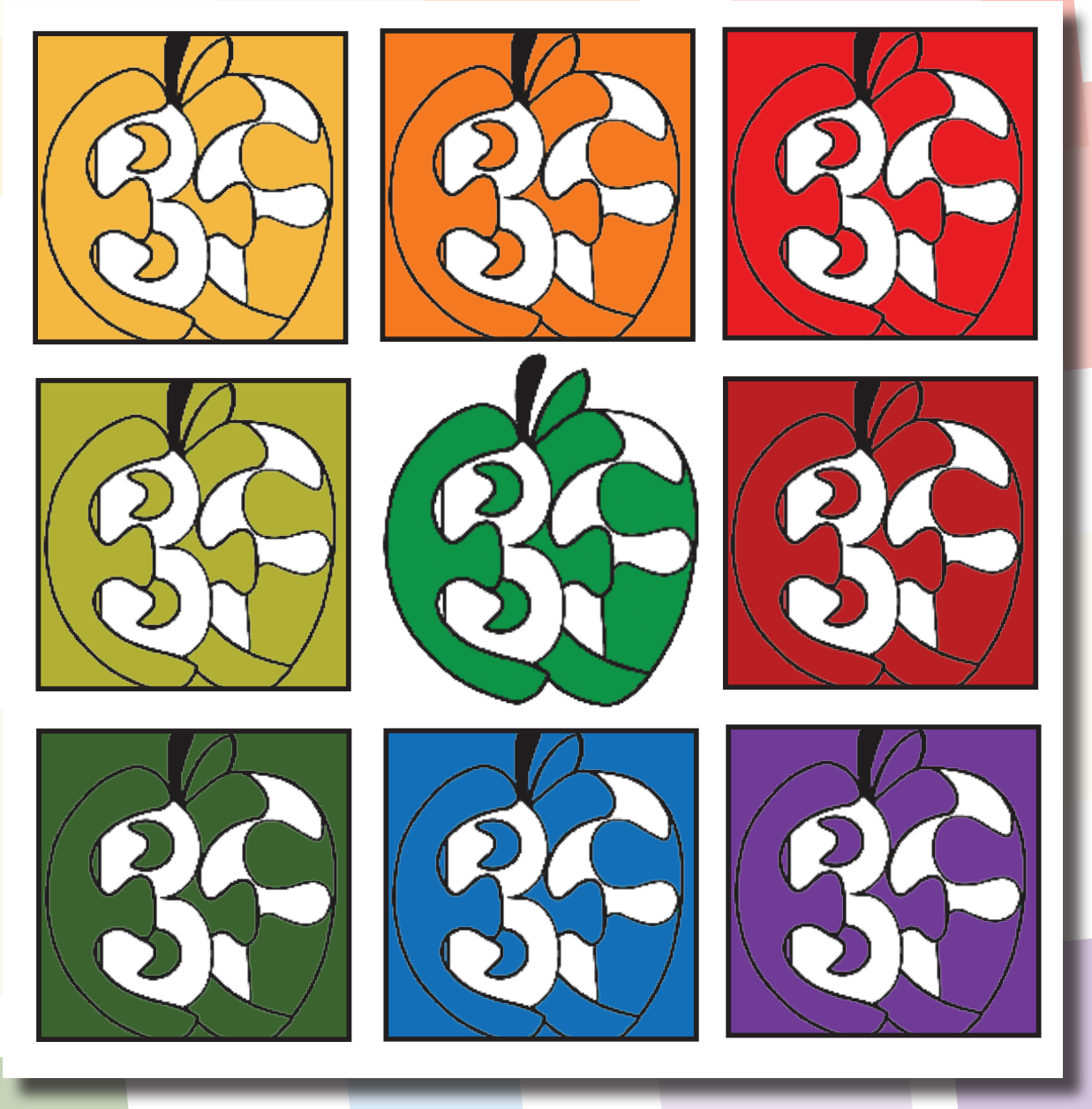
31st Annual

East Brunswick Education Foundation

Partner in Excellence Award Dinner



April 30, 2025

Honoring

Jessica DiBenedetti • Lisa Ruggiero

Elizabeth Stankiewicz • Austin C. Kosik, Jr.

Inducting

Michael Seibel • Zack Morrison

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Northfield Bank is proud to support the East Brunswick Education Foundation

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East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Partner in Excellence Award Dinner

Welcome	**Randy Gagnon, President** East Brunswick Education Foundation
Partner in Excellence Award Presentation	**Randy Gagnon, President** East Brunswick Education Foundation
Acceptance of Award	**Lisa Ruggiero**
Partner in Excellence Award Presentation	**Randy Gagnon, President** East Brunswick Education Foundation
Acceptance of Award	**Elizabeth Stankiewicz**
Remarks	**Dr. Edward Bucior** East Brunswick High School
Remarks	**Brooklyn Kienle & Tasneem Basrai, Co-Presidents** **Elizabeth Kenny-Stein, Liaison** East Brunswick Education Foundation Student Association
Alumni Hall of Fame Induction	**Randy Gagnon, President** East Brunswick Education Foundation
Acceptance	**Michael Seibel**
Alumni Hall of Fame Induction	**Randy Gagnon, President** East Brunswick Education Foundation
Acceptance	**Zack Morrison**
Remarks	**Heather Guas, 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

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Partner in Excellence Award Dinner

Resolutions	**Senator Patrick Diegnan, Assemblyman Rob Karabinchak and Assemblyman Sterley Stanley** The 18th District
Partner in Excellence Award Presentation	**Randy Gagnon, President** East Brunswick Education Foundation
Acceptance of Award	**Jessica DiBenedetti**
Partner in Excellence Award Presentation	**Randy Gagnon, President** East Brunswick Education Foundation
Acceptance of Award	**Austin C. Kosik, Jr.**
Music By	**East Brunswick High School Jazz Ensemble** Conducted by Brian Toth
Flowers By	**Christy's Florist**

2025 Partner in Excellence

Jessica DiBenedetti



Jessica has been an invaluable and dedicated member of the East Brunswick Public School community for the past 15 years. Her journey began as a 6th and 7th grade science teacher at Hammarskjold Middle School, where she spent six years nurturing the curiosity and critical thinking skills of her students. It was during these early years that Jessica developed a profound appreciation for the power of science education, and her passion for inspiring young minds to explore the wonders of the natural world began to flourish. Her commitment to creating engaging and thought-provoking lessons left a lasting impact on her students, sparking their interest in science and encouraging them to approach the subject with enthusiasm and curiosity.

In 2016, Jessica transitioned to Churchill Junior High School, where she assumed the role of special education science teacher. This position allowed her to expand her professional horizons and deepen her commitment to inclusivity in education. In this role, Jessica worked tirelessly to ensure that all students, regardless of their backgrounds, learning styles, or abilities, had access to meaningful and enriching science education. She took pride in creating a supportive learning environment where every student could thrive, and her dedication to providing differentiated instruction helped all students reach their full potential. Through this experience, Jessica further honed her ability to adapt lessons to meet the diverse needs of her students, all while fostering a love for science.

In 2018, Jessica was honored to step into the role of Science Department Chairperson for grades 8-12, where she began collaborating with a dynamic group of educators at both East Brunswick High School and Churchill Junior High School. As a leader, Jessica worked alongside her colleagues to enrich and elevate the science curriculum, ensuring it remained engaging, up-to-date, and relevant to the needs of the students they served. She fostered a collaborative spirit among the teachers, encouraging them to share best practices, develop new strategies, and support each other in their shared mission of providing a high-quality science education to all students. Her leadership was instrumental in fostering a positive and collaborative atmosphere within the department, and she was widely respected for her thoughtful guidance and unwavering commitment to student success.

In 2023, Jessica embraced a new challenge by assuming the role of Science Supervisor for grades 7-12. In this capacity, she continues to advocate for high-quality science education and plays a pivotal role in shaping the overall direction of the science curriculum across these grade levels. Her leadership ensures that science instruction remains rigorous, relevant, and accessible to all students. Jessica's commitment to professional development, curriculum innovation, and fostering a love of learning is evident in everything she does. She works tirelessly to ensure that science education remains a central focus of the school community and that students continue to benefit from a rich, well-rounded science curriculum.

Jessica's involvement with the East Brunswick Education Foundation (EBEF) has also played a significant role in her professional journey. Through her work with the foundation, she has witnessed firsthand the transformative impact that grants can have on education. As both a recipient of grants and a supporter of science teachers throughout the grant process, Jessica finds it incredibly fulfilling to see how these grants evolve from initial ideas into dynamic and enriching activities that enhance student learning. She understands the profound impact that innovative science programs can have on student engagement and is dedicated to supporting these initiatives. The EBEF plays a crucial role in helping the science department innovate and create memorable, hands-on science experiences for students, further igniting their curiosity and passion for the sciences. Jessica's dedication to the foundation and its mission exemplifies her commitment to advancing science education in meaningful and impactful ways.

Throughout her career, Jessica has consistently demonstrated a deep passion for science education, a commitment to inclusivity, and an unwavering dedication to the success of her students. Her journey from classroom teacher to science supervisor is a testament to her tireless efforts to foster an environment where students not only succeed academically but also develop a lifelong love of science.

2025 Partner in Excellence

Lisa Ruggiero



Lisa Ruggiero grew up in Old Bridge, New Jersey with her parents, Bart and Carolyn and two sisters, Danielle and Tracey. She attended Memorial School through second grade and St. Joseph's in Keyport for grades three through eight. She is a graduate of St. John Vianney High School, Johnson and Wales University, and Monmouth University. She is the proud mom of Michael, Matthew and daughter-in-law Sarah and is blessed to be Cameron's Gigi. Spending time with her family, cooking and baking for them brings Lisa great joy! Lisa also enjoys spending time with her friends, and spends her free time at the beach, taking walks with her dogs Bailey and Duke, and loves to travel.

Lisa began her teaching career at Warnsdorfer in September of 2003 after spending many years working in her family business and staying at home with her young sons. During her years at Warnsdorfer, Lisa taught third, fourth and fifth grades and loved being a member of the Warndorfer community and cherishes the memories and friendships that were formed there. When the fifth grade was relocated to Hammarskjold, Lisa made the move to the new building to continue teaching fifth grade. Lisa is happy to be a member of the wonderful staff at HUES where she is currently teaching 6th grade.

