at least one additional funding source that covers at least 1/3 of the total amount being requested.

Hammarskjold Upper Elementary School, Churchill Junior High School, East Brunswick High School Butterfly Effect Kindness Initiative Partnership Grant

Edith Weinstein and Katherine Merton

This partnership with *The Meghan Schulman Foundation* will make it possible for *The Butterfly Effect Project* to not only continue for a third consecutive year but to extend beyond CJHS to both HUES and EBHS. This project provides a unique and creative way for students to engage in meaningful service projects that help others. Each building will provide one hundred \$50 grants to students whose kindness projects are accepted for participation in the program.

East Brunswick High School - EBHS Chorus/Orchestra Festival Disney Competition in Florida

Arvin Gopal and Adam Good

The goal of this grant is to match the funds donated and raised by the EBHS Chorus and Orchestra Program for the upcoming *Festival Disney* competition in Orlando, Florida in March 2024. This performance opportunity fulfills many of the *National Core Arts Standards for creation, performing, responding and connecting*. Other benefits include collaborating with ensembles across the country or gaining perspective by seeing how other schools operate their programs. Traveling together can build a choral/orchestra program through shared artistic experiences. Touring can generate publicity for a school performing arts program, which helps in recruiting and retaining members.

East Brunswick High School - Winter Guard

Michelle DaGrosa

Winter Guard combines the use of flags, sabers, and other equipment with dance and other interpretive movements. The team performs indoors to recorded music using equipment, props, and tarps. EBHS's Winter Guard's initial success has led to increased membership and more competitions. Thus, there is a need for high-quality uniforms, additional equipment, stage props, backdrops, and a very important and costly expense...a performance floor. Matching EBEF grant funds in partnership with a generous donation from Rongsun Pu and Guodong Chen will support this new extracurricular program as its participants work towards becoming one of the district's most successful teams.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

MINI-GRANTS

Awarded monthly: Up to \$500 awarded for a classroom. At the elementary level – up to \$2,100 awarded for a grade level. At the secondary level - up to \$2,500 awarded for programs that include all students in a grade level or a department.

Warnsdorfer Elementary School

Dr. Renee Soccodato-Dutka

This grant will provide funding for the purchase of rhythm instruments that will be made into "toolkits" to be used by students in the Autism program.

East Brunswick High School - EBHS Marching Band Technology Upgrade

Brian Toth

Funds will allow for the purchase of a laptop computer, a protective case and cover for the laptop, additional hardware, and the MainStage app that will allow for the integration of all electronic components through one device. Students will receive training on how to integrate the updated tools into their performances.

Bowne-Munro Elementary School, Central Elementary School, Chittick Elementary School, Frost Elementary School, Irwin Elementary School, Lawrence Brook Elementary School, Memorial School, Warnsdorfer Elementary School, and Hammarskjold Upper Elementary School - Eclipse Double Header

Ryan Higgins

On April 8, 2024 at around 1:45 PM, a solar eclipse will be viewable from the East Brunswick area. The goal of this grant is to provide all kindergarten through grade four students the opportunity to safely observe this phenomenon. To achieve this goal, eclipse glasses will be purchased for every student and teacher at the elementary level so that they may safely go outside and physically observe the event.

Warnsdorfer Elementary School - Books and Beyond! Warnsdorfer's Monthly Book Club for First Graders

Rachel Solomon, Caroline Jordan, Jennifer Smith, and Amanda Lorfing

The goal of the monthly book club for first graders is to foster a love of reading while developing important literary skills. Books to support monthly themes will be purchased with grant funds. In addition to being class read alouds, students will take the books and a related activity home to share with their families. By including families in shared activities, teachers hope to foster a strong home-school connection.

Warnsdorfer Elementary School - Paws for Reading

Rachel Solomon

The goal of the Paws for Reading program is to create a supportive and non-judgmental environment in which basic skills students can improve their reading skills and develop a love for reading. Twice a month, a certified therapy dog will visit Warnsdorfer where they will be read to by basic skills students.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

Warnsdorfer Elementary School - Improving Phonology and Articulation One Picture at a Time

Laura D'Onofrio

The goal of this grant is to provide additional materials that will enhance the speech instruction for a wide range of students of different ages and abilities. Most of the students who will benefit from this project are in self-contained special needs classrooms where they receive highly individualized instruction.

Warnsdorfer Elementary School - 2023 Literacy Grant

Heather Rettberg

Research shows that half of preschool-age children with language impairments develop significant literacy learning difficulties. Literacy-based therapy is a contextualized framework where intervention activities are organized around a book or story. The goal for this grant is to enhance an already stellar preschool program with new and inventive materials that will enable the therapist to provide students with literacy-based therapy. A variety of age appropriate books and a Literacy bundle from Teachers Pay Teachers to be used during therapy sessions will be purchased with grant funds

Warnsdorfer Elementary School - Sunshine Through Sensory!

Maddie Neuman

Kindergarten and first grade students on the autism spectrum that have wide ranging skills, as well as varying strengths and needs, will benefit from this grant. Funding will provide students with new sensory opportunities to help them engage in learning, reach their IEP goals, and improve their functional skills. By implementing these sensory opportunities into their everyday classroom routine, the teacher will be able to help students learn to self-regulate, generalize skills, and increase their functional communication, all of which are vital to their continuing success.

Churchill Junior High School - Bringing the "Calm" to the Classroom

Melissa Grigal and Beth Shobe

Teachers have noticed a significant increase in the number of students suffering from anxiety since the end of the pandemic. Additionally, when students are asked to identify what they see as the top health concerns among adolescents at least 50% of the students report that they feel that anxiety and stress are huge concerns for teens. Grant funds will allow for the purchase of "Calm Strips". Calm strips are textured sensory stickers with a special reusable adhesive. They're convenient and discreet fidget tools that cannot be used as a distraction or toy. They are crafted to provide sensory stimulation. Sensory input is used to help regulate breathing and releases restless energy resulting in increased emotional regulation and focus throughout the day. This tool is recommended for anyone, but it is especially effective for fidgeters, individuals with anxiety, ADD/ADHD, BFRB (Body-Focused Repetitive Behavior), those in Autistic communities, and students needing sensory stimulation or social-emotional release.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

Irwin Elementary School - PBSIS Sticker Grant

Krystal Weeks

This grant will enhance Irwin's PBSIS program and support the school theme, "Strong Minds Grow Here". Funds will provide students with positive behavior rewards to encourage character development. Strong character development is deeply rooted within the *New Jersey Student Learning Standards* and the district's current curriculum design. Using the stickers will give students a visible reminder of growing their brain towards becoming stronger learners, and leaders.

