



GOOD NEWS

January The Ewing Public Schools 2025

Leadership. Loyalty. Legacy

“Once a Blue Devil, Always a Blue Devil”

Ewing Public Schools Says Goodbye to Two Board of Education Members, Lisa McConnell and Anthony Messina



When Ewing Township Board of Education members, Lisa McConnell, and Anthony Messina, stepped into their kindergarten classrooms on their first day of school in Ewing Township a mere 50 years or so ago, they most likely never imagined the impact their footprint would have on the educational institutions they grew to love over the years.



The staff of GoodNews reached out to both Mr. Messina and Ms. McConnell to reflect on their tenure as Board of Education members, both dedicated individuals and a driving force making sure the children of Ewing Township received the education, services, and buildings needed to secure an excellent education and grow to be successful adults.

Both Mr. Messina and Ms. McConnell held positions of leadership as President and Vice President, respectfully over the years and weathered the COVID pandemic with passion, commitment, and tenacity, for which we are truly grateful as a district.

Mr. Messina was elected to the Ewing Township Board of Education in November 2012 and has served as a Board member for twelve years, four three-year terms. Ms. McConnell was first elected in November 2015 and served for three terms. Both held the leadership positions of President and Vice-President of the Board which are selected by the elected members of the Board of Education and come with additional duties and expectations. They require and deserve a time commitment to both and as President, you are much more involved in day-to-day updates, conversations, and details. The Superintendent relies heavily on quick input and opinions – in a sense, becomes an informal voice for all the Board members.

When GoodNews interviewed Ms. McConnell and Mr. Messina to reflect on their time in office on the Board of Education, interestingly, the first question asked, both gave a similar response. What prompted you to run for the Board of Education in the first place? A former colleague and Board of Education member, Mrs. Stephanie Staub, thought each would bring value, and enjoy being involved in the decision-making process for their children’s education while at the same time giving back to their community.

Mr. Messina’s goal was to be a positive influence and a good “teammate” to his fellow Board members. Ms. McConnell wanted to make sure everyone was given an equal shot at succeeding and had the tools needed to do so, ensuring the district offered extracurricular activities and sports, and our students and staff were always safe. It sounds simple, but it takes work to make it a reality. Together, they addressed several challenges, but two stand out, the Referendum in 2018 and working through the Great Pandemic of 2020. No one at the beginning of the Pandemic had a “playbook” or a “crystal ball,” everyone together rolled their sleeves up and went to work.

Mr. Messina shared one of the highlights of his incumbency, “As I prepare to depart the Board, seeing many of the completed projects from Referendum ’18 brings great satisfaction in knowing that we as a Board of Education (both past and present elected members) have followed through on our commitment to the Ewing Community in providing a better environment to educate our students of today and tomorrow. Additionally, seeing those former Ewing students who have come back as professional Educators and Administrators to teach and coach our Ewing students tells me something special is happening here.....!”

Ms. McConnell said, “One of the accomplishments I am most proud of is the passing of the Referendum in 2018 and working incredibly hard with my colleagues to make sure all the projects we set out to accomplish were followed through or com-

pleted. From the pretty things like the new Ewing High School gymnasium, tennis courts at Antheil, and Coach K’s Corner to the things nobody sees like new roofing, enhanced air quality cooling and heating systems, or improved safety devices and protocols, there was a ton of time and hard work put in to make these projects come to fruition. I am also proud of supporting the development of the Unified program in our schools. It will always hold a special place in my heart.”

Lasting words from Mr. Messina to the members of the Board of Education, “THE TEAM” as described by the late University of Michigan Head Football Coach Bo Schembechler prior to the 1983 college football season is the best approach. “We are better together than I am alone.”

Ms. McConnell’s irrevocable thoughts, “Continue to keep the Ewing Board of Education, one that is non-political in nature and solely works for the purpose of giving our students and staff the best educational opportunities possible. Whenever there is a decision to be made, ask how it will affect even our most vulnerable students. Make sure to always be willing to speak up for what you believe to be right and remember, the loudest voice in the room isn’t always the only one that should be heard!”

Thank you, Anthony and Lisa, and your families, for giving the Ewing Public Schools community your time, your dedication, and your commitment so that our schools can be the best! And as the saying goes, “Once a Blue Devil, Always a Blue Devil!”



Lore School hosted its annual Giving Tree to help families in the community. Students brought gifts, gift cards, wrapping paper, and tape to make sure everyone had gifts to celebrate this holiday season.