While at Warnsdorfer, Lisa became familiar with the East Brunswick Education Foundation and began attending meetings. It was easy to see what a wonderful organization EBEF is, and Lisa began serving as a teacher liaison for Warnsdorfer and volunteering to sell Apples for Education at Back to School Nights. This led to participating in various roles at a variety of other events that have been held over the years.

The Barnes and Noble Bookfair was an event that needed a new chairperson and through some coercion, Lisa was able to convince friend and colleague, Susan Mizerak that this could be the event for the duo. The foundation aways sponsors a craft for the children, a raffle for the teachers who attend, student raffles, cupcake decorating and more! Each school hosts an hour during the bookfair, and plans wonderful activities for their students. Lisa is grateful to all the teachers, students, and the community who come out and support this great event!

Lisa also enjoys being a member of the Grants Committee, the Grants Purchasing Chairperson and has served as a Teacher Liaison for HUES and Warnsdorfer. Lisa continues to enjoy volunteering for the foundation supporting the mission of enhancing and enriching the curriculum of East Brunswick Public Schools.

Lisa is honored to be recognized as an EBEF Partner in Excellence and is proud to share this night with fellow honorees, Elizabeth Stankiewicz, Jessica DiBenedetti, Austin Kosik, and Hall of Fame Inductees Zach Morrison and Michael Siebel.

2025 Partner in Excellence

Elizabeth Stankiewicz



Liz Stankiewicz is humbled to be receiving this honor from the East Brunswick Education Foundation. Born and raised in a family deeply rooted in educational values, Liz's journey began under the guidance of her mother, the late Dr. Jo Ann Magistro and her father, Hank Stankiewicz, one of several trailblazers who helped organize and start the foundation in 1993.

An East Brunswick High School graduate inspired by their vision to enhance educational opportunities for all students, Liz grew up witnessing firsthand the positive impact that dedicated funding could have on a school community. This early exposure awarded by her incredible and dedicated parents ignited her passion for education and advocacy, ultimately shaping her career trajectory.

After earning her degree in Elementary Education from Monmouth University, Liz began her teaching career in the district, where she quickly became known for her engaging teaching style and genuine care for her students. As a classroom teacher, she recognized the challenges many students faced beyond academics, which led her to pursue further education in counseling, earning her Masters in School Counseling from Seton Hall University. It was then that Liz transitioned into her current role, where she could address the holistic needs of her students. With an unwavering commitment to the mental and emotional well-being of her students, Liz's career reflects her belief in the transformative power of education and support.

Throughout her career, Liz has maintained a strong connection to the EBEF that her father helped establish. Utilizing her unique insight into the foundation's mission and operations, she has been instrumental in securing an abundance of grant funding for the various needs of her students, including "Colorful Coping During Covid," a grant that afforded her the materials and resources to deliver to students who were stuck home during the pandemic. She drove door to door with coloring books, planners, guided journals, and other self-care materials to ensure her students took care of their mental health during unprecedented times. When Liz recognizes a gap in a demographic of students' learning, she has been known to seek the support of the EBEF so diverse needs can be met.

Some of her other notable grants awarded her students with materials that range from flexible seating or 21st century interactive tools for neurodivergent students such as "QBalls for Student Engagement," "Making our Mark with a Dry Erase Table," "iLearn with iPevo," and "Tangible Play with Osmo," which she recently donated to a self-contained classroom at Churchill Junior High School. "Meaningful Play for MLLs" awarded board games that can help students in our ESL programs thrive socially, regardless of their native language. "Grounding Kits for Kids," offered mindfulness and calming materials for students to create grab-and-go kits to self-regulate and de-escalate in stressful situations. For the funding of these materials, Liz has been incredibly grateful to the EBEF's generosity.

Through her dedication, compassion, and advocacy, Liz stands as a pillar of support and inspiration in the district, embodying the values of education and community service that her father championed. Her journey from teacher to counselor is a testament to uplifting others and making a lasting impact on the lives of students.

2025 Partner in Excellence

Austin C. Kosik, Jr.



Austin C. Kosik, Jr., Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) has worked for the Township of East Brunswick for 41 years as the Emergency Management, Communications System and 9-1-1 Coordinator. He is responsible for the introduction of many public safety initiatives, including the Special Needs Registry and Mass Calling Notification System.

Austin Kosik received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Seton Hall University. In 1995 he was designated a CEM. During his tenure with the Township, he has managed eighteen (18) Presidential Disaster Declarations, including the response to the September 11, 2011, attacks and to Hurricane's Katrina and Sandy.

In 1997 Austin was appointed to the East Brunswick Board of Education's first Safety and Security Task Force and tasked with co-authoring their first Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). East Brunswick Public Schools had 10,357 staff and students occupying the eleven (11) schools and two (2) administration buildings. Emergency management planning was a new concept for the educational community, and the purpose of the plan was to provide guidelines to be used by the superintendent, school principal, faculty, and staff, as well as other township agencies, for preparing and then dealing with crises that might occur within or otherwise affect the school community. An all hazard planning approach was used in creating the document, from the mindset of crisis management as well as consequence management. A challenge while writing the plan was the newness of emergency planning to the school district and how to introduce a CEMP. Obtaining "buy-in" from the educators was paramount to make the plan successful.

The Board of Education unanimously approved the CEMP and since its inception East Brunswick's plan has proudly been used as a template for other school districts throughout New Jersey. An example of the plan's success is since its launch monthly drills exercising active shooter, evacuation, bomb scare, shelter in place and fire plans are conducted at which Austin maintains an active role.

In 2008 the CEMP was in the spotlight servicing as a "play book" as the school district suffered from the fire at Memorial School. In 2009 Austin was the principal planner for the H1N1 vaccination program to prevent Swine Flu within the school district. In 2013 he was the recipient of the first annual Middlesex County Education Association Friend of Public Education Award. Austin has authored and published writings in the Emergency Management field and served on numerous planning and technical committees.

Austin maintains a standing in the community that has a connection to the school district by volunteering with the Daisy Association. The Daisy Association, a major support group for Special Needs Programs offered by the East Brunswick Department of Recreation, Parks, and Community Services, benefits from Austin's indefatigable volunteerism. Austin chairs and fundraises on behalf of their annual Ralph & Norma Lamo Daisy Breakfast campaign. Daisy Association assistance includes programming advice, evening program funding, providing activity admission fees, and scholarships in which many participants are students at East Brunswick Public Schools. The breakfast had its 40th. anniversary on March 16th.

Austin's biography would be incomplete if the East Brunswick Education Foundation failed to state that he is a Life Member of the Spotswood Volunteer Fire Department and Old Bridge Volunteer Fire Company.

Austin answers the call to love God, neighbor and creation and works to reduce injustice and suffering facing the poor and vulnerable.

Alumni Hall of Fame

Michael Seibel



Michael Seibel has lived and worked in the Bay Area since 2006. Currently, Michael works at Y Combinator as a partner and leads the accelerator at YC from 2016 - 2024. He also serves on the board of two YC companies, Reddit and Dropbox.

Previously, Michael was a co-founder and CEO of two Y Combinator startups Justin.tv/Twitch (2007 - 2011) and Socialcam (2011 - 2012). In 2012 Socialcam sold to Autodesk Inc. and in 2014, under the leadership of Emmett Shear (CEO) and Kevin Lin (COO) Twitch sold to Amazon.

Before getting into tech, Michael spent 2006 as the finance director for a US Senate campaign in Maryland. In 2005, Michael graduated from Yale University with a bachelor's degree in political science. Today Michael spends the large majority of his free time cooking, reading, traveling, and going for long drives. Michael currently lives in San Francisco, CA with his amazing wife Sarah, son Jonathan, and daughter Jessica.

For fun, Michael tries to maintain two additional sites: CooksLarder.com which features his favorite ingredients and recipes, and JonathansApps.com which features his favorite iOS apps for kids.

Alumni Hall of Fame

Zack Morrison



Zack Morrison is a comedy writer and filmmaker, and an East Brunswick High School class of 2010 alumnus. He is the writer-director and co-composer of the Emmy-winning musical, Everything's Fine: A Panic Attack in D Major, which follows the story of a new college graduate living in New York City as she battles anxiety and her quarter-life crisis through song. His television credits include working with the monologue teams of The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon and Late Night with Seth Meyers, and the script department at Saturday Night Live, The Kids Tonight Show, The Schoolhouse Rock 50th Anniversary Sing-Along, and various reality reunion specials with Andy Cohen.

Zack became interested in the arts at a young age, and credits East Brunswick (and his parents) with providing the environment needed to foster his creativity. He started playing the alto saxophone in 5th grade at Memorial School, and continued on with the tenor saxophone in the Hammarskjold and Churchill band, as well as the high school wind ensemble and, his favorite, the jazz band with Mr. Kish. Zack enjoyed a wide variety of arts courses, including Ms. Elson, Ms. Jager, and Mr. Davis's Theater classes, Mrs. Lopresti's Music Technology and Composition class, Mr. Novak's Airbrush class, and of course—Mr. Giambrone's Video Production class. However, his largest influence was during senior year Humanities, where Zack wrote and directed his first scripted comedy short. For better or worse, he was hooked. Outside of arts classes, Zack embraced the chance, or sometimes invented excuses, to apply his video skills to other class projects, like producing music videos in Mrs. Korff's chemistry class and creating a movie trailer for the novel House of Leaves in lieu of a book report for Ms. Powers' American Lit class that got 70,000 views in the early days of YouTube. Zack is an Eagle Scout, a letterwinner in Boys' Volleyball, was voted 2010's Mr. EBHS, and enjoyed front row seats to the Football games every Friday (he sat the bench).

Currently, Zack lives in Los Angeles, where he works as a television writer, director, and digital producer. In 2022 he created and produced the independent sitcom, Canusa Street, which follows the misadventures of twin sisters who work on opposite sides of an absurd small town bisected by the US/Canada border. Zack and his team recently completed a two-year, award-winning film festival tour of the pilot episode and are currently shopping around the series. During the 2023 Writers Guild strike, Zack teamed up with other comedy writers from shows like The Late Show with Stephen Colbert and Last Week Tonight with John Oliver to produce a late night show with jokes about entertainment industry news and the negotiations. Zack regularly makes celebrity and comedic content for major digital outlets and publications, recently including Buzzfeed, Esquire Magazine, the NFL, and Cartoon Network. He still enjoys shooting music videos, and has directed projects for fellow EBHS alumni Kathleen Elle and longtime collaborator Bobby Mahoney. Zack teaches summer filmmaking and screenwriting courses at Montclair Film and his alma mater, Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, where as an undergraduate he helped form the curriculum for the Filmmaking BFA program. Zack has a Masters of Fine Art degree in Screenwriting and Directing from Columbia University School of the Arts in New York City, and is currently writing the screenplay for his upcoming feature film directorial debut: a comedy about a Protestant minister who becomes a standup comedian (partly inspired by his childhood memories at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Cranbury Road).