Hammarskjold Elementary School - Scholastic Magazines to Support Language Arts Instruction

Kristy Ferris

Three Scholastic resources will be purchased with grant funds to enhance students' ability to read and comprehend nonfiction texts: Storyworks, Scholastic News, and Science Spin. Each of these resources have both print and digital elements that will motivate and engage students in nonfiction learning, while also connecting aspects of the ELA, Social Studies, and Science curriculums.

Churchill Junior High School – Orchestral Audition Workshop

Sarah Franchino, Mary O'Mara, and Susan Meuse

The goal of this grant is to bring in two professional orchestral musicians to give students who will audition for Region/All State Orchestras a 2-hour masterclass on taking part in auditions. Students will learn how to best prepare for an audition, what judges listen for during a blind audition, and tips for how to stay calm and focused while performing. Students will also have the chance to perform audition repertoire for the visiting clinicians and receive their expert feedback.

Churchill Junior Senior High School - A CJHS Eclipse Experience to

Danielle King and Jessica DiBenedetti

Funding will make it possible the CJHS community to safely view the total solar eclipse as it occurs in East Brunswick on April 8. A similar grant was also approved for all elementary schools. Science department leaders have planned a plethora of activities leading up to this event, including but not limited to: professional development, cross grade level lessons, and community outreach.

East Brunswick High School - An EBHS Eclipse Experience to Remember

Stephanie Holtzman

Funding will make it possible the EBHS community to safely view the total solar eclipse as it occurs in East Brunswick on April 8. A similar grant was also approved for all elementary schools. Science department leaders have planned a plethora of activities leading up to this event, including but not limited to: professional development, cross grade level lessons, and community outreach.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

Warnsdorfer Elementary School – Thank You Veterans!

Lise Noppenberger

Working with East Brunswick VFW Post #133, students and staff will demonstrate the importance of service to country by giving back as they host veterans in recognition of Veteran's Day. Funds will provide students and staff with the materials necessary to create patriotic themed decorations, cards, gifts, etc. for this special event. Books to support curricular learning on this topic will also be purchased.

Memorial Elementary School - Articulation and Language Speech Therapy

Marissa Crespo

The goal of this grant is to utilize evidence-based materials to improve speech sound productions and language skills to increase communicative effectiveness and academic achievement. The materials that will be purchased will be used in the treatment of apraxia of speech, speech sound disorders, and expressive and receptive language delays.

Memorial Elementary School - Bjorem Speech

Roseann Bracco

Big Box of Bjorem Speech Sound Cues will be purchased with grants funds. These evidence-based picture cues are designed to help young children acquire, use and combine sounds by giving each sound a meaning that makes sense and that is developmentally appropriate. This resource can be easily incorporated into reading programs, classroom settings, play-based therapy or drill work. They complement any program that involves working with children on: Childhood Apraxia, Early Acquisition of Speech, Speech Sound Disorders, Phonological Awareness, Early Literacy, Vowel Differences, and Dyslexia.

Warnsdorfer Elementary School - Creative Native

Jennifer Traversone, Iman Shah, and Annmarie Kurdes

The goal of this grant is to fully immerse third graders in researching and understanding Native American tribes. Students will become experts as they research, write, and participate in projects to better understand the daily lives of indigenous people. As a culminating event, they will engage in Native American crafts and games to celebrate all they have learned. Grant funds will support teachers' efforts to enhance the third grade ELA/Social Studies unit of study.

East Brunswick High School - Polymerization in Chemis-tree

Morgan Barton

This project is designed to introduce high school students to the fascinating world of polymers through engaging, educational activities using Shrinky Dink paper to create ornaments for a Chemis-tree. Shrinky Dinks, to be purchased with grant funds, are polystyrene sheets that, when heated, undergo a remarkable transformation that vividly illustrates the concept of polymerization. Incorporating Shrinky Dink paper into the curriculum can make the abstract concept of polymers more concrete and relatable for students. It provides a creative and interactive way to teach students about the properties and behaviors of polymers in real-world context.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

Churchill Junior High School - Fidget Frenzy for Study Skills Students

Celine Clark, Elizabeth Kaplan, Bridget LaPlante, Elizabeth Canillo and Melissa Novak

Since the pandemic many students have been struggling with increased levels of anxiety. As a way to improve student performance, Study Skills teachers will provide students with a means for self-regulation while maintaining or improving their productivity. Included in the proposal were detailed statistics and personal comments from students describing the “fidget” that would benefit them and why. These fidgets are among those that will be purchased with grant funds.

Churchill Junior High School - Grounding Kits for Kids

Elizabeth Stankiewicz

With grant funds “Grounding Kits,” small, tangible, discrete containers filled with various sensory items, will be created. For example, textured tape, pop-it keychains, or fidget rings can provide students with stimuli that engage their sense of touch, where scratch and sniff magnets can help engage their sense of smell, and so on. Students who experience significant anxiety can be provided with a grounding kit from their counselor to help practice techniques for grounding.

Bowne – Munro - The 3D Pen is Mightier than the Sword!

Wendy Tepper and Andrew Scanlon

The goal of this grant is to create an innovative and engaging environment where elementary students can explore the realms of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through the use of 3Doodler pens. A 3D pen is a pen that extrudes warm plastic from the pen’s nozzle. Twenty-four 3D pens and related supplies will be purchased with grant funds to be used during Media time for multiple STEM activities, from creating art to building a part needed for an engineering solution.

