JUNE 2025

SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Elmsford Community,

What an incredible end-of-year it has been in the Elmsford Union Free School District!

This past week served as a meaningful culmination of a year marked by dedication, growth, and joyful celebration. It was a time to honor the accomplishments of our students and faculty—each of whom contributed to making this year a resounding success.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Alexander Hamilton High School Class of 2025! Through perseverance and commitment, these students have earned well-deserved recognition during a special commencement ceremony filled with heartfelt messages and enthusiastic applause. We are proud of all you have achieved and wish you continued success as you embark on the next chapter of your journey.

Our youngest learners are also reaching exciting milestones. First graders at Dixson marked the end of a meaningful chapter in their educational journey with a special celebration as they prepare to transition to Alice E. Grady Elementary School in the fall. We look forward to welcoming them as second graders, knowing they will be met with encouragement and support from our dedicated Grady staff.

We also celebrated our remarkable sixth-grade students at Grady, who are now rising seventh graders. Their Moving Up Ceremony was a proud and emotional moment, shared with families, friends, and educators who have guided them with care and dedication.

These milestone events reflect the collective efforts of our educators, administrators, and staff who work tirelessly to support student achievement and well-being.

There is no greater reward than witnessing our student's flourish.

As we close this school year, I look ahead with great anticipation to the work we will continue in the year to come. I wish all of our Elmsford families a joyful, restful, and safe summer break.

Warm regards,
Susan Yom
Superintendent of Schools



HAPPY SUMMER!

We hope all our families have a relaxing and safe summer! We can't wait to see you in September!

OUR STUDENTS ARE MOVING UP AND OUT!

Congratulations to our students on your special achievement! During the last week of school there were several special celebrations as our students made milestone transitions. See more photos, and links to stories, from these events on page 8!







SPOTLIGHT:
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RETIREES!

The district celebrated some if its finest during the June 11 Board of Education meeting, sharing a "congratulations" and "best wishes," to several faculty and staff who are retiring effective the end of the month.



Those so honored were:

Jo-Anne Dobbins, Director of Special Education/PPS
Heidi Hohlfeld, District Treasurer, Business Office
Lori Schulze, Teacher, AHHS
Gary Stout, Teacher, AHHS
Robin Wilkins, Office Assistant, Business Office
Laura Wygant, Teacher, Grady



"That's 113 total years of service," Superintendent of Schools Susan Yom said. "Each has a lifetime of service, commitment and care."

Ms. Yom said that in her role as superintendent, she has seen first-hand the commitment each one of them had to their job and those they worked with and for.

"You touched hearts," she said.

Click here to read more







SPOTLIGHT
DISTRICT TO ADOPT USE OF COMMUNICATION TOOL PARENTSQUARE

During the summer the Elmsford Union Free School District will be rolling out a new form of mass communication with its adoption of the use of Parent Square, a unified platform to help better communicate with district families.

"The district is hoping for even better communication with this tool," said Deputy Superintendent James Yap.

Parent Square will be replacing the use of Talking Points.

While the two platforms function similarly, Mr. Yap explained that the use of Parent Square provides better translation options and allows for direct communication with teachers.

He assured that current families who already receive communication from Talking Points will not have to do anything. All of their information will be automatically transferred to Parent Square. New families who are registering in the district, will be automatically signed up on the new platform.

Like the former platform, parents can download the app to their phone.

Mr. Yap explained that Parent Square will continue to be used for all district communications, including letters and notices as well as information pertaining the school closings.

New cell phone policy



New York State is implementing a "bell-to-bell" cell phone ban in K-12 schools, meaning students will not be allowed to use their personal internet-enabled devices during the entire school day, including during lunch and study hall. The initiative will begin in the 2025-2026 school year.

For more information visit https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/distraction-free-schools-governor-hochul-announces-new-york-become-largest-state-nation

This is a required change for the new school year. The Board of Education will be conducting a first read of the cell phone policy. For public comment on the policy, we invite stakeholders to send us their thoughts **distweb@eufsd.org**

Dixson Drama presented "Amazing Animals"

Thank you to the Dixson Drama Club for their wonderful performance, "Amazing Animals." Students put on an adorable show sharing songs, including "Move Over Rover," "Ocean Animals," "The Little Red Hen," "Safari Adventures," "Five Little Monkeys," and "Let's Go to the Zoo!"





SPOTLIGHT
AHHS NHS INDUCTION CEREMONY

Congratulations to the Alexander Hamilton High School students who were recently inducted into the National Honor Society during a special ceremony!

Students are selected to the NHS not only based on their academic standing, but because they also exemplify the principles of the NHS:

SCHOLARSHIP: A commitment to learning
RESPONSIBILITY: Commitment to doing what you say you will do
SERVICE: Helping others to do what they cannot do alone
LEADERSHIP: Exert a positive influence on your school













2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

It's time to celebrate some of the amazing achievements we had during the 2024-2025 school year!