Zack wants to thank his parents Pat and Drew, and sisters Kelly and Gina for all their love and support (and tolerance of many a project taking over the house). 15 years later, Zack still has the music and lyrics to the EBHS Alma Mater and Fight Song stuck in his head. Go Bears!

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 over 1,700 grants totalling over $3.0 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

Jack Levitt ..... Immediate Past President
Randy Gagnon ..... President
Lindsay Dobrzynski ..... Vice President
Paul Schoen ..... Treasurer
Annemarie Krawet ..... Corresponding Secretary
Megan Fischer ..... Recording Secretary
Melvin L. Benjamin ..... Chairperson Emeritus

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Meredith Ascher
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Wendy Bishop
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Scott McBratney
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Jane Mueller
Lise Noppenberger
Jennifer Oranchuk
Rongsun Pu
Larry Reiss
Vikki Richardson
Lisa Ruggiero
Kim Ruoff
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Ellen Shur
Larry Solomon
Dr. Howard Sorkin
Hank Stankiewicz
Liz Kenny Stein
Dr. Steve Susskind
Jessica Teco, *PNC Bank*
Diana Toto
Raven Traverso
Dr. Victor Valeski
Joel Young
Monica Ye

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

Brooklyn Kienle	Co-President
Tasneem Basrai	Co-President
Keya Sheth	Vice President
Meera Patel	Vice President
Caitlin Kienle	Secretary
Aaron Furry	Treasurer
Alexandra Gershman	Public Relations
Panav Patel	Public Relations
Jessica Brown	Community Liaison

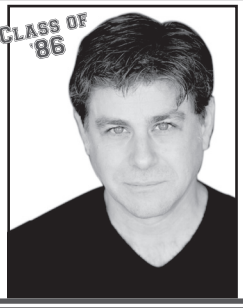
EBHS ADVISOR: Elizabeth Kenny-Stein
CJHS ADVISOR: Alexia DeLuca

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



- 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



- 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



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



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

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



- 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



- 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



- 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

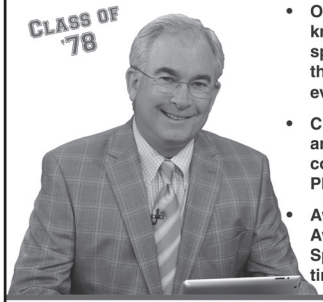
★ ★ ★ ALUMNI ★ ★ ★
HALL OF FAME



- 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

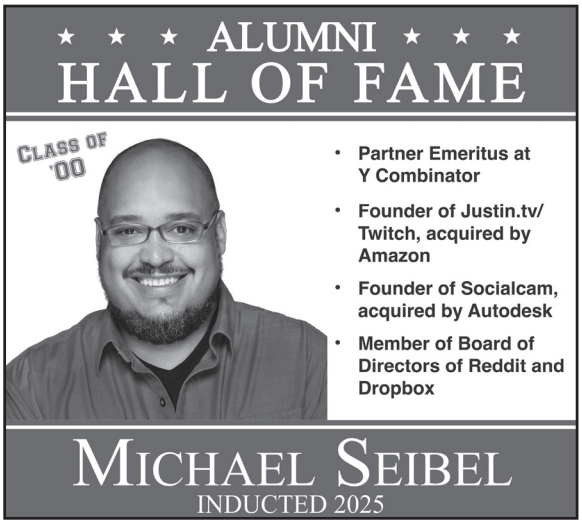


- One of Philadelphia's best known and most-respected sports media figures, covering the city's teams, athletes and events for over three decades
- Currently the host of Phillies' and Eagles' pre and postgame coverage on NBC Sports Philadelphia
- Awarded six Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards and named Pennsylania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

MICHAEL BARKANN
INDUCTED 2024

East Brunswick Education Foundation

Alumni Hall of Fame





East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Partner in Excellence/Hall of Fame

Co-Chairpersons

Mayor Brad Cohen

Alexia DeLuca

Vincent DiBenedetti

Randy Gagnon

Heather Gaus, *Board of Education*

Marisa Guagliardo, *Northfield Bank*

Jessica Loux

Laurel McCarty

Susan Mizerak

Paul Schoen

Ellen Shur

Ryan Siegel

Dr. Manjit Sran

Kelly Stalling

Hank Stankiewicz

Henry and Jenna Stankiewicz

Michael Thibodeau

Diana Toto

Dr. Victor Valeski, *Superintendent of Schools*

Jamie Wasserman, *PTA Presidents Council*

JoAnn Yonchiuk

Dr. Dana Zimbicki, *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
Danielle Blalock, Marilyn Edge, Dr. Arvin Gopal & Lindsay Schiappa Esq. - 2024

East Brunswick Education Foundation

Letter from the President

Dear Friends of the EBEF,

Welcome to the 31st Annual Partner in Excellence Dinner and Hall of Fame Induction. This year we embarked on a changing of the guard. I, along with my team, am looking forward to carrying on the exemplary record of the Foundation into the future.

We are 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 in 1993 and we are aiming high for the years to come. Tonight, we celebrate some incredible 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.

We had a successful EBEF Bear Crawl with well over 400 runners. Our annual Barnes and Noble Book Fair is a continued success. The Grants Committee was hard at work awarding dollars towards many programs enriching the programs offered to the children in the district. We embarked on a new partnership with the East Brunswick Symphony Orchestra this year. EBEF continued in its support of the Arts by co-sponsoring a Celebration of the Arts with East Brunswick Symphony Orchestra and the East Brunswick High School Chamber Orchestra.

The EBEF Student Association were hard at work adding to their membership and awarding grants. They never cease to amaze us with their creative fundraising events and unique ways to reach write grants to the student associations.

Tonight, we are honor some very worthy Partners in Excellence to the Foundation. Austin Kosik has faithfully served this community as a First Responder for 40 plus years ensuring the safety of all who reside in our district. Lisa Ruggiero is the Chair of the Barnes and Noble Book Fair, member of our Grants Committee, handles our grant purchasing, and so much more. Liz Stankiewicz is the third member of her family to become a Partner in Excellence. Having grown up in the district, she continues to be a pillar of support and inspiration in the community. Jessica DiBenedetti has partnered with the foundation as she helped shape our children's profound appreciation for the sciences in the district, both as a classroom teacher and administrator.

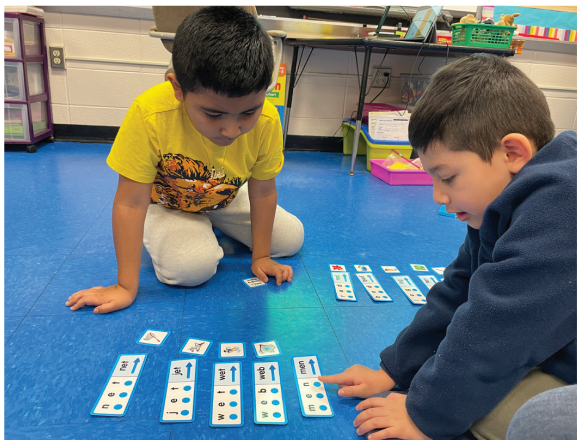
Our Class of 2025 inductees into the Alumni Hall of Fame are paramount in their fields and exemplify to graduates what is possible to our EBHS graduates. They are award winning writer and director, Zack Morrison, and tech startup guru Michael Seibel.

Please take a moment to congratulate all of our recipients and thank them for all the good they bring to others.

Thank you again for taking the time to join us this evening and for your continued support. "Gratitude is the fairest blossom which spring from the soul" ~ Henry Ward Beecher

Randy Gagnon
President

Grants in Action

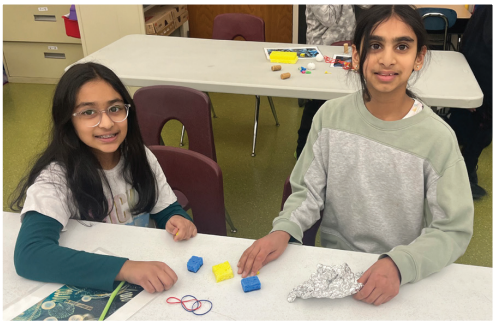




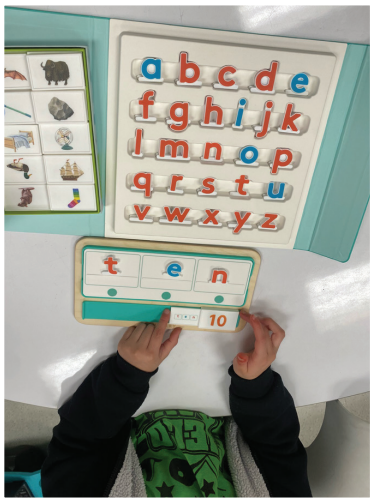
















Grants in Action



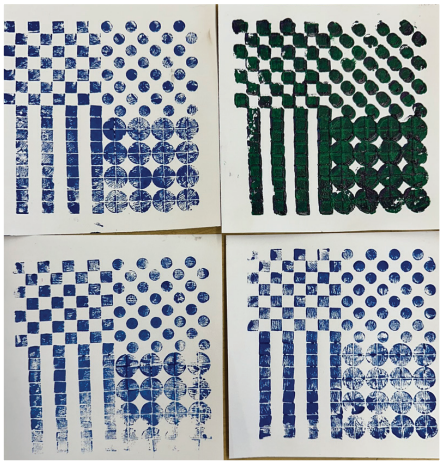


















Grants in Action







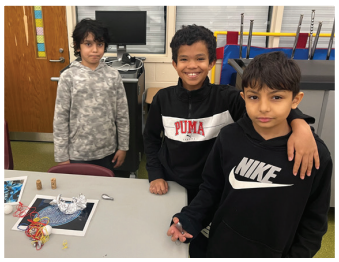








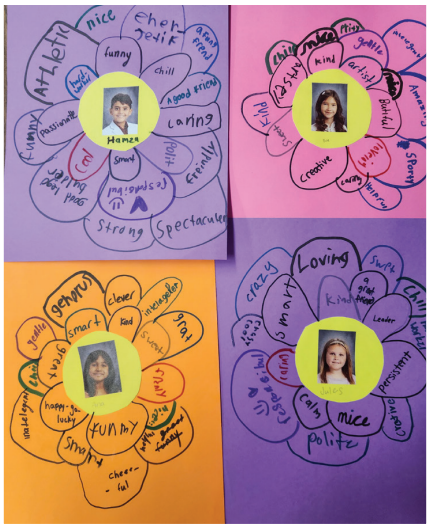




Grants in Action

















East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 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
Seniors enrolled in the *AP United States Government and Politics* course competed in the *New Jersey We the People Competition* where they earned the State Championship title and the opportunity to represent New Jersey at the national competition in Washington DC. This is the 37th out of a possible 38 times that the EBHS students have won this honor. EBEF funds will match those donated by supporters to defray the cost of the 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.