Central Elementary School - A Spot of Social Emotional Learning

Sara Enis

This grant will provide the means for the purchase of the *SPOT Social Emotional Learning Resource*. The SPOT program materials requested include: books with accompanying activity sheets, feelings posters, activity cards, and more. The program will be implemented during whole class lessons, as well as individual and group counseling sessions to support students as they develop skills in emotional regulation, conflict resolution, communication, empathy, and cooperation.

Churchill Junior High School - Mayhem Poets - State Theatre New Brunswick

Miriam Berotte-Francis and Jessica Loux

Mayhem Poets are a New Jersey-based “slam poetry” trio who met while studying together at Rutgers University. The goal of the grant is to expose students to this form of poetry that combines the elements of performance with writing, competition, and audience participation. Funds will cover the cost of admission for 100 grade eight students to attend a performance at the State Theatre. A study guide, provided by the theater, includes activities to both prepare students prior to the performance as well as to extend their learning following the performance.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

Central Elementary School - Decodables for Developing Readers

Allison Pimentel, Michele Sperduto, and Katie Fabiano

Grant funds will provide for the purchase of multiple copies of a variety of decodable books. The goal, to enhance phonological awareness, is a crucial element in ensuring reading success. Having multiple copies of many decodable books will allow teachers to meet the various individual needs of their students.

Central Elementary School - Wondering Wonderland: Texts for First Graders

Shannon Keely, Stephanie Berke, and Ami Checo

Grant funds will allow for the purchase of a culturally diverse, cross curricular collection of high-quality texts that teachers will utilize to connect their ELA lessons to topics being addressed in both Social Studies, and Science. The goal is to engage students with rich language, foster vocabulary growth, and develop comprehensive skills across the curriculum.

Irwin Elementary School - Paper, Pens, & Poetry

Patrici Colaizzi, Rochelle Rosen, and Gina Tabone

Grant funds will make it possible for 2nd graders to interact with a published poet, through a virtual presentation, with the goal being to motivate and encourage the students to read and write poetry. Special notepads and fun quill pens for students to use when writing their poems will also be purchased. This will be the culminating activity for the Poetry Unit of Study.

East Brunswick High School - PE Ipad Mini

Christian Portera

Funding will allow for the purchase of five iPad Minis and related protective equipment for the high school physical education program. The use of iPad Minis in the EBHS PE program will serve multiple purposes, primarily focused on improving teaching and assessment processes. Incorporating iPad Minis into the PE classroom will create a dynamic learning environment that promotes student engagement, advances skill development, and encourages lifelong physical fitness habits.

Churchill Junior High School - Bringing Shakespeare to Life

Natasha Cuiffo, Mitchell Pollock, and Miriam Berotte-Francis

Grant funds will provide the means to bring a performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream from the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey to the CJHS cafetorium so that 8th grade ELA honors students can appreciate and celebrate this classic work. In addition to the performance, the Shakespeare Live! touring company also provides a study guide that can be used by teachers to update the way that they impart the curriculum related to the play.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

2024 Grant Recipients

East Brunswick High School - Mixing Minds, Shaping Futures: A Grant to Expand Live Digital Audio Education

Michelle DaGrosa and Zachary Gates

This grant will fund the purchase of a state-of-the-art digital mixer to enhance the educational experience for EBHS music students. This tool will serve as a central component in teachers' efforts to empower students with the skills needed to mix live audio for bands, manage production and school performances, and support audio projects within the school community.

Churchill Junior High School - Shakin'Up Shakespeare: Bringing Romeo & Juliet to Life

Celine Clark, Elizabeth Kaplan, Stephanie Greene, Kristen Rice, Daniel Pfeiffer, Jen Pouliot, Kristen Rice, Edie Weinstein, and Alyssa Yang

This grant provides the funds for artists from the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey to conduct engaging workshops for English 9 Honors classes while they are reading Romeo and Juliet. These workshops will enhance students' interpretation of the text, while also supporting teachers' ability to teach the text to classes in the future.

Hammarskjold Upper Elementary School - "I've Got Rhythm" - With Slip-On Taps

Sarah Wells and Eileen Mann

The budget breakdown for this grant includes strap on tap shoes which can be applied right over street shoes and individual tap boards that are collapsible for easy storage. These items will make it possible for students enrolled in the Music and Movement and Intro to Dance classes to safely tap on classroom floors when the JMPAC stage, where there is a Marley floor, is not available.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

Business Partners

The East Brunswick Education Foundation expresses sincere appreciation to the following businesses and organizations for their continuing support and assistance:

BARNES & NOBLE

For hosting and organizing our annual Book Fair and donating a portion of sales made during the event.

NORTHFIELD BANK

For annual grants and consistent support of major EBEF events including financial support of the Partner in Excellence Dinner and sponsorship of virtually every other event.

PNC BANK

For annual grants and for consistent financial support of the Partner in Excellence Dinner.

JANE MUELLER OF REMAX FIRST REALTY

For a generous donation and participating in major EBEF events.

GARY MICHAELS FINE JEWELRY

For donating a prize for the EBEF Spectacular Limited Raffle

THE PICKLEBALL CLUB AT MONROE

For donating a prize for the EBEF Spectacular Limited Raffle.

MARICEL'S KITCHEN

For donating a prize for the EBEF Spectacular Limited Raffle.

The EBEF urges all area businesses to participate in the work of the Foundation by joining us at our meetings and/or by making donations of funds or services to help us achieve our goals.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

Major Contributors

The East Brunswick Education Foundation expresses sincere appreciation to the following supporters for their major donations:

PNC FOUNDATION

PNC and the PNC Foundation have long histories of strengthening and enriching the lives of neighbors in communities PNC serves. For decades, they have provided resources to seed ideas, foster development initiatives and encourage leadership in nonprofit organizations where imagination and determination are at work enhancing people's lives everyday. The Foundation's grants to the EBEF reflect its priority to form partnerships with community-based nonprofit organizations within markets PNC serves in order to enhance the educational opportunities for children.

NORTHFIELD BANK FOUNDATION

The Northfield Bank Foundation was founded in 2007. The role of the Foundation is to support not-for-profit groups, institutions, schools or other organizations operating in the communities in which Northfield Bank does business. The Foundation focuses its efforts on projects to support education, health and human services, youth programs, and other types of community organizations or civic-minded projects that improve the quality of life around us.

