MAY 2025

SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Elmsford Community,

Thank you for your resounding support of the 2025–2026 school budget.

Your affirmative vote is not only a testament to your confidence in our district's leadership but also a meaningful endorsement of our collective vision for educational excellence. I am filled with optimism for the opportunities the coming school year will bring to our students, staff, and families.

I am equally grateful to those who attended my recent Coffee and Conversation event. It was a pleasure to engage in a relaxed yet thoughtful dialogue with members of our community. Your insights, ideas for the district's future, and suggestions for fostering greater inclusivity were deeply appreciated and will help shape our path forward.

I look forward to hosting many more such gatherings in the future.

Later that evening, we were treated to an inspiring musical performance by the Grady Chorus and Band, the high school Chorus and Band, and the Middle School Band. My heartfelt thanks to our outstanding music educators—Christopher Funke, Michael Webb, Dawn Brown, and Jaymie Giordano—for their dedication to nurturing the artistic talents of our students.

The Milton A. Williams, Jr. District Concert remains a cherished tradition, honoring a beloved educator and celebrating the vibrant musical spirit of our district.

Over the past few months, I've had the pleasure of immersing myself in the life of the Elmsford community—celebrating student achievement, fostering connections, and enjoying the vibrant events that define our district.

As we approach the final stretch of the school year, I am confident the weeks ahead will continue to be filled with meaningful learning experiences, community engagement, and joyful celebration.

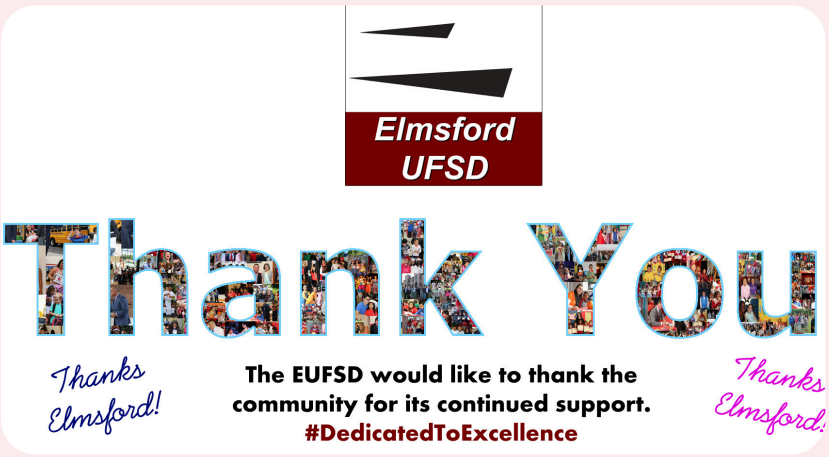
Warm regards,
Susan Yom
Superintendent of Schools



JUNETEENTH

A special reminder to our families! District Offices and Schools will be closed Thursday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth.

Stay safe and enjoy!



On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, the community approved a $47.2 million spending plan for the 2025-2026 school year. Board Trustees, Rita Azrelyant and incumbent David Hecht were selected for the Board of Education.

SPOTLIGHT:
DISTRICT CELEBRATES NEWLY TENURED TEACHERS



There were smiles all around at the May 7 Board of Education meeting when 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 were honored for their commitment to their community and students during a special ceremony.

Click here to read more



Deborah Earle



Leah Zilich

District welcomes two new administrators

When school begins for the 2025-2026 year, the district will have some new faces as it welcomes two new administrators to its staff.

Joining the district will be Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services Leah Zilich and a new principal at Carl L. Dixson Primary School, Deborah Earle. The two were introduced to the community at the May 7 Board of Education meeting.

“I am honored and humbled to be serving the community of Elmsford,” Ms. Zilich said when introduced. “From start to finish, ending with an interview with the Board, I feel Elmsford has a ton of heart.”

Ms. Zilich currently serves as District Coordinator of Special Education and Student Supports in the Greenwich Public Schools and prior to that served as an Assistant Principal at Southern Westchester BOCES.

Ms. Earle also addressed those in attendance.

“I am so, so happy to be a part of Elmsford,” she said. “The minute I walked into the school, it was so welcoming. I am so excited to be the leader of a school of younger learners.”

Ms. Earle began her career as an elementary teacher in the Garrison Union Free School District and most recently served as the Director/Teacher of the Universal Pre-K program in the school district.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION: SHARING IDEAS

With each word of welcome, Superintendent Susan Yom invited guest to grab some coffee, and some cookies and find a comfortable seat.