Chittick Elementary School - Against All Odds: The Unlikely Heroes of Friendship
Carole Frey and Kimberlee Deacon
Grant funds will be used to implement a One School, One Book program, a reading event in which the entire school community (students, parents, and all staff) come together to read one book. Students will read the book Gooseberry Park, by Cynthia Rylant with families at home and participate in learning activities based on the book at various times during the school day. In addition to providing students with an opportunity to enhance their reading skills, the *One School, One Book* event educates families on the benefits and importance of reading aloud at home. All books and resources will be passed on to another school in the district.

Irwin Elementary School - Art in the Sky
JoAnn Chmielowicz, Donna Swift, VickiMarie Wilkins, and Brooke Cerbone
The authors of this grant will bring students and staff together to complete a collaborative art project that will culminate with the creation of a mural representing this year's school theme at Irwin, "Painting the School with Creativity, Teamwork, Respect, Honesty and Acceptance." Several days of team building activities and special events will lead up to the formation of a gigantic-living-painting colored and shaped by the living forms of the participants. Cutting-edge technology and artistic techniques, including engaging with a drone, will be used to complete the mural that will be installed and maintained within the walls of Irwin School.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

Hammarskjold Upper Elementary School – Courtyard Concert
Kelly Perno
The PTA generously purchased new tables for the courtyard that allows seating for an entire class. The goal of this project is to continue to develop the courtyard into an outdoor instructional space. Through this grant, functional outdoor musical instruments will be added to the courtyard, the benefits of which will be felt throughout the curriculum. Engaging with musical instruments helps improve memory, attention, and problem-solving skills. It also enhances language and math capabilities by teaching students about rhythms, patterns, and sequences. Music, combined with being outdoors, can motivate and inspire students, help them to acquire personal skills, and a love for learning.

East Brunswick High School - DNA Discoveries: Empowering the Next Generation of Biologists
Jessica DiBenedetti and Christen Drescher
This grant will enhance the capabilities of students enrolled in AP Biology, molecular biology, and Waksman research programs by acquiring a microcentrifuge, an adapter for 0.2 ml tubes, and a set of high-quality micropipettes. These tools are essential for modern molecular biology experiments, enabling students to engage in advanced lab techniques such as DNA extraction, PCR (polymerase chain reaction), and protein analysis. This project will foster hands-on learning, deepen understanding of molecular processes, and prepare students for future scientific studies and careers.

Frost Elementary School – Enhancing First Grade Literacy Through Engaging Nonfiction Texts
Angie Ghaly and Hallie Meister
With grant funds, a variety of nonfiction text sets at varying reading levels will be purchased. The project will enhance the curriculum, specifically the nonfiction unit of study, by providing each student with five to six nonfiction texts that they can work with throughout the unit. First graders are naturally curious about the world around them. They love nonfiction and embrace every opportunity to expand their world knowledge. For early readers, the skills that they learn during units of study in nonfiction are the bridge between learning to read and reading to learn.

Warnsdorfer Elementary School - Music for Everyone: Adapting a Music Curriculum for Children with Autism
Dr. Renee Soccodato
Many students who are on the Autism spectrum do not participate in music class or chorus in the same way as their peers. This is due to a number of reasons, including but not limited to: increased sensitivity to sounds, obsessions with specific objects, and non-responsiveness to verbal cues. For many of these students music is a preferred activity, even providing a way for them to communicate their feelings. The goal of this project is to provide elementary music teachers with a variety of instruments to address special needs students appropriately, giving them the best educational music experience possible.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025Grant Recipients

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 High School – Outdoor Firing Event
Ashley Hanania
The goal of this grant is to update and add to the protective gear needed for the Ceramic Workshop class's annual "Outdoor Firing Event". This will allow more students to be actively involved in this unique learning experience. The EBEF is proud to have supported the first such event more than a decade ago.

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 – Precision and Process: Advancing Labs with Professional Tools
Jessica DiBenedetti and Daniel Pike
The goal of this grant is to transform the science curriculum at EBHS by providing students with the high-precision equipment that is foundational to accurate scientific experimentation. Funds will provide for the purchase of an analytical balance and a laboratory drying oven. Access to these tools will bridge the gap between classroom labs and real-world chemical analysis, creating a more rigorous, realistic hands-on learning environment for students.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 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" DeCarolis, 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 - 16th Annual Night of Jazz Concert
Michelle DaGrosa
The 16th Annual Night of Jazz featuring the *Big Beat Band* will take place on April 1, 2025 in the Jo Ann Magistro Performing Arts Center. In addition to the *Big Beat Band*, the evening will consist of performances by the HUES Jazz Band, the CJHS Jazz Ensembles, and the EBHS Jazz Ensemble. 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.

HOLLY HOWARD MEMORIAL GRANT

Memorial funds donated in Holly's honor will fund the replacement of the pond in the Frost Elementary School's courtyard and ensure the continuation of the Frost Courtyard Club by providing the money needed to purchase gardening tools and other associated supplies. Prior to serving on the Board of Education for over 20 years, Holly was extremely active in Frost's PTA and was instrumental in the creation of the garden that is the heart and soul of the Frost school community.

Frost Elementary School - Supporting Frost's Courtyard Club in Memory of Founder, Holly Howard
Jessica Saccenti, Alexandra Pisano, and Nyree Delgado
The goal of this grant is to allow the Frost PTA to be the custodian of the funds requested by the Courtyard Club on behalf of the EBEF. The funds will allow for the ongoing purchase of basic gardening supplies so that the students participating in the club can maintain the gardens.

Frost Elementary School - Frost Pond Project
Nyree Delgado, Jessica Saccenti, and Alexandra Pisano
The goal of this grant is to acquire requested funds from the EBEF to add to the generous donation provided by the Holly Howard Memorial fund. This will provide the fiscal resources to replace the Frost Elementary School Courtyard Pond. This project has been approved by the Board of Education's Buildings and Grounds Committee and will be managed by the Buildings and Grounds Department.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

NORTHFIELD BANK FOUNDATION GRANT

Funding of this grant has been made possible by the generosity of the Northfield Bank Foundation.

Bowne-Munro, Central, Chittick, Frost, Irwin, Lawrence Brook, Memorial, and Warnsdorfer Elementary Schools – Bringing Beginning Instrumental Music into the Digital Age
Adam Nuzzi, Michael D'Andrea, Zachary Carson, Christopher Beckett
Funding will allow for the acquisition of an iPad, Apple Pencil, and Apple TV device for the instrumental music rooms in all eight elementary schools. These tools will enhance the music education experience for elementary instrumental students by improving instructional methods, facilitating student engagement, and fostering creativity and collaboration in the classroom.

PNC BANK FOUNDATION GRANT

Funding of this grant has been made possible by the generosity of the PNC Bank Foundation.

Bowne-Munro, Central, Chittick, Frost, Irwin, Lawrence Brook, Memorial, and Warnsdorfer Elementary Schools, Hammarskjold Upper Elementary School Hammarskjold Upper Elementary School, Churchill Junior High School, East Brunswick High School - 9 Square in the Air
Erik Myer
Grant funds will provide each school will with a 9 Square in the Air set-up. This game can be used during various physical education units like Striking Skills, Volleyball, Teamwork/Team Building, and Project Adventure. Possible additional uses include during recess, special events like Family Fitness nights, or school wide theme days. Since the bundles are portable, they can be shared among schools should more than one make sense for a special activity. Adding 9 Square in the Air to the District's physical education programs across 11 schools will provide students with a unique, engaging activity that promotes physical, social, and emotional growth. This game combines elements of traditional playground activities with a structured, inclusive format that encourages teamwork, quick decision-making, and strategic thinking.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

BLUE RIBBON GRANTS

These grants are awarded annually, in the Fall, for grant requests between $2,500 and $7,500 for special projects or events of enduring value.

Central Elementary School – From Scribbles to Masterpiece
Angeliki Karakoglou
Funding will make possible the purchase of a personalized sketchbook for every student. Engaging students through the use of a sketchbook in the art room develops independent thinking and exploration of ideas and creativity. If we are to expect autonomous and innovative learners we must allow for individual expression, self-reflection, presentation, and the practice of technique.

Warnsdorfer Elementary School – Printmaking Exploration
Alanna Trainor
The grade 4 Printmaking Exploration unit emphasizes how different materials can convey ideas and emotions, thereby enriching students' artistic experiences. *Lego Dots Designer Toolkits* along with a variety of printing supplies will be purchased with grant funds to provide the means for the art-making process to become more approachable and enjoyable for students.

Warnsdorfer Elementary School – Dance for Autism
Dr. Renee Soccodato
The goal of this grant is to provide a dance program, with specialized classes and adaptive techniques, that will cater to the unique needs of individuals with autism. Funding will make it possible for a visiting artist to work with autistic students over the course of eight weeks during their regularly scheduled music classes. At the conclusion of this program, students will perform for their parents; parents will be invited to participate with their children.

Frost Elementary School – Music to Our Ears
Moriah Kam
Expanding students' expression and experience of music through *Orff* instruments is the goal of this grant. While all students will benefit from access to these instruments, the positive impact on those students who are sensory and sound motivated can be profound. Participating in song games and folk dances with these musical tools will provide students with opportunities to perform, create their own pattern of music, analyze performances, and discuss shared interests among their peers.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

EXCELLENCE GRANTS

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

Chittick Elementary School – Chittick Video Newsmakers Production Equipment
Carly Offin and Rachel Beck
The goal of this grant is to make it possible for students participating in Video Newsmakers Club to integrate older technologies with new ones. Digital cameras with cases, a green screen kit, an AV cart with a locked cabinet, and a chrome book will be purchased with grant funds. With these new tools, students in the Video Newsmakers Club will have the means to memorialize and share school news and events throughout their school community.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

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

Central Elementary School - Reviving Central Elementary's Garden: A Seed for Learning… In Partnership with the Ruth Pachtman Memorial Fund
Mike Gaskell, Erin Butler, and Nicole Gruber
The goal of this project is to revive the school garden, transforming it into a vibrant, hands-on learning environment for students. Grant funds will allow for the purchase of essential gardening supplies, such as: soil, seeds, plants, gardening tools, and educational materials. A team of teachers, excited about the opportunity to integrate the garden into their teaching, have committed to maintaining the garden.