CHURCH & DWIGHT EMPLOYEE GIVING FUND, INC.

In 2005, the Church & Dwight Co., Inc. Employee Giving Fund ("EGF") was established to meet the desires of Church & Dwight Co., Inc. ("C&D") employees to financially assist those who are less fortunate and to actively support and participate in the good works of non-profit organizations dedicated to that end. Contributions from the Fund are made directly to qualified organizations in those communities where C&D employees live and work, primarily in New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania.

ANTHONY YOSELOFF

Anthony is a graduate of East Brunswick High School, Class of 1992, and has set an example for all alumni by generously supporting the EBEF for the past 20 years.

MICHAEL SEIBEL

A generous donation was made by this EBHS alumni to fund the eSports Program at East Brunswick High School. Michael has previously generously supported the IPLE "We the People" competition.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

Major Contributors

DR. DAVID LLOYD KABUS FOUNDATION

On an annual basis, the Kabus Foundation provides a significant donation matched by the East Brunswick Education Foundation. To highlight Dr. Kabus' love of the sciences, this donation is directed to the East Brunswick High School's Science Department for programs, equipment and materials that advance learning, research and progress in the sciences. Dr. David Lloyd Kabus graduated from East Brunswick High School in 1981.

RICHARD SALVAS

Generous donations have been made to the DeCarolis Memorial Fund, which in turn funds the Annual Night of Jazz.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF DR. JOANN MAGISTRO

The family and friends of Dr. JoAnn Magistro have made a generous donation in memory of the former Superintendent of Schools.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF HOLLY HOWARD

The family and friends of Holly Howard have made a generous donation in memory of this former East Brunswick Board of Education member.

FRIENDS OF STEPHEN L. MICHAUD

Friends of Stephen Michaud have made a generous donation in memory of this former East Brunswick High School teacher.

ALYUS

A generous contribution has been made by the Raritan Valley Branch of the Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States (AYLUS), a student run volunteer group.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

Memorial Funds

The family and friends of the following individuals have established funds in their memory to benefit the students in the East Brunswick Public Schools through grants and scholarships. Funds directed to grants are matched by the EBEF.

Mario “Chic” DeCarolis who dedicated his life to teaching music for over 30 years.

Dr. JoAnn Magistro who served as the first female Superintendent of Schools, retiring in 2013 after a 42 year career in the District.

Holly Howard who served on the Board of Education for over 20 years.

Stephen L. Michaud, a much loved teacher at East Brunswick High School for over 40 years.

Class of 1989 students.

We The People Endowment Fund

This fund supports the EBHS AP IPLE Class that has represented the State of New Jersey in 36 of the past 37 years.

Tax deductible donations can be made to these funds in several ways as described under “Ways to Support EBEF”.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

About the East Brunswick Education Foundation

EBEF GRANTS

The Foundation awards grants at seven levels:

Mini Grants; ongoing and awarded monthly. Elementary; up to \$500 awarded for a classroom. Elementary; up to \$2,100 awarded for a grade level at an elementary school. Secondary; up to \$2,500 awarded for programs that include all students in a grade level or that for an entire department.

Partnership Grants; ongoing, awarded monthly, must have at least one additional funding source to partner with to cover at least 1/3 of the total amount being requested.

First Lady of the Foundation Grants; for amounts that are more than a mini grant, granted during the fall of the year.

Excellence Grants; \$500 to \$2,500 awarded annually for special projects.

Blue Ribbon Grants; \$2,500 to \$7,500 are awarded annually for special projects or events of enduring value.

WAYS TO SUPPORT EBEF

The Foundation offers several opportunities for giving, for businesses and individuals. With low overhead costs, EBEF is able to devote most of its income toward fulfilling its mission to enhance and enrich the public school curriculum. No matter how you choose to support EBEF, your gift will make a difference. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

General Donation: Donations may be made throughout the year. All contributions of \$500 or more will be acknowledged in Foundation publications. Employer matching donations are encouraged. Credit and Debit cards are accepted at <https://cardx.com/pay-eastbrunswicked>. Donations can also be made using Zelle (ebef@ebef.org) or Venmo (EBEF-01).

United Way: Donations through employer sponsored campaigns in the tri-state area may be directed to EBEF by designating on the

pledge card. The EBEF's 501(c)3 status and address (760 Route 18, East Brunswick, NJ 08816) should be noted.

Network for Good: Donations can be made to the EBEF by typing "East Brunswick Education Foundation" in the Charity Name box, pressing "search" and following the prompts. You can donate in any amount of \$10 or more, specify how you want your donation applied and send acknowledgement cards.

Give a Present With a Future: Honor a teacher, graduate, family member or friend or give a memorial gift with a minimum \$10 donation to EBEF. A card will be sent to the person you designate and you will receive an acknowledgment of your donation. This unique gift enables you to show your appreciation while supporting the work of EBEF.

EBEF EVENTS

Partner in Excellence and Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Dinner: The Foundation's major fundraiser, this annual spring event honors school, business and community leaders who make significant contributions to the Foundation's goal of supporting excellence in the East Brunswick Public Schools, as well as alumni who have made notable accomplishments throughout their careers.

Book Fair: This annual event at Barnes and Noble bring the entire East Brunswick community together for a day of art, reading and performances provided by the students in all of our schools. Barnes and Noble generously donates a portion of the sales proceeds in the store that day, and online for that week, to EBEF.

EBEF Bear Crawl: Rave Reviews have made this the newest East Brunswick tradition! Get ready to lace up those sneakers because once again, this coming November, the East Brunswick Education Foundation will once again be hosting the 5K walk/run and Kids Fun Runs. Get in those steps while meeting new

neighbors, supporting school spirit, and funding grants across the district! See information in the ad section for Early Bear Registration.

Apples for Education: To kick off the school year, EBEF along with the EBEF Student Association welcome parents to Back to School Night, offering EBEF swag as well as the opportunity to buy an apple with their child's name on it at the elementary schools. This fundraiser is led by the Student Association who uses the money raised to award grants written by student officers of school clubs and activities.