EUFSD








- The AHHS parking lot was completed before school began in September
- A new Security camera replacement was complete along with a new Telephone VOIP system and PA system

PA system

- New Grady and Dixson roofs are projects to be completed in the 2025-26 school year
- Officer Chris Bujarski came on as the new School Resource Officer in the Elmsford Union Free School District
- James Yap joined the district as Assistant Superintendent, later becoming Deputy Superintendent
- Susan Yom joined the district as Superintendent of Schools in January
- Todd Currie was hired as the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations/CFO
- During her first 100 days, Ms. Yom began her C.A.R.E. initiative, Cultivate, Achieve, Review and Engage, meeting with village officials to learn how they can best further develop their collaborative relationship and support one another
- In May, the community passed a $47.2 million dollar budget
- It was announced this spring that Leah Zilich will be joining the district as Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services
- Four faculty members were awarded tenure: Special Education Teacher Vanessa Davis, Elementary Teacher Maia Hood, Math Teacher Firoza Rahman and Special Education Teacher Anthony Gentile

Alexander Hamilton High School







- Dr. Jeffrey A. Capuano was named Interim Principal
- In March the AHHS Coding Club competed at Siena College and at Cornell Tech
- AHHS Drama performed "Mean Girls, Jr."
- Several students from Alexander Hamilton High School worked with the non-profit group, IVECA, (Intercultural Virtual Exchange of Classroom Activities), presenting their project at the United Nations
- A select group of student were inducted into the National Honor Society
- Baseball player Justiin Acevedo was nominated as a LoHud Player of the Week
- Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball teams participated in the Section 1, Class B Playoffs Quarter-Finals
- Matteo Di Berto was named Valedictorian and Ailey Simon Salutatorian. Matteo will be attending Harvard and plans to study Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence , and Ailey is attending the New York School of Visual Arts where she plans to study 3D Animation
- Our Baseball Red Raiders were named League Champions
- In an annual tradition, several AHHS alum returned to talk to juniors and seniors about their college experience






Alice E. Grady Elementary School







- Ashley Cruz was named Assistant Principal at Grady and Dixson, serving part of this school year as Interim Princpal at the Carl L. Dixson Primary School
- This spring the school hosted its first "Poetry Slam," enabling students to write original works and recite them at a special assembly
- In March, the Grady Drama Club presented "Finding Nemo, Jr."
- The Honorable Rosalie Tanis, Elmsford's Village Judge, swore in the newest leaders of the Grady Student Council at a special ceremony at Village Hall
- A select group of student were inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society
- Established a relationship with First Green and the fourth graders attended an outdoor exploratory learning program hosted at The Knollwood Country Club
- SRO Chris Bujarski hosted a Substance Awareness Assembly
- Families enjoyed the Grady Family Reading Celebration, they were invited in to select books, play games and kick off the Summer Reading Challenge







Carl L. Dixson Primary School







- It was announced that Deborah Earle will be joining Dixson as the new Principal at the start of the 2025-2026 school year
- "Applepalooza" was a big hit, as Dixson students enjoyed activities involving math
- Dixson students sang at the November Board of Education meeting in appreciation for the work the board does
- Field trips returned to Dixson this year as our intrepid Kindergartners visited the Greenburgh Nature Center and our First graders had fun at the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium
- Dixson celebrated families and special friends with their annual Muffins for Mom in May and Donuts for Dads in June
- The Dixson Drama Club presented "Amazing Animals"
- Several parents, friends and community partners joined the Dixson staff for Career Day
- The "Cozy Up and Read" event was a successful night of reading, where families visited the school to hear a story and select a book to take home







GRADY WORDS AND READING

In a first of its kind, Grady Elementary students enjoyed a Poetry Slam, with several students from each grade level sharing original work in the “This is Our Voice: A Celebration Through Poetry” event.
Supported by their peers, one by one students came up as individuals, or in groups, and shared their work, and were rewarded with cheers from their classmates.

Click here to read more







Let’s Read!
Grady hosted a special night of reading. Students and families stopped in to select books, read, and enjoy some games with one another and staff!











Oh what a night! Students, along with family and friends, arrived at AHHS this afternoon to take photos before heading off to dinner and dancing at the Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club! Several arrived in some cool rides to the excited cheers of their friends!



















GRADUATION AND MOVING UP CEREMONIES

Congratulations to the AHHS Class of 2025! Read more about their special celebtation here!






Sixth grders were recognized during a warm Moving Up Ceremony. Now on to the next thing! Read more here.







Dixson first graders are ready to soar into second grade! Read more here.







RAIDER REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



Outstanding Performer Awards – 2024–2025
Congratulations to all our student athletes!

Roberto Guaillas – Boys Varsity Soccer
All-Section, leading scorer, amassing 10 goals and 6 assists on the season.