Bowne-Munro Elementary School - Relax and Read in our School Garden... In Partnership with the Schlegel Family Memorial Fund
Kristin Gristina and Karyn Grant
What was once an operational school community garden has become overgrown and underused since the pandemic. For the first time, we have an existing Garden Club where 3rd and 4th grade students are meeting with staff to refurbish the garden and restore it to its former glory. Funding for this grant will provide for improved seating in the garden, making for a more inviting space for students. *A Little Free Library* will be added to house nonfiction books and student-made nonfiction materials without worry that the materials might be damaged by the elements. This lending library will be put together by the Garden Club, thus providing a hands-on experience for students to take part in when working to refresh the garden space.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

Bowne-Munro - Preserving Student Work and Educational Materials... In Partnership with the Schlegel Family Memorial Fund
Kristin Gristina
The goal of this grant is to create an outdoor learning garden utilizing a portion of funds donated by the Schlegel Family in memory of their mom, a former Bowne teacher. This grant will provide the funds needed to purchase a high-quality laminator that will be used to produce durable student-made books that will become part of the lending library in the outdoor garden space.

Chittick Elementary School – Chittick Special Needs... In Partnership with the Amy Fisher Memorial Fund
Kathryn Mannon
Grant funds will be used to purchase individual percussion kits, movement scarves, and wrist scrunchie ribbon streamers. Music making is a perfect fit for kids with special needs. It engages and appeals to many of their individual sensory strengths and weaknesses. Scarves and ribbons will be used to demonstrate student understanding of concepts, such as: fast and slow, soft and loud, etc. Students will be able express themselves through music and movement.

Central Elementary School - Purposeful Play... In Partnership with the Amy Fisher Memorial Fund
Allison Pimentel
Kindergarten students develop and learn through play. New furniture and people for an existing dollhouse and a train set will be purchased for students to use during creative playtime. As they play with their friends, students in this ICS classroom will develop language skills and learn how to share. They will have lots of opportunity to practice being patient problem solvers as they role play scenarios in a lower scaffolded environment.

Frost Elementary School - Art Club... In Partnership with the Amy Fisher Memorial Fund
Julia Komosinsky
This grant will provide the funds necessary to purchase the supplies and materials for a second Art Club at Frost. The creation of a vibrant and risk-free learning environment allows students the opportunity to tap into their artistic abilities, learn from their peers, and express themselves in new and imaginative ways.

Hammarskjold Upper Elementary School, Churchill Junior High School, East Brunswick High School - Butterfly Effect Spreading Its Wings… In Partnership with The Meghan Schulman Foundation
Edith Weinstein
This partnership will allow for the continuation of this very successful project that began at CJHS in 2020, included EBHS during the 23-24 school year, to include HUES. One hundred $50.00 grants will be awarded to individuals or small groups of students at each of the three buildings, allowing them engage and have a sense of agency in meaningful service projects.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

Central Elementary School and Bowne-Munro Elementary School – Yangsook Choi Author Visit… In partnership with Central and Bowne-Munro PTAs and the East Brunswick Education Assosciation.
Jenna Klein and Lauren Staats
In partnership with the EBEF, this collaboration between the Reading Specialists at two schools, their PTAS, and the East Brunswick Education Association (EBEA), will bring children's author and illustrator, Yangsook Choi, to Central and Bowne-Munro. Yangsook Choi is the author of much adored books, The Name Jar and A Letter to My Best Friend. Bringing an author into an elementary school provides students with the opportunity to connect with the author of some of their favorite books. Students learn about various writing careers and get tips from renowned author.

Memorial Elementary School – The Magic of Science Assembly
Memorial PTA
This project will provide an engaging and educational assembly for students in preschool through grade 4 by bringing Mobile Ed Productions "Magic of Science" program to the school. Students will be introduced to a variety of scientific concepts in an exciting format that makes science feel magical. The aim of the presentation is to spark curiosity, enhance scientific understanding, and inspire a love of science through hands-on demonstrations and captivating presentations.

Churchill Junior High School and East Brunswick High School - Indoor Guard… In partnership with a generous donation from Rongsun Pu and Guodong Chen
Michelle DaGrosa
As they compete indoors to recorded music, the Winter Guard combines the use of flags, sabers, and other equipment with dance and interpretive movements. The funding from donations and grants will greatly assist the students participating in this new extra-curricular program as they strive to be among the district's most successful teams.

Warnsdorfer Elementary School – LEGO! On a Sensory Sensation!... In Partnership with the Warnsdorfer PTA
Jennifer Traversone, Lise Noppenberger, and the Warnsdorfer PTA Executive Board
Sensory paths are designed to stimulate multiple senses (touch, sight, hearing, etc.) and provide a structured way for children to move and interact with their environment. This grant provides funding for the purchase of an interactive package that includes both sensory paths for the hallways and Lego Walls for each grade level. The PTA will cover at least half of the total amount requested.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

MINI-GRANTS

Awarded monthly: Up to $500 awarded for a single 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.

Churchill Junior High School - Bringing "Mayhem" Into the Room: Mayhem Poets Performance Follow Up & Poetry Workshop
Celine Clark, Miriam Berrotte-Francis, Elizabeth Kaplan, Stephanie Greene, Kathy Merton, Daniel Pfieffer, Kristen Rice, Edie Weinstein, Alyssa Yang
Mayhem Poets are a New Jersey-based "slam poetry" trio who met while studying together at Rutgers University. This grant provides an opportunity for students who, through a previous grant, attended a performance of the group to extend their learning by providing the means to meet with the poets in a workshop setting at school.

East Brunswick High School - Animal Assisted Therapy: Use of Therapy Dogs for Relay for Life Event
Sara Iorillo
In recent years, the use of therapy dogs in a school setting has become more prevalent to assist students with their mental health and anxiety. Grant funds will cover the expenses associated with the presence of therapy dogs during the *Relay for Life* event to enhance the overall experience and well-being of participants.

East Brunswick High School - Liar in a Crowded Theater
Marc Mondry and Dr. Daniel Moran
Grant Funds will allow for the purchase of 30 copies of the book Liar in a Crowded Theater: Freedom of Speech in a World of Misinformation by noted attorney, scholar, professor at the United States Naval Academy, and EBHS graduate, Jeff Kosseff. The book examines the ways in which the First Amendment has been used and misused and, ultimately, how governments should (and should not) address issues of misinformation, disinformation, and outright lies. The book will be used to close out the school year with AP IPLE students and their year-long study of the Constitution and the complexities of arguments surrounding the forty-five words of the First Amendment.

Churchill Junior High School - Integrating Board Games into the Curriculum
Kristen Ferrara, Patrick Woerner, Karen Fordham, and Ashley Fuzak
This grant will supply the funding for the purchase of nine copies each of two games, *Trekking and Pandemic*. This will allow 9th grade history teachers to steer away from technology at times throughout the curriculum to provide students with a learning experience that will engage them in historical concepts in a different and fun way. The inclusion of strategic board games throughout the curriculum continues to be supported by the district and the EBEF based on previously successful efforts across departments.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

Central Elementary School - Novel Effect for Read Alouds
Alyssa Jacob
Grant funds will allow for the purchase of *Novel Effect*, an app that can be paired with over 1,000 books. The iPhone app brings books alive, providing sound effects, music, and more as the teacher reads aloud. During a weeklong trial, students were fully engaged and excited to listen; they felt confident asking questions and were able to better participate in class discussions. Reluctant readers expressed that reading was their favorite part of the day. Books that are compatible with both the app and the curriculum will also be purchased.

Bowne-Munro, Central, Chittick, Frost, Irwin, Lawrence Brook, Memorial, and Warnsdorfer Elementary Schools – Deer Ant Natalie: EB Alum Author
Elizabeth Soder
Ten copies of the book, Deer Ant Natalie, written by EB and Rutgers Alum, Carey Dean Potash, will be purchased. Carey attended Lawrence Brook Elementary School and he credits his teachers for the passion he has for words and stories. His book uses humor to explore and educate students on the use of homophones.

Churchill Junior High School – Meaningful Play for MLLs
Elizabeth Stankiewicz
This grant will supply the funding for the purchase of popular games to be used as a way for multi-language learners (MLLs) to gain communication skills during counseling sessions. Many MLLs coming to the district struggle with the transition to a new language and culture. This can lead to feelings of isolation. They often have difficulty expressing themselves. Play therapy has proven to be an effective intervention for promoting language development and social skills among MLLs.

Lawrence Brook Elementary School – Unraveling Mysteries through Diversity and Inclusion
Tara Corcoran-Clark, Meredith Ascher, Alissa Pagano, Amanda Davino, and Melissa Tavares
Grant funds will allow the third grade team to jump start the mystery unit. Students will become reading sleuths thanks to the purchase of a variety of materials like secret agent name tags, detective hats, invisible ink pens, notebooks, and even detective cases, all to help them keep all their mystery materials organized. Appropriately leveled mystery books will also be purchased so that all students can be included in this unit of study that is designed to teach them to make predictions and draw inferences as they piece together clues and draw conclusions from story details.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

Churchill Junior High School – Harmonious Horizons: Elevating the CJHS Pops Concert Experience Through Updated Repertoire

Sarah Franchino, Jamie DeSiena, Mary O'Mara, Susan Meuse

Thanks to a generous EBEF grant in 2011, the CJHS Orchestra program held the inaugural CJHS Pops Concert involving 135 orchestra students. In the intervening years, the Orchestra program has shown extremely high retention rates, due in part to the excitement of students looking forward to the yearly Pops Concert. The Pops Concert has evolved from an orchestra-only event to a massive combined Chorus and Orchestra extravaganza. Moving forward, the vision is for the CJHS Pops Concert to be a comprehensive event encompassing students from the Band, Orchestra, and Choir programs, thus uniting the entire CJHS music department. Securing supplementary funding beyond the standard yearly music budget is imperative to acquire an ample supply of copyright-legal music for the extensive number of students involved. It is noteworthy that teachers gathered input from students on current popular songs and their preferences for future Pops Concert performances prior to submitting their request for funding.