Cultural Events: Throughout the year, EBEF sponsors a variety of programs that are appropriate for all ages.

In addition to all of these events, EBEF continues to hold Casino Night, the East Brunswick Celebrity Dance-off, Principal For a Day and several other special programs. Keep your eye out for announcements about these!

MEMBERS WANTED

All residents and business people in East Brunswick are encouraged to apply for membership on the Foundation's Board of Trustees. The Board meets monthly at 7:30 p.m. in the school district's Administration Building, 760 Route 18. Members are also expected

to serve on one or more committees, which include Fundraising, Grants, Finance, Communications, Partner in Excellence Dinner, and Membership. Anyone interested in becoming a member is asked to call the Foundation at 732-254-EBEF.

Visit our website ebef.org for additional information



East Brunswick Education Foundation

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The East Brunswick Education Foundation expresses sincere appreciation to the following donors for their contributions in honor of Danielle Blalock, Marilyn Edge, Dr. Arvin Gopal, Lindsay B. Schiappa, Esq., Michael Barkann and Brian Selznick.

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Congratulations

Danielle Blalock

Marilyn Edge

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Lindsay B. Schiappa Esq.

For their excellent work
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And

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Michael Barkann

On their induction into
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Best Wishes
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and to the

2024

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*Congratulations
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Thank you for making a positive impact
on the lives of students and the
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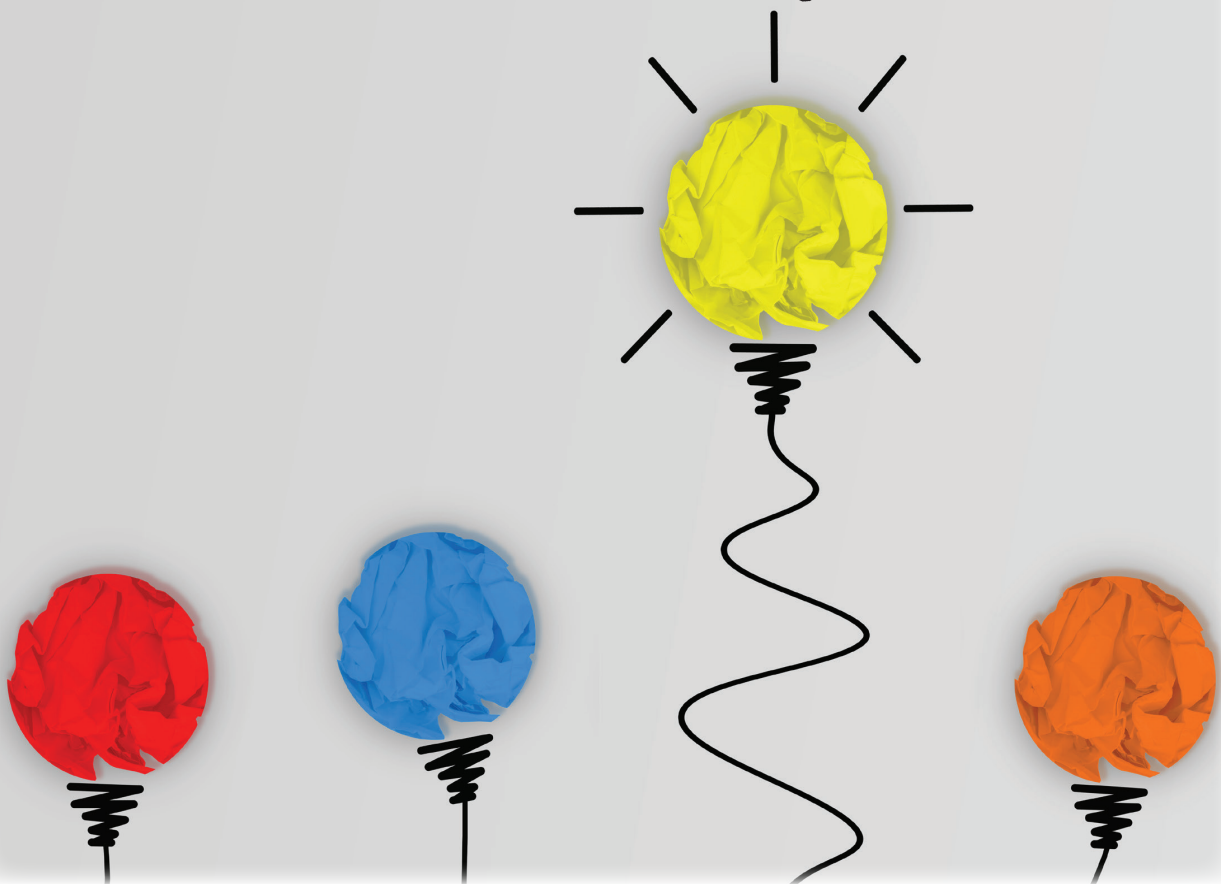
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Lindsay Schiappa Esq.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Brian Selznick

Michael Barkann

The Chen Family

Rongsun, Guodong, Christina & LeAnn



Thank You!

Danielle Blalock

Marilyn Edge

Dr. Arvin Gopal

Lindsay B. Schiappa, Esq.

For doing so much for so many.
You truly deserve this recognition.