As they settled into chairs in the library at Alexander Hamilton High School, Ms. Yom said she wanted this evening to be a casual chat among herself and those in attendance, as if they were all sitting comfortably in a living room.

It was an opportunity, she said, to share their thoughts and ask questions about the district and their child's future.

Parents and guests asked about transportation to the UPK program, plans for improving literacy scores among students, after school opportunities for all students and more.

Ms. Yom informed those in attendance that UPK transportation would require additional funding from the NYS Education Department. As for literacy scores, she said the next school year would focus on literacy across K-12.

AHHS Interim Principal Jeffrey Capuano addressed after school opportunities at the high school. He noted that in addition to athletics, there are clubs that are available, and said that if there is a strong interest among students to form a club relating to a specific topic, he is open to that, citing the recent development of a Coding Club, which was created due to student interest. The high school, he said, also has a TLC program before school begins in the morning.

"If kids are engaged, they are going to have a stronger connection to school," he said, adding the high school has added several new courses for the next school year, many of which were based on student interest.





"I use the power of yet," Ms. Yom said, adding that AHHS students are growing an interest in Robotics, which she hopes to see expanded, and possibly include a robotics team that would enter competitions.

Currently, she is interested in engaging student interest, at all levels, identifying staff to support those interests and planting the seeds for programs that will grow and develop.



SPOTLIGHT
NEHS INDUCTION CEREMONY

A new group of exceptional fifth and sixth grade students from the Alice E. Grady Elementary School were recently inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society during a special ceremony.

"I must say my heart is full," fifth grade teacher and NEHS advisor Christine Budzynski said in her opening remarks to the family and friends in the audience. "When I told the students they were to be inducted, I was met with smiles from ear to ear, screams, congratulatory remarks and hugs. They truly deserve this."

Being inducted into this unique society is impressive, Ms. Budzynski continued, acknowledging the amount of dedication and commitment it takes on the part of the students.

"It is my honor to provide them with opportunities to flourish and grow as leaders and individuals who take pride in their work, leaders of tomorrow and tonight we celebrate that accomplishment," she said.

Students are selected for the honor not only for their high academic standing, but also because they exemplify the four principles of the NEHS, scholarship, responsibility, service and leadership.

During the ceremony, selected inductees shared with the audience what each principle meant as a candle was lit to represent them.

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

Each inductee received a certificate and a pin representing their memberships in the organization.

"We are so proud of you," Grady Principal Dr. Andrea Hamilton said. "This is only the beginning."

"It is my honor to provide them with opportunities to flourish and grow as leaders and individuals who take pride in their work, leaders of tomorrow and tonight we celebrate that accomplishment."
Christine Budzynski, NEHS Advisor







MILTON A. WILLIAMS, JR. DISTRICT CONCERT

On May 13, the community gathered for a nigh of music1 They were entertained by the Grady Choir, led by Christopher Funke, the Grady Band, conducted by Michael Webb, The AHHS Choir conducted by Dawn Brown and both the AHHS Band and AHHS Junior High Band, led by Jaymie Giordano.

















MUFFINS FOR MOMS

Thank you to all the Moms, Grandmothers and Special Friends who visited Dixson for the Annual "Muffins for Moms!" Our annual breakfast gathering recognizes all these amazing caregivers as we wish them a "Happy Mother's Day!" Everyone got to enjoy a treat and were given a specially made gift!





CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

May is Asian-American Pacific Islander month! Students and staff at Grady enjoyed a special assembly by the Indian Dance troupe Ajna Dance!

At AHHS, students not only shared their talent, but their pride as well in an assembly that spanned the globe from Asia to the Caribbean to the Middle East!

