Churchill Junior High School – Calm Down Corner

JeanMarie Rinaldi

This grant will provide support for special needs students with anxiety and emotional regulation issues in all three grade levels at CJHS. A three-tiered cart will be purchased along with a variety of resources for students to use when they need to calm their bodies and get control of their emotions. The cart will be housed in a corner of the child study team's office space to ensure its availability to both students and team members.

Memorial Elementary School - Cari's Mega Value Card Pack and TPT Gift Card

Nicole De Marco

The goal for this grant is to increase engagement, draw attention to appropriate mouth formations, and promote speech sound development. Decks of cards that provide multisensory cues and to prompt students will be purchased with grant funds. A Teacher Pay Teacher gift card will be used to purchase additional materials to complement the card packs.

Churchill Junior High School and East Brunswick High School – Promoting Al Literacy and Academic Integrity: CJHS and EBHS Al Use Scale Magnets

Dr. Herb Peluzzo

As Generative Al (GenAI) technologies become increasingly ubiquitous in education, there is a growing need for clear guidelines and visual cues to help students navigate the ethical and practical implications of GenAI use in their academic work. This grant will provide a magnet for each classroom that displays the district's "Al Use Scale". This research-based Al Use Scale was customized and developed for CJHS and EBHS secondary schools by the Al Working Groups and Supervisor of Educational Technology. This Al Use Scale promotes the ethical and responsible use of Al tools by students at CJHS and EBHS and provides each teacher with a tool to clearly communicate to students the importance of academic integrity and the appropriate level of Al use for specific assessments in all of their classes.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

Churchill Junior High School – Fatal Vision Goggles
Daniel Giudice
This grant will provide a helpful resource to supplement the health education curriculum. The googles, that will be purchased with grant funds, will provide students with a hands-on visual experience of the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol and how these substances can impair their judgement and reaction time within the safety of the classroom. Teachers will receive training that includes the physiological and psychological effects of substance use, how to guide students through the activities, and how to engage students in reflective discussions afterward.

Hammarskjold Upper Elementary School – Stools for Small Groups
Danielle Liguori
Frequently two teachers are providing small group instruction to two clusters of students at the same time. The stools that will be purchased with grant funds will make it possible for both teachers to work more efficiently; having two stools available in each of three classrooms will make it possible for five students to sit around the table instead of only four.

Central Elementary School - Weekly Theme Books and Crafts
Samantha Berman
Grant funds will allow for the purchase of books and hands on materials to enhance the theme-based units in the kindergarten curriculum for students in a self-contained special ed classroom. The goal of this project is to use hands-on learning and active learning strategies to promote deeper learning and engagement related to the various monthly themes based on seasons, holidays, and any other topics related to the month.

Warnsdorfer Elementary School – Little Spot of SEL
Jessica Burch/Iman Shah (ICR), Annmarie Kurdes, Jennifer Traversone, and Callie Hamilton
This project will be implemented during whole class lessons and will enhance the social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum for grade 3 students. Grant funds will provide the means for the purchase of the SPOT Social Emotional Learning Resources including books with accompanying activity sheets, feelings posters, activity cards, and more.

Chittick Elementary School – Challenge Accepted
Tatianna McBride
The goal of this grant is to build a sense of school-wide community and provide a means for students to embrace Chittick's school theme, *Challenge Accepted*. As part of this school-wide initiative, students will be creating their own avatar. The avatars will represent their individual character traits. Funding provided through this grant will allow for the purchase of a Cricut Machine for each grade level with which teachers and students will have the opportunity to build their avatars, and, as they level up, their avatars will evolve.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

Memorial Elementary School – Language and Literacy
Roseann Bracco
Grant funds will allow for the purchase of an assortment of games and materials designed to be used by teachers, literacy coaches, reading specialists, parents, speech-language pathologists and other specialists to support language arts instruction. The materials combine real-life literacy skill building with fun activities.

Irwin Elementary School – Explore the World in 2nd Grade
Patricia Colaizzi, Rochelle Rosen, Krystal Weeks, and Alexis Horn
Second grade classes will receive a variety of hands-on materials that will support and enhance teaching and learning in social studies, science, and language arts during non-fiction reading and writing units. Lab coats, microscopes and model insects, globes, compasses, and cards with flags of countries around the world are some examples of materials that students will have at their fingertips to help them understand how the world's geography, cultures, and environments interact and influence each other. All materials are non-consumable, so they will be able to be utilized for years to come.

Churchill Junior High School School – Kwame Alexander Author Study with Jason Alexander
Celine Clark
Grant funds will pay for a virtual author visit. After reading books by Jason Reynolds & Kwame Alexander and working on their own storytelling, students will be able to listen to the two authors speak on craft and how they use it in their own writing. This meeting with the authors will allow students to see the process and power of writing and enable them to shape their own perceptions of what is possible.

Lawrence Brook Elementary School – Bright Books, Bold Writers
Tara Corcoran Clark, Gabriella Montoya, Meredith Ascher, Alissa Pagano, and Melissa Sheaffer
This grant will provide 3rd grade struggling readers the opportunity to read lots of decodable, engaging, age-appropriate, and colorfully illustrated books at their skill level. Students will read the texts, while the teacher gives feedback and support. With respect to writing, dyslexic and basic skills students often have difficulty writing on regular lined paper. To address this need, raised-line paper, slanted boards, pencil grips, highlighter tape, and colored overlay strips will be purchased.
Note: With the approval of this grant the EBEF celebrated having given $3,000,000 to enhance and enrich the education for East Brunswick Public School students since its inception!

Chittick Elementary School – Chittick Special Needs
Kathryn Mannon
Grant funds will be used to purchase individual percussion kits, movement scarves, and wrist scrunchie ribbon streamers. Music making is a perfect fit for children with special needs. It engages and appeals to many of their sensory strengths and needs. Scarves and ribbons will be used to show understanding of concepts such as fast and slow, soft and loud. Students will be able to express themselves through music and movement.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

Frost Elementary School – Reading A-Z Subscription
Alexandra Pisano
A one-year subscription for Reading A-Z will be purchased with grant funds. This tool will be useful for all in-class and pull-out resource teachers as well as general education teachers who have basic skills students, increasing their ability to differentiate student instruction based on their levels. This will be implemented in center rotations during the language arts block, providing students with opportunities to read accurately with fluency, at appropriate rates, and with expression when provided with a passage on their independent reading levels.

East Brunswick High School – ELL Online Assessments
Maria Gorman
Funds will make possible the purchase a premium subscription for Freckle.com, an educational platform designed to support differentiated learning. The premium plan will specifically help the teacher support students who are English Language Learners performing below grade level in reading. The platform offers engaging, standards-based resources across multiple subjects, including language arts, mathematics, history, and science.

Chittick Elementary School – Phonics FUN for Firsties
Nicole Paster, Samantha Wiseman, Meghan Shanahan, Stefani McGowan
A variety of hands-on phonics games and materials to use during small group, partner, and independent work will be purchased with grant funds. These materials will support struggling emergent readers as they progress from learning letters and sounds to more advanced phonics skills.

Frost Elementary School – We are Preparing for College
Nyree Delgado, Kelly Kraemer
The goal of this project is to provide a hands-on experience for 4th grade students in the area of science and engineering practices. It will also expose 4th grade students to Rutgers graduate students who will not only provide instruction but will also give insight into their college major and experience. The Science Explorer program will visit each 4th grade classroom where, for 90 minutes, students will receive instruction with the program entitled, *The Great Plankton Race*.

Central Elementary School – Flexible Seating for Enhanced Student Engagement and Well-being
Nicole Gruber and Erin Butler
The goal of this project is to increase student engagement and focus, promote physical health and movement, and foster an inclusive and supportive learning environment within in-class support and resource room settings where students have varied needs and learning styles. Funding will provide the means to acquire 20 “seats”, four each of five different design options.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

Churchill Junior High School – Bringing Shakespeare to Life
Natasha Ciuffo, Mitchell Pollok, and Elizabeth Soder
This grant will provide 8th grade English Honors students with the opportunity to see Shakespeare come to life in the form of a live performance on campus. In addition, it will impart a cross-curricular connection to the arts as students get the opportunity to interact with actors after the performance and learn not only about the play but also the stagecraft involved in producing the performance.

Central Elementary School – Calm & Cool in Kindergarten
Allison Pimentel
Central's youngest students, both general and special education learners, will benefit from this project. It will further enhance the nurturing environment that has been created in their classrooms, helping them to develop critical social-emotional skills. This project not only aligns with the goal to educate the whole child, it also enhances the curriculum by providing practical tools and guided lessons to help children understand and manage their emotions, fostering a more empathetic and inclusive culture. *The Little Spot of Feelings* resources will be purchased with the funds provided.

Warnsdorfer Elementary School – Listen up! Adventures in Audiobooks
Rachel Solomon, Laura Petriello, Jenna Ciancimino, Iman Shah, and Nicole lllaria
The goal of this grant is to support basic skills, multi-language learners and special education students in 3rd and 4th grade by providing them with audiobooks at grade appropriate levels. With grant funds a variety of handpicked *Playaway Wonderbooks* will be purchased. They are physical books that look just like the usual book a student would choose from their classroom library. The difference is that these books have an audio player permanently attached to the inside cover. No separate device or Wi-Fi access is ever needed! Students can just press play and start reading!

Warnsdorfer Elementary School – Project Read Al
Iman Shah and Taylor Felicetta
The goal of this grant is to foster a more inclusive and effective learning environment by offering individualized instruction, enhancing engagement, improving literacy skills, tracking student progress, and nurturing a love for reading in both special and general education classrooms. Grant funds will cover the cost of a school-wide *Decodable Generator License*. Built by teachers and AI experts from Stanford, the program allows teachers to create decodable books based on a student's exact reading level and previous errors. The AI tutor gives live feedback and encouragement to students as they read out loud. This combination gives teachers the ability to teach reading to each child in his/her class one-on-one.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

Warnsdorfer Elementary School - Busy Hands are Happy Hands
Michele Reisbord, Sharon Taborda, Lise Noppenberger, and Kerry Smith
The goal of this grant is to offer kindergarten students a unique way to learn basic math and reading skills using their senses. Grant funds will allow for the purchase of materials for teachers to create sensory bins based on the season and/or skills that the students will be practicing. Students will be using the sensory bins during various times of the school day, primarily during reading, math, or play centers.