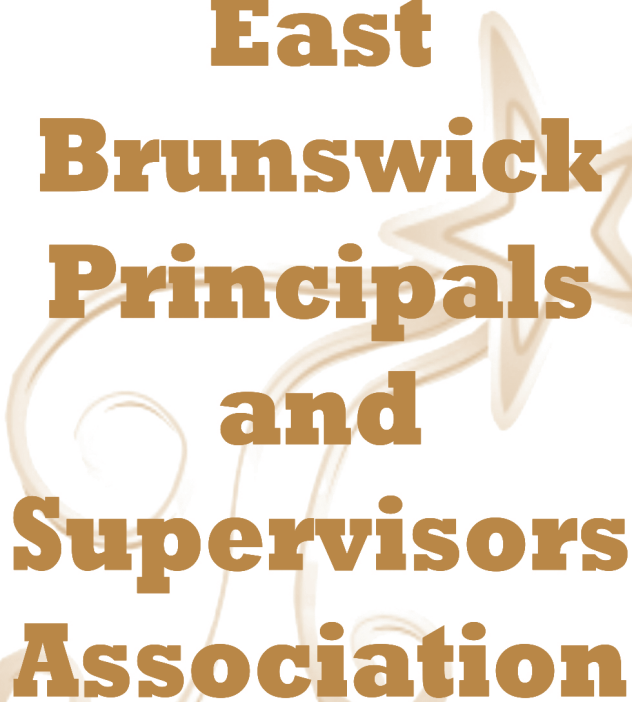
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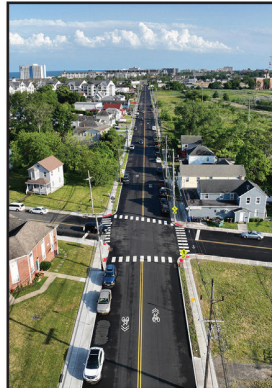
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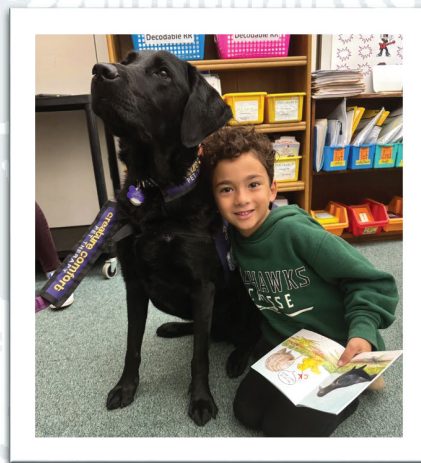
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PARTNER IN EXCELLENCE 2024 Congratulations

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Marilyn,

*We are so proud of you on this
great accomplishment!*

*Love,
Alan, Dustin, and Jemma*

CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to the
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Petal Robertson, Secretary-Treasurer (right)



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
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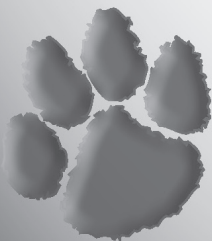
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Excellence in Education

2023-2024

We thank you for
for helping to give our children the tools
to have a brighter future!

With Our Gratitude

The Sorkin Family

Barbara and Howard

Lauren, Marvin, Samara, Seraphina

Jordan, Bryn, Leighton,

James & Allison

*Best Wishes
to the
Honorees and Inductees
and to the
East Brunswick
Education Foundation*

*Ronnie & Ed
Mendlowitz*



*Congratulations to our
Partners in Excellence*

Danielle Blalock

Marilyn Edge

Dr. Arvin Gopal

Lindsay B. Schiappa, Esq

*It's a pleasure to partner with each
of you to support the kids in our schools.*

and to

Brian Selznick

Michael Barkann

On their induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame

THANK YOU!!

*And, as always, thank you to the
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JACK LEVITT





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CONGRATULATIONS

to all the 2024 Honorees

Danielle Blalock

Marilyn Edge

Dr. Arvin Gopal

and Inductees

Brian Selznick

Michael Barkann

Special shout out to

Lindsay B. Schiappa, Esq!

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such an outstanding success!*

Helyn & Mel Benjamin



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*With respect and admiration,
Susan and Stuart Kohn*

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★ Congratulations ★
to my fellow Partner in
Excellence Honorees! ★

**Danielle Blalock Marilyn Edge
Dr. Arvin Gopal**

Your dedication and hard work has made a tremendous difference to the students of our school district. As well as to the Hall of Fame Inductees

Brian Selznick Michael Barkann

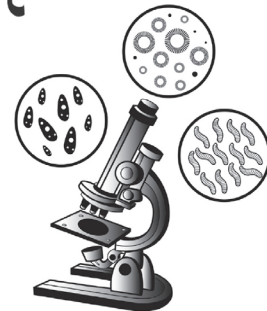
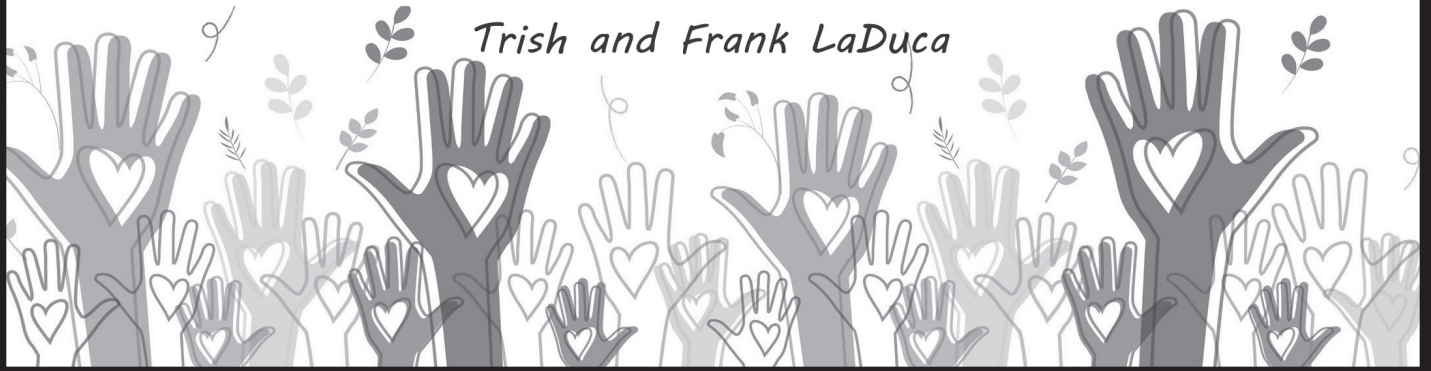
And a **BIG THANK YOU** to our amazing EBEP Board for this honor tonight and for your tireless dedication to the EBEP mission to benefit the East Brunswick Public Schools

CONGRATULATIONS

*to this year's honorees
Thank you for supporting
East Brunswick's Educational Community*

*Also, a special shout out to all of the grant recipients
We are impressed by your creativity and appreciate your
commitment to excellence*

Trish and Frank LaDuca



*Congratulations
Arvin and Mariflyn!*

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2024 Honorees

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Congratulations

Lindsay Schiappa

for her 10 years of significant contributions of
time, energy and heart to the EBEF!