The Ewing Public Schools

Twin Pine Cadets Assist STEAM Educator at FMS

By: C/MSgt Madison Couvertier, Twin Pine Composite Squadron, FMS Alum Class of 2024



On November 14th and 15th, Fisher Middle School (FMS) became the epicenter of aerospace education and hands-on learning. A dynamic collaboration between the school's STEAM Educator and New Jersey Wing Aerospace Education Member, Ms. Mieko Inghilleri, Major Wasim Baig, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) pilot and FMS alum, and Twin Pine Composite Squadrons Unit Commander 1st Lieutenant Nicholas Kunchandy. Over two exciting days, students were immersed in STEM challenges, offering a unique opportunity to bridge classroom learning with real-world applications.

The first day began with a thrilling aerial demonstration when FMS teacher Ms. Mieko Inghilleri

took to the skies aboard Cessna aircraft, CAP2941, piloted by Major Wasim Baig, who attended FMS 1979 to 1981, when it was known as Fisher Junior High School. Major Baig, who fondly recalled watching the first space shuttle launch during his time at FMS, played a pivotal role in guiding students through the flight, offering live commentary while Lt. Kunchandy used a handheld radio to transmit Major Baig narrating the experience to students.

The second day, students had the opportunity to hear firsthand from CAP cadets and officers about their experiences in the program and about leadership skills, discipline, and opportunities students can gain through CAP.

The two-day event was a resounding success, thanks to the hard work and collaboration between FMS, and Twin Pine Composite Squadron. The experience provided students with a deeper understanding of aerospace education, leadership, and STEM, while giving cadets the opportunity to put their skills into practice and engage with their local community.

Alec Hahn Inspires at Student Recognition Assembly



We were honored to welcome former Fisher Middle School student Alec Hahn as our guest speaker at the inaugural student recognition assembly. Alec, a graduate of Fisher in 2010, has transformed from an admirable student into a respected young man.

During his speech, Alec shared valuable advice with our students, encouraging them to celebrate their successes, show kindness to others, maintain consistency, and embrace discomfort when pursuing challenging goals. His insights resonated deeply with the audience, motivating students to strive for excellence.

Currently, Alec serves with the New Jersey State Police and holds a Bachelor of Science in Security and Risk Analysis from Penn State University. Additionally, he proudly served in the United States Marine Corps for eight years.

Alec's journey and words of wisdom left a lasting impression on our students, reminding them of the importance of perseverance and integrity as they navigate their own paths to success. We are grateful for his contributions and look forward to seeing the positive impact he will continue to have in our community.

Ewing Public Schools Champions Inclusion Through Unified Sports and Special Olympics



Ewing Public Schools continues to foster inclusivity and unity through its successful Unified Team Sports and Special Olympics programs. Since the inception of Unified Sports, the district has been a beacon of inclusion, creating valuable opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities to compete in a supportive and empowering environment.

This dedication to inclusive athletics gained significant recognition when the Ewing High School Unified Bowling Team won the NJSIAA State Championship in winter 2024. This achievement underscores the district's ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where all students can thrive, find friendships, and celebrate their achievements.

Over the years, Ewing's Unified Sports program has grown, including popular events in basketball, track and field, snowshoeing, and bowling. At the



Special Olympics Summer Games in June 2024, held at The College of New Jersey, Ewing teams earned an impressive 58 gold medals in track and field and bocce, totaling 121. Meanwhile, the Unified Track Team made their mark at the Unified State Championship Meet at Franklin High School, bringing together schools from across New Jersey in a display of teamwork and dedication.

"Unified Sports is about more than just playing a game," remarked one Unified Sports coach. "It's about building lifelong friendships and understanding each other better." These values resonate throughout the district as Unified programs continue to expand, fueled by the belief that training and competing foster genuine bonds and mutual understanding.

Unified Sports and Special Olympics continue to enrich students' lives, laying the foundation for lifelong friendships and a culture of unity and respect.

Intergenerational Club Creates Family from Heart

Fisher Middle School is proud of their Intergenerational Club, where 7th and 8th grade students have the opportunity to "adopt grandparents," or senior adults, from Ewing Independent Living. It's exciting for our "grandparents" to interact with younger generations, sharing their years of acquired skills and knowledge, and at the same time enjoying the energy, creativity, and vitality of young minds.



Antheil students in Mrs. Kinghorn's 3rd grade class completed an SEL/STEM project where students worked together to build a robot. Students Eric "E.J." Randall and Lemar Shaw are showing off the robot they built.