Chittick Elementary School - Empowering Preschoolers Through Sensory Support
Emma Perone
The goal of this grant is to create a classroom that better supports sensory regulation for students with special needs, thus allowing them to thrive both academically and socially. A variety of sensory tools and resources will be purchased with grant funds. Providing tools and resources to meet students' sensory needs can significantly enhance their ability to regulate emotions, focus on tasks, and build positive relationships with peers and teachers.

Central Elementary School - Purposeful Play
Allison Pimentel
Kindergarteners, develop and learn through play. New furniture and dolls for an existing dollhouse and a train set will be purchased for students to use during creative playtime. As they play with their friends, students in this ICS classroom will develop language skills and learn how to share. They will have lots of opportunity to practice being patient problem solvers as they role play scenarios in a lower scaffolded environment.

East Brunswick High School – Speech-language Material
Michelle Cieslak
Students, ages 15-21, receiving speech-language services at the high school will benefit from this grant. The materials purchased with the funds being provided will be utilized during speech-language sessions that occur within the classroom setting for a more natural approach to therapy. This model is less restrictive, generalizes skills that might otherwise be taught in the therapy room and provides a model for other adults in the room to know what strategies to reinforce.

Central Elementary School - Instructional Tools for Teaching
Samantha Berman
Grant funds will be used to purchase a variety of sensory materials, manipulatives and books that will be used specifically for daily intensive teaching time throughout the school year. During this time teachers and paraprofessionals work individually with students to help them progress towards their individual academic and social-emotional goals. Examples of these goals include but are not limited to are counting with one-to-one correspondence, sorting colors, and building stamina for independent reading.

East Brunswick Education Foundation

2025 Grant Recipients

Churchill Junior High School – Extra, Extra, Read & Write All About It!
Celine Clark, Elizabeth Kaplan, Stephanie Greene, Kristen Rice, and Alyssa Yang
This grant will provide teachers with easy access to the NYT Learning Network where there is a vast network of standards aligned lesson plans and resources available to them; all CJHS students will have access to current non-fiction texts and quality journalism. Non-fiction text is a key component of the English curriculum, and this access will promote student's ability to closely read, analyze, and write about current events that impact their lives. Included in the grant request were enthusiastic statements supporting and looking forward to this access from teachers in all areas of the curriculum.

Central Elementary School – Phonics Fun for Future Readers
Katie Fabiano, Allison Pimentel, Kathleen Vargas, and Stephanie LoNigro
The goal of this project is to provide our kindergarten students with high-quality phonics materials that will help them develop critical early reading skills. Phonics is a foundational component of reading instruction, and research has consistently shown that early exposure to phonics instruction significantly improves reading fluency and comprehension in the long term.

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

HOME DEPOT OF EDISON

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.

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.



East Brunswick Education Foundation

Major Contributors

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 a 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.

FAMILY OF VENU MADHAV BANDARU

The family of Venu Madhav Bandaru has made a generous donation in memory of this EBHS Class of 1989 student.

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.

HUMMINGBIRD OUTREACH CLUB

A generous donation has been made by this student club.

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.

Venu Madhav Bandaru East Brunswick High School Class of 1989.

Dr. JoAnn Magistro who served as the first female Superintendant 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 37 of the past 38 years.

Tax deductible donations can be made to these funds in several ways as decribed 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 ⅓ 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), Venmo (EBEF-01) or Zeffy (tinyurl.com/2zpe7jkm).

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.

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, including the Celebration of the Arts in partnership with the East Brunswick Symphony Orchestra and DeCarolis Night of Jazz.

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!

New Members Welcome

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

The East Brunswick
Education Foundation
expresses sincere appreciation to

Michael Seibel

For his most generous donation
in honor of
Jessica DiBenedetti, Lisa Ruggiero,
Elizabeth Stankiewicz,
Austin C. Kosik, Jr. and
Zack Morrison

East Brunswick Education Foundation

Donors

The East Brunswick Education Foundation expresses sincere appreciation to the following donors for their contributions in honor of Jessica DiBenedetti, Lisa Ruggiero, Elizabeth Stankiewicz, Austin C. Kosik, Jr., Michael Seibel and Zack Morrison.

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Gary & Judy Rodgers

Congratulations

Jessica DiBenedetti

Lisa Ruggiero

Elizabeth Stankiewicz

Austin C. Kosik, Jr.

For their excellent work
and support of the EBEF
And

Michael Seibel

Zack Morrison

On their induction into
the Alumni Hall of Fame

Best Wishes
Nanar and Tony Yoseloff

Best Wishes and Continued Success to the

East Brunswick Education Foundation

and to the

2025 Partner in Excellence Honorees & Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

Jessica DiBenedetti ☆ Lisa Ruggiero

Elizabeth Stankiewicz ☆ Austin C. Kosik,Jr.

Michael Seibel ☆ Zack Morrison



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East Brunswick Principals and Supervisors Association

Congratulations:

Jessica DiBenedetti
Lisa Ruggiero
Elizabeth Stankiewicz
Austin C. Kosik, Jr.
Michael Seibel
Zack Morrison

The EBPSA thanks you for your contributions to East Brunswick Public Schools.

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous future!

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CONGRATULATIONS

Liz Stankiewicz

The best daughter Jo Ann and I could have wished for. Who would have thought you would follow in our footsteps and decide public education would be your life's work? Fortunately, you would have exceeded expectations in any career you chose but we were so proud that you chose East Brunswick. It is such an honor to be recognized as a partner in excellence. You earned that honor, much like your parents and your fellow honorees through hard work and dedication to the community and the students at East Brunswick. Keep up the good work.

ALSO

CONGRATULATIONS

Lisa Ruggiero

Austin C. Kosik Jr.

Jessica DiBenedetti

AND

INDUCTEES

Michael Seibel

Zack Morrison

From

The Stankiewicz Family

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Congratulations Austin!

"We appreciate your hard work, dedication, and commitment to the East Brunswick Community. Thank you for everything you've done!"

Blessings and continued success,

Father Thomas Walsh
and
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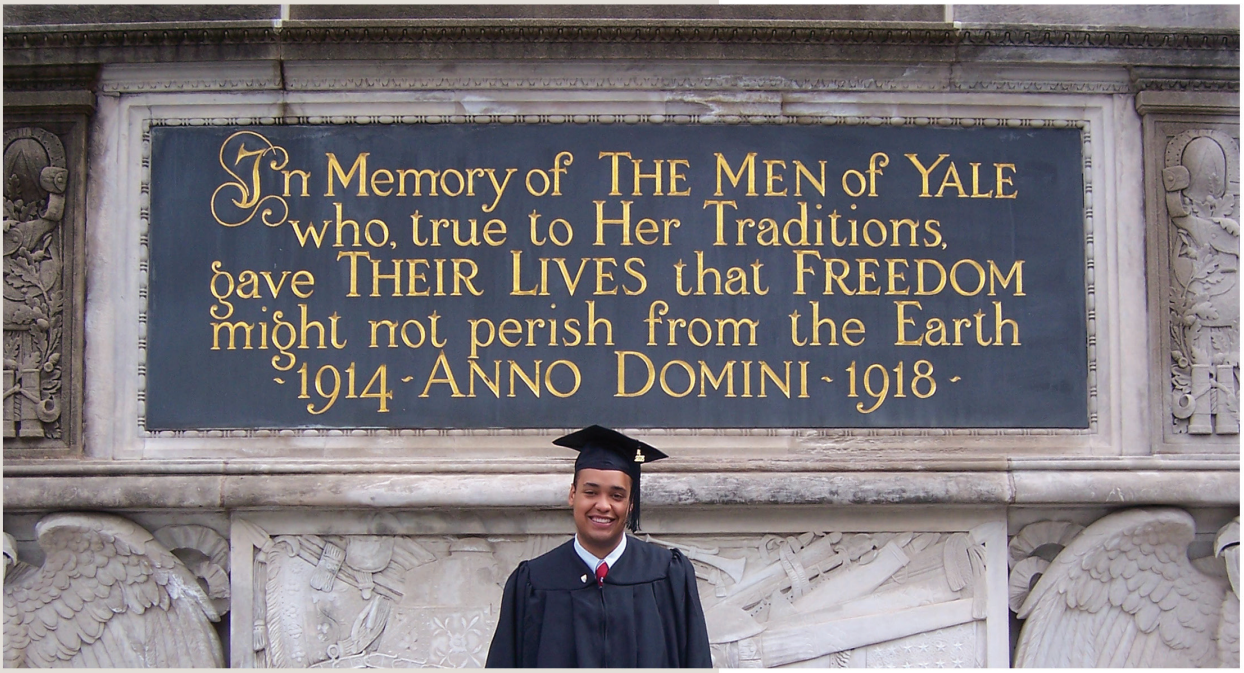
MICHAEL

We are all so proud of everything you have accomplished and look forward to your continued success!

LOVE,

Mom, Dad, Nicole, Jason,
Sarah, Jonathan, and Jessica





CONGRATULATIONS!