Love,
Mom & Dad

Congratulations Danielle!

The work that you do for the students and families of East Brunswick is
truly a labor of love.

We are proud each and every day to be a part of your team.

With Love,
Your Student Services Family



CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS INCREDIBLE HONOR!

Lindsay, We are so proud of all your hard work on behalf of the East Brunswick Education Foundation.

You are so deserving of this recognition. We are very grateful for your friendship and are so happy to celebrate with you!

Love ...your class of '86 fan club...
Amy, Amy, Denise, Lori & Kate



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- **Wayne S.**

★★★★★

Dr. Leizer and her staff are **amazing!**

- **William L.**



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CONGRATULATIONS

Lindsay Schiappa, Esq

In Honor of receiving the
Partner in Excellence Award
for your Incredible Support and Efforts in achieving
Excellence in the East Brunswick Public Schools

With Love and Gratitude,
The Zadotti Family



Congratulations
Marilyn Edge

East Brunswick Education Foundation
Partner in Excellence Award

Love your NEA Family!

Amber Russell Linda Rudy
Jess Lori Lare Reed Kari
Ryan Kevin Doug Deanna and all the
other owls!

Big Congrats to Lindsay Schiappa and Danielle Blalock and all of the 2024 Honorees!

Thank You for Your Years of Service and Support

Cindy & Gary Taffet and the Acrisure Team

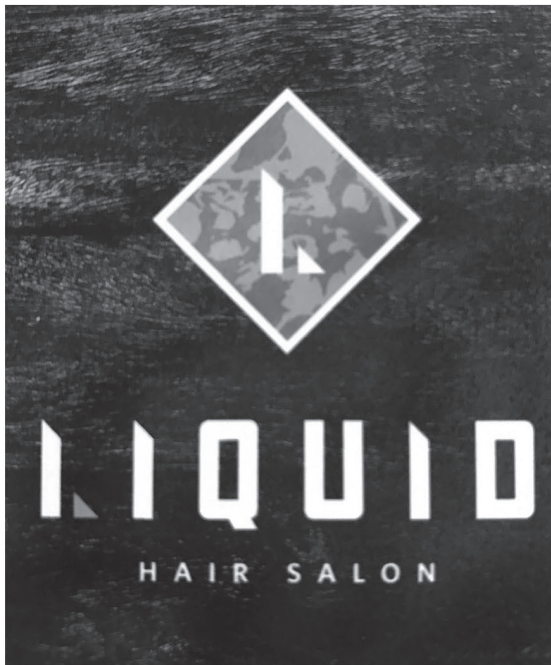


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Congratulations to

Lindsay B. Schiappa, Esq

and to all of tonight's honorees!

Thank You

for your dedication and
commitment to the
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Warmly Congratulates

Marilyn Edge

and her fellow honorees receiving the

*2024 East Brunswick Education Foundation's
Partner in Excellence Award*

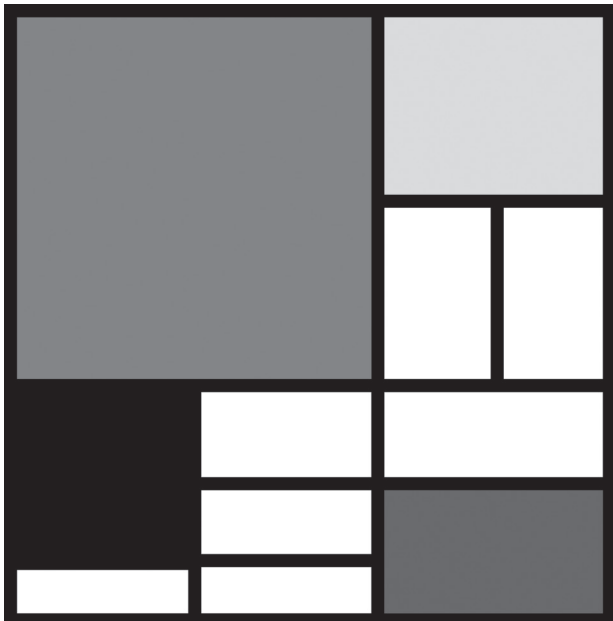
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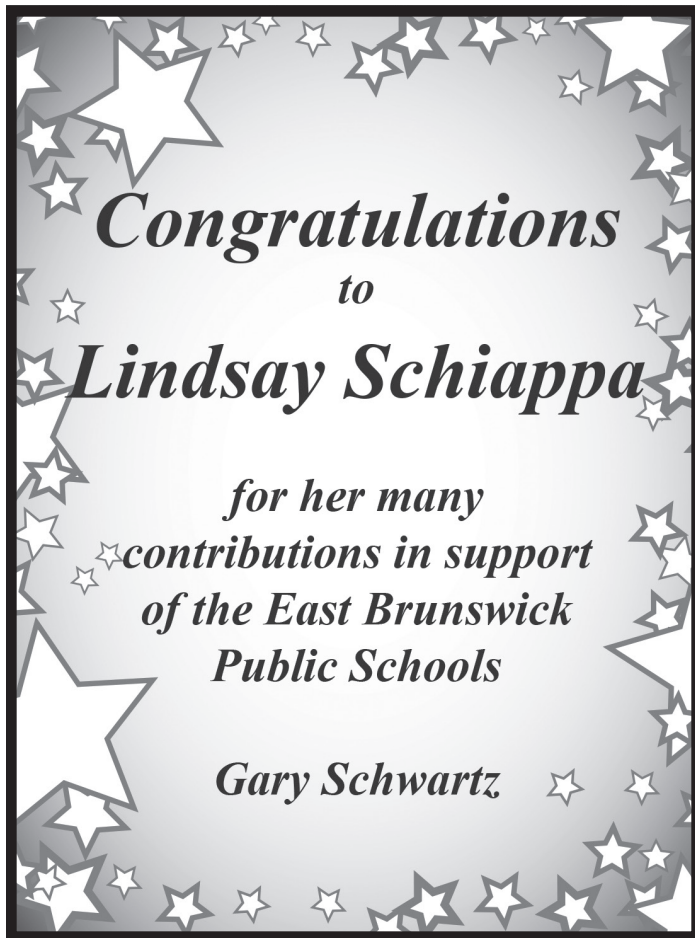
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*Congratulations
Lindsay!*

You have made a
significant impact on
the East Brunswick
community.