Dayana Gonzalez – Girls Varsity Soccer
Found the back of the net herself with a goal this season!

William Burch – Varsity Football
Top-tier punter and punt returner in our league.

Leonardo Rosas – Cross Country
All-League, and next year he'll be continuing his running career at the Division II level at St. Thomas Aquinas College, competing in both Cross Country and Track & Field.

Ashley Robinson – Varsity Volleyball
Ashley is the kind of player every coach wants — eager to learn, open to feedback, and always striving to improve.

Joel Dalmasi – Boys Varsity Basketball
Joel served as our senior captain, lead the team to a five-game win streak, selected All-League. B

Seniyah Nichols & Kiara Surrell – Girls Varsity Basketball
Seniyah Nichols, in her second season as a varsity starter, led the team in scoring with an impressive 15.9 points per game, along with 3.7 rebounds and 4.0 steals each night. She was selected All-League.

Kiara Surrell, who had a remarkable breakout year in her very first varsity season. As an eighth grader, Kiara stepped into a starting role and averaged 14.9 points, 8.7 rebounds, and 2.4 steals per game. She was also selected All-League.

Angel Hidalgo – Winter Track
Top performers in all of Section 1. At the League 3C Championships brought home two Gold Medals, winning both the 55m Hurdles and the Triple Jump.

Isabella Torres – Winter Track
As a sophomore emerged as one of Section 1's top young sprinters. At the Section 1 League 3C Championships, she ran her best 55m of the season, earning 2nd place and All-League Honorable Mention honors. She followed that up with a 4th-place finish at the Class C Championships. In the 300m.

Justin Acevedo – Varsity Baseball
Justin was absolutely dominant at times this past spring, helping lead the Red Raiders to their first-ever League Championship in program history. In 43.1 innings pitched, only 12 batters managed a hit off him, while 91 went down on strikes. He finished the year with an incredible 1.45 ERA and a jaw-dropping .080 batting average against. Selected by league coaches as this year's All-League Pitcher of the Year.

Gabrielle Harper – Varsity Softball
Brie was a force on the field all season long — pitching in nearly every game and delivering results every time she stepped into the batter's box. She led the team in every major offensive category, including a .618 batting average, 34 hits, 25 runs scored, and 27 RBIs. For her outstanding performance this season, she was also named All-League.

Angel Hidalgo – Spring Track
After earning All-League honors in both the 55m Hurdles and Triple Jump during the winter, Angel kept the momentum going, he added a 4x400m Relay title to his growing list of accomplishments. Competing in the Rye Pentathlete Meet for the very first time, Angel finished 2nd overall. He and the 4x400m Relay team competed in the NYSPHSAA State Championship.

Isabelle Dowd – Spring Track
One of her standout moments came at the League Championship Meet, where she helped the 4x100m Relay team bring home a bronze medal.

ELMSFORD PTSA
COACH OF THE YEAR
JEFF HOPPER

Once A Red Raider, Always A Red Raider

"A Truly Great Coach Is...Hard To Find...Difficult To Part With...And Impossible To Forget!"



Presented To:

Coach James Aiello

In Appreciation For Your Dedicated Service
To The Student-Athletes Of
Alexander Hamilton Jr./Sr. High School

You Will Be Missed!

Elmsford UFSD

Section 1 Sportsmanship Award Recipients

Recognizing student-athletes who exemplify integrity, fairness, and leadership on and off the field.



SECTION 1 NYSPHSAA SECTION 1 INSIDEOUT INITIATIVE

The Section One Sportsmanship Committee certifies that
The following student-athletes have been recognized as a member of the

Section One Athletics

All Sportsmanship Team

Alexander Hamilton High School

Andrew Graves, Soccer	Edwin Gonzalez, Baseball	Carlos Deleon, Cross Country	Jenell Aboagye, Softball	Jessica Quechol, Soccer
Matthew Elike, Football	Caleb Nabors, Basketball	**2024-2025**	Gabrielle Harper, Basketball	Gabrielle Harper, Volleyball
Edwin Gonzalez, Winter Track	Samuel De Paz, Spring Track	Ashley Leano, Cross Country	Amirah Nichols, Spring Track	Dayana Gonzalez, Winter Track

Robert D. Pollok, Director of Athletics — *Dr. Jeffery Capuano*, Principal — *Todd Santabarbara*, Section One Executive Director

XAVIER TULA
COMMITTED
ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY
SWIMMING & DIVING

ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY WORCESTER MA · 1904

LEONARDO ROSAS
COMMITTED
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE
CROSS COUNTRY & TRACK

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

CALEB NABORS
COMMITTED
SUNY WESTCHESTER
BASKETBALL

DIXSON DONUTS FOR DADS

Dixson hosted a special gathering for the Dads, Grandfathers and great friends in honor of the holiday! What fun to spend time with a special person.



















UPCOMING EVENTS

July 8, Board of Education Reorganization Meeting, 7 p.m.