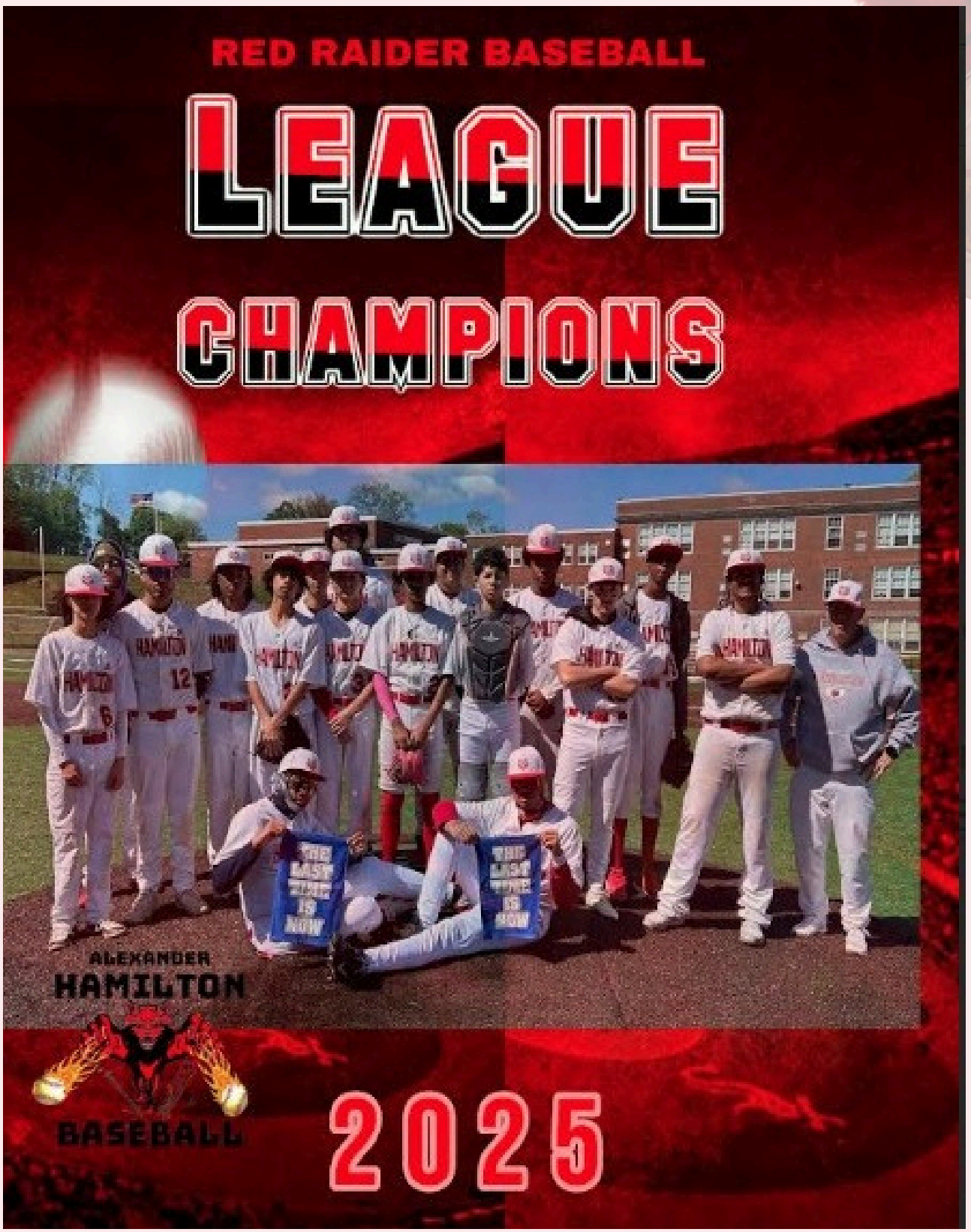





DIXSON CAREER DAY

Thank you to the parents and friends who visited Dixson for Career Day! Students were able to learn about a variety of careers, including equipment mechanics, actuaries, carpenters, nurse practitioners, industrial engineers, therapists, police offers, fire fighters and more! Students also had fun dressing up as their future selves, learning about the tools and equipment certain jobs use and had a close-up look at a police cruiser and fire truck!

Let's go Raiders!



Congratulations to our very own Mr. Hopper and the AHHS Baseball Team on bringing home the League Championship!

June 11, Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., AHHS Auditorium

June 13, Dixson Donuts for Dads, 8:30 a.m.

June 16, AHHS, Last Day of Classes

June 19, Juneteenth, District Offices and Schools Closed

June 24, Grady Moving-Up, 9:30 a.m.

June 25-27, Half-Day for Students

June 25, First Grade Moving-Up Ceremony, 9:30 a.m.

June 26, AHHS Graduation, 5 p.m. at AHHS (raindate June 27)

June 27, Last Day of School

GRADY SHARING DAY

Grady students recently took turns sharing special projects they have worked on with parents and friends by displaying their work and discussing what they had done.