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FMS and EHS Music Students Spread Holiday Cheer



This past holiday season, FMS and EHS music students were busy spreading holiday cheer by performing holiday music throughout the community. EHS, FMS, and EHS orchestra alumni students joined together to perform at Quakerbridge Mall for family, friends, and other members of the community. This year was the biggest performing group yet with 40 students participating.

FMS EAGLE'S CAFÉ DELIVERS ORDERS WITH A SMILE!



Every Wednesday the students in Mrs. Hodge's 8th Grade Life Skills Classroom work on vocational skills in the Eagle's Café. Students take orders, prep and stock items, fill orders, and deliver them. They serve Hot Coffee, Iced Coffee, Hot Tea, Hot Cocoa, and Assorted bagels with cream cheese or butter. The students take their job seriously and are learning to communicate with others in a work environment. She'lah Fortson works in the food department. Cesar Davila and Kyle Turner work in the beverage department. Jaden Hanson is our Overall Manager and Cadillac Dorbor is our Food Manager. Don't forget to place your order next Wednesday!

EHS Senior Spotlight: Meet Dantae Brewster



What are you most looking forward to in the year 2025? I'm looking forward to new beginnings, especially as I will be starting college in the fall. I'm very excited to see what it's like and gather new experiences as I embark on that new path.

What is Ewing High School's best-kept secret? All the supportive faculty in the counseling office. The counselors here are very kind and supportive to everyone here at Ewing. Shout out to Mrs. Stewart, I'm pretty sure she's tired of seeing me, but she is always helpful, regardless of the request I have. Thank you to Mr. Csillan for providing me with insight towards my next steps in education, and thank you to Mrs. Krajunus for everything she's helped me with regarding my courses at Ewing and Mercer Community College.

What is your favorite subject? Undeniably social studies. I have taken five classes in the social studies department and will say they are the most fun and have the best teachers. They are extremely wise and provide a great environment for students to learn.

Who is your favorite teacher or coach and why? I would have to say Mr. Ballek. As I mentioned before, I've taken five social studies classes and he's been my teacher for two of those, in which I've taken one of those classes simply because he's the teacher. Mr. Ballek is a very understanding teacher and provides excellent insight into the courses he

teaches. Mr. Ballek most definitely needs a Teacher of the Year award!

What activities do you participate in school? I am Captain of the Boys Varsity Lacrosse team, a member of the National Honor Society, and part of the Environmental Club. I also participate in Ewing's Unified programs, and I am a Peer Leader.

What activities do you participate in outside of school? I am a volunteer coach for Ewing Recreational Soccer Association, a Ewing Recreation Summer Camp Counselor, and an avid member and volunteer of Light of the World Family Worship Church. I also volunteer for TCNJ Special Olympics Summer Games.

What awards or acknowledgments have you received in school or outside of school? 2024 Ewing Lacrosse MVP, Centercourt Lacrosse MVP of the Week, CVC Vince Palmeri Award, May 2024 Student Athlete of the Month for Lacrosse, Ewing Recognition of Outstanding Achievement May 2024, Jim Brown Sportsmanship Award, and have received six Athletic Varsity Letters at EHS.

What accomplishments are you most proud of? Definitely the Vince Palmeri Award for Boys Soccer as it captures my compassionate nature on and off the soccer field. I am very grateful for the opportunity to receive this award and thankful to everyone who has assisted me towards this accomplishment.

What is your favorite quote? "Life's under no obligation to give us what we expect." – Margaret Mitchell

EHS Welcomes CodeHS Ambassador Blake Schafer to Engineering Design Class



Ewing High School's Engineering Design class had the unique opportunity to host Blake Schafer, a Computer Science Ambassador from CodeHS, who shared his inspiring journey in the field of computer science. Schafer engaged students with insights into various career opportunities in technology and demonstrated how programming can be both educational and fun.

During his visit, Schafer emphasized the growing importance of computer science in today's job market, highlighting skills in this area are not only beneficial but increasingly essential for a wide range of careers. He shared his personal experiences, detailing how he navigated his own path in technology and the various roles he has held within the industry.

Dr. Papadopoulos, the class instructor, expressed gratitude for Schafer's visit, stating, "It's incredibly valuable for our students to hear from someone actively working in the field. Blake's passion for computer science and his willingness to share his knowledge is inspiring and motivates our students to explore these opportunities."

The Ewing Public Schools



Third grade students in Mrs. Stevens' class at Parkway have been working hard on learning Math Multiplication facts. Students have been exploring different strategies on how to decompose a factor in a multiplication equation in order to figure out the product.