We're proud of you!

The Lonzak Family



Congratulations

to

Lindsay Schiappa

*for her many
contributions in support
of the East Brunswick
Public Schools*

Gary Schwartz

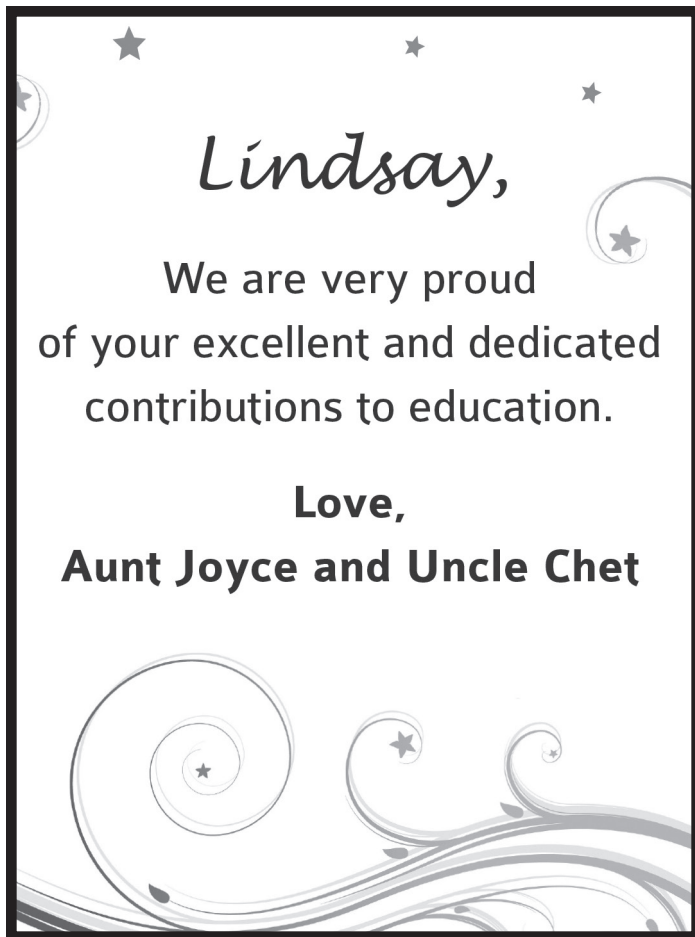


From one dedicated volunteer to another:

***Thank you
&
Congratulations***

*on being recognized for
your hard work*

*With love,
Carolyn & Joe*



Lindsay,

**We are very proud
of your excellent and dedicated
contributions to education.**

**Love,
Aunt Joyce and Uncle Chet**



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Congratulations Arvin!

On behalf of the East Brunswick Arts Department

We are so incredibly proud of you!



Congratulations Marilyn Edge!

The East Brunswick High School Science Department Thanks You for your hard work and dedication to enhancing student learning at EBHS!



For your time,
dedication and service
to our community, we

Thank You



Congratulations

To Our Dear Friend,
Honoree Lindsay Schiappa

With Love,
The Ramos and Winston Families

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*Congratulations to an amazing
educator who loves her students!*

Marilyn Edge

*From your friends in Vermont
Bernie, Rosie, Mary, and Don*



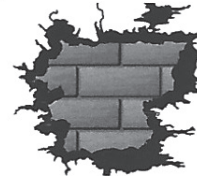
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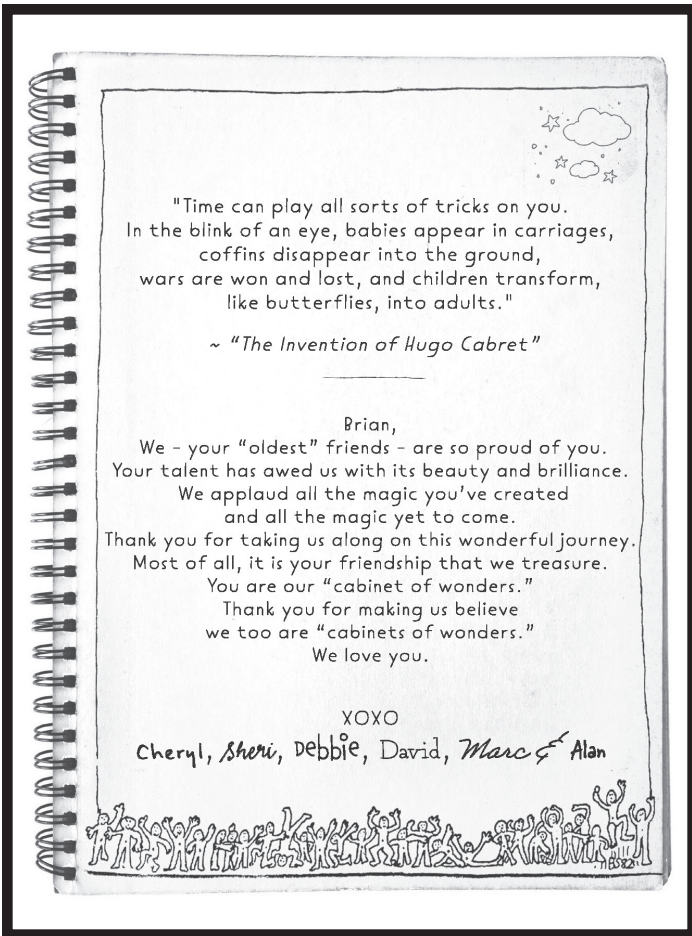
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HONOREES:

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