2025 EBEF HONOREES

Jessica DiBenedetti

Lisa Ruggiero

Elizabeth Stankiewicz

Austin C. Kosik, Jr.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

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Zack Morrison

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for their unselfish efforts in the pursuit of excellence in education

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on their induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame

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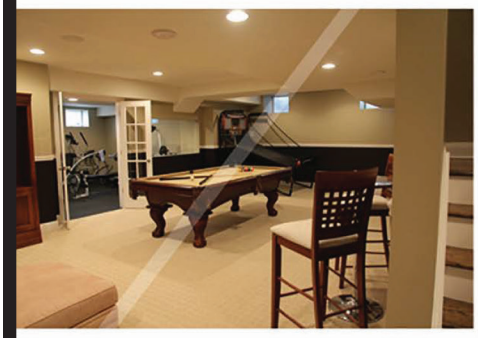


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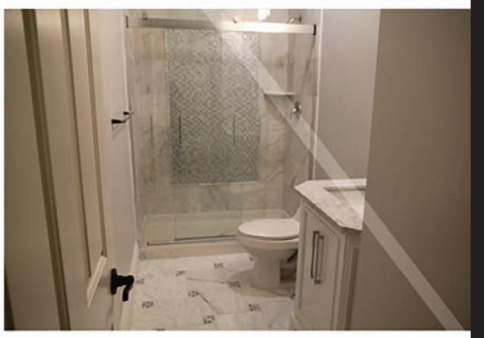
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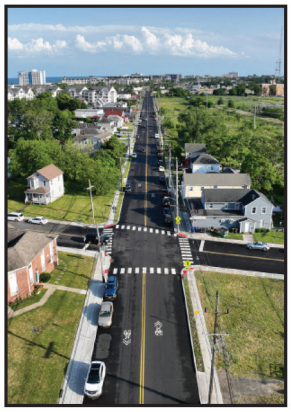
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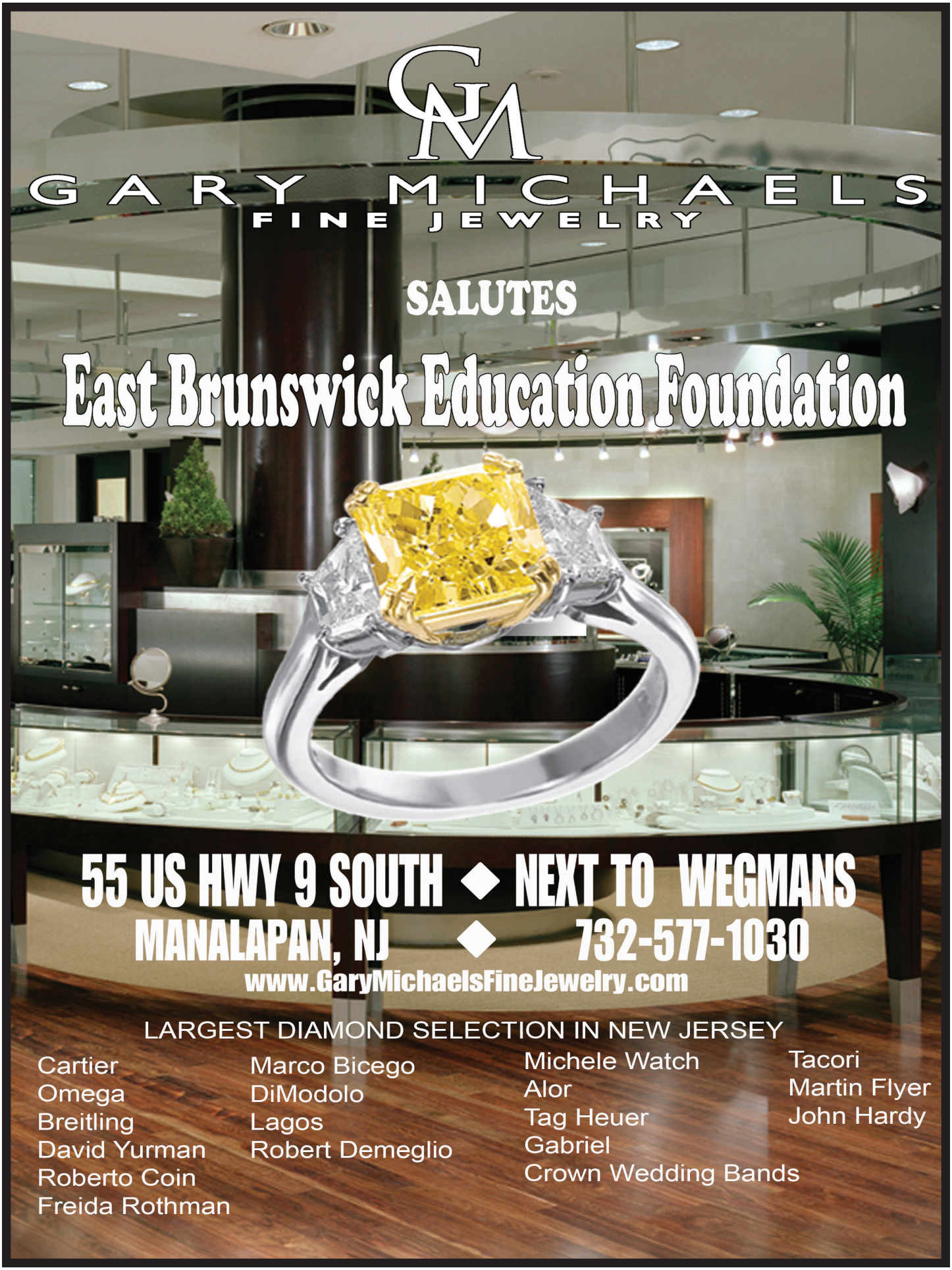
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Austin C. Kosik, Jr.

INDUCTEES:

Michael Seibel
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Michael Seibel
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Louise Sultana LoRocco and Nicole Tibbetts

CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to the

East Brunswick Education Foundation

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Elizabeth Stankiewicz and Austin C. Kosik, Jr.

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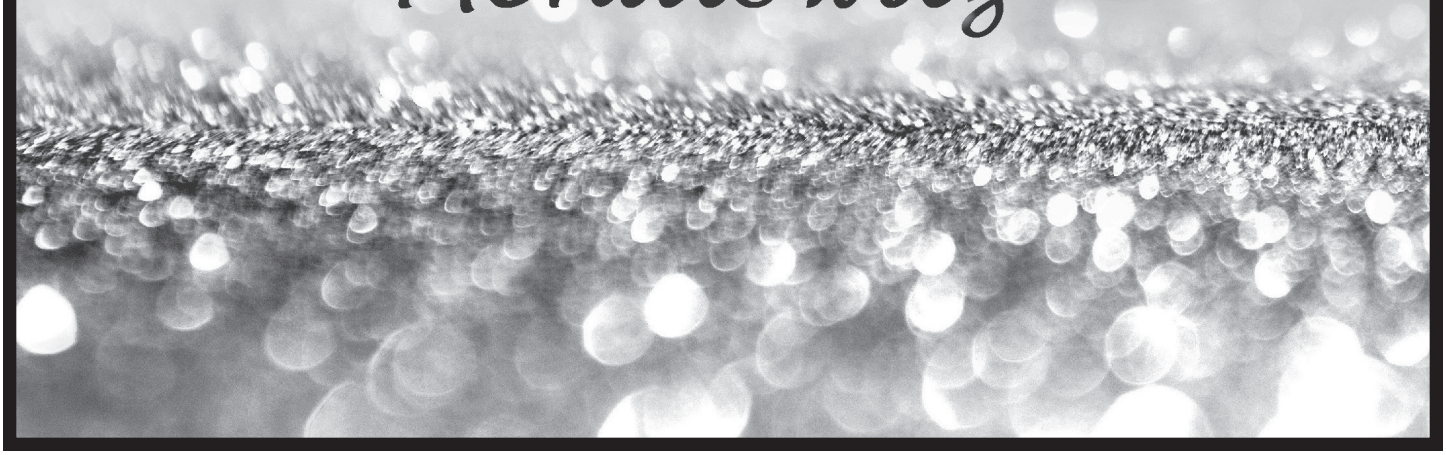
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LIZ STANKIEWICZ

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~Maya Angelou



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The Howard family

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

and to

Michael Seibel
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On their induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame

Thank You!!

And, as always, thank you to the EBEF Board for another amazing year!

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A special SHOUT OUT to
Lisa Ruggiero
for her dedication and hard work with the EBEF and our school community thoughout the years.

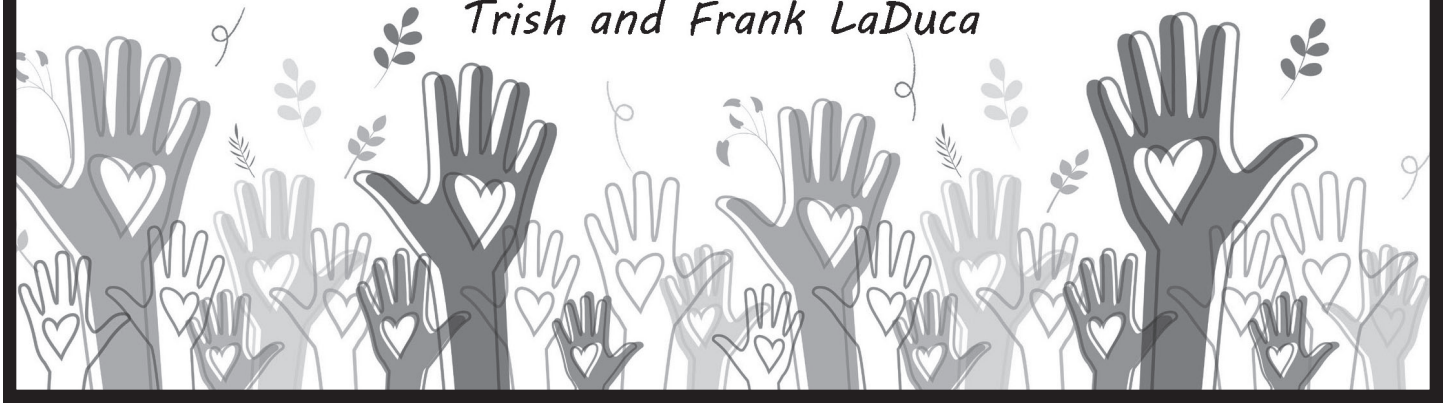
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Congratulations Lisa Ruggiero

and all of the Honorees!
Thank you for all that you do for our students!

Your Friends,
Adriana, Claudia, Diane, Donna, Marilyn, Maurie and Sharon

Jessica

Congratulations
on your incredible success.
We all knew you could do it
and are so proud of you.
You've worked so hard for this.
It's an amazing accomplishment.

Love,
Aunt Theresa, J J, Uncle Jimmy,
Uncle Ren, Aunt Chris, James,
Aunt Linda and Aunt Debbie

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Congrats to Austin C. Kosik, Jr.!

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CONGRATULATIONS

Jessica DiBenedetti
Elizabeth Stankiewicz
Austin C. Kosik, Jr.
Lisa Ruggiero

for your dedication
and support of
East Brunswick Public Schools
and

Michael Seibel
Zack Morrison

On your induction into the
Alumni Hall of Fame

Joseph P. Schiappa
Attorney at Law
2 North Woodland Ave., East Brunswick, NJ 08816
(732) 545-7300 Fax (732) 545-0439
jpschiappalaw@gmail.com



This is to our mommy,
congratulations on your award.
We really think you deserve it.
You are the best mom we could ever have.
We love you!
Love, Anthony and Hunter

Jess, I am so proud of all of your accomplishments through out your career. You have continuously proved how dedicated and passionate you are