January 2025 Schedule in Ewing Schools

Jan 1	SCHOOL CLOSED - Happy New Year!
Jan 2	School is Open – Welcome Back
Jan 4	EHS - National Honor Society Winter Coat Drive @ 9am-12pm Ewing High School Parking Lot
Jan 6	Board of Education Organization Meeting - 6pm @ EHS NO PUBLIC SESSION
Jan 9	EHS - Winter Band & Orchestra Concert @ 7pm
Jan 14	Parkway - PTA Meeting @ 6pm FMS - Virtual FPA Meeting @ 7:30pm
Jan 15	EHS - Winter Vocal Concert @ 7pm
Jan 16	FMS - Winter Band Concert @ 7pm
Jan 20	SCHOOL CLOSED – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 21	EHS - Financial Aid FAFSA Parent Workshop @ 6:30pm EHS Media Center
	Lore - PTA Meeting @ 7pm
Jan 23	FMS - Winter Orchestra Concert @ 7pm
Jan 24	EHS - Early Dismissal Grades 9-12 ONLY – Exams
Jan 27	EHS - Early Dismissal Grades 9-12 ONLY – Exams
Jan 28	Counseling Event: <i>We (Really) Are All in This Together: Strengthening the Home School Connection</i> - 6pm @ EHS Auditorium
	EHS - Early Dismissal Grades 9-12 ONLY – Exams
	EHS - End of Semester 1
	FMS - End of Marking Period 2
	Elementary Schools - End of Marking Period 2
Jan 29	SCHOOL CLOSED – Grades 6-12 & OBA
	Early Dismissal – Full Day Preschool – 5 th Grade
	NO AM Integrated Preschool at the Elementary Schools
	NO AM Bridge Preschool at Antheil Elementary School
Jan 30	District Title I Kindergarten – 8 th Grade Family Math Night @ 6:30pm

2025 School Weather Emergency Information

As winter begins and the district starts to think about dealing with winter weather, please be mindful of our weather emergency procedures and potential closings, delays and early dismissal.

Please make sure to monitor our official communication portals: SchoolMessenger, and the School District Website. Also, please make sure your contact information in Genesis is current and up-to-date.

The district has a Weather Emergency Team which assembles during these events. During a typical overnight weather event, the district will make a decision at about 5:00AM and begin communicating that decision to the community about 5:30AM through our official communication portals.

The district will make a 'delayed opening' announcement as soon as possible so families can make morning arrangements and the district strives to avoid 'early dismissals' unless it is unavoidable.

Thank you for your attention to this important information.



The Great Kindness Challenge 2025

January 27-31, 2025

At the heart of the Great Kindness challenge is the simple belief that kindness is strength.

“Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; the third is to be kind.” – Henry James

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

January 2025



New Jersey School Board Recognition Month is an annual event held in January to recognize and thank school board members, and to educate the public on the role of the local boards of education. The Ewing Township Board of Education's role is to govern our public schools in the township at the local level, representing the community and establishing policies and goals for the district. It is a dual role, that represents the concerns of the Ewing Township citizens, taxpayers, and parents to the school administrators, and at the same time represents the needs of the students and school district to the citizens, taxpayers, and parents of the community.

Thank you to our dedicated 2024 Board of Education Members for their service to the children and citizens of our community.

The Ewing Public Schools

Kindergarten Registration

NOW OPEN!

Our virtual registration process is easy and convenient, allowing you to complete everything from the comfort of your home.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:
Documents required for enrollment include proof of address, proof of age and medical records. You can find a list of acceptable supporting documents on our website: WWW.EMING.K12.NJ.US/REGISTRATION

DON'T WAIT—SECURE YOUR SPOT NOW!
Kindergarten Roundup events will be hosted on select dates in March, April & May at Antheil School. Appointments for roundup will **ONLY** be assigned once online registration is completed.

PLEASE NOTE:
Child must be 5 years old on or before October 1, 2025 and reside in Ewing with their Parent or Legal Guardian to be eligible for kindergarten.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE CENTRAL REGISTRATION OFFICE AT:
609-538-9800 ext. 7175 or 7181 | registration@ewingboe.org

WINTER COAT DRIVE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2025

SUPPORTING JERSEY CARES BY GIVING THE GIFT OF WARMTH!

DROP OFF NEW OR GENTLY USED COATS

EWING HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT

9AM-12PM

SPONSORED BY NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

For questions or information, please contact the Superintendent's Office:

☎ 609-538-9800 ext. 1102 ✉ thullings@ewingboe.org

🌐 www.ewing.k12.nj.us

Design and Layout by Daniella Crescente

GoodNews is an official publication of The Ewing Public Schools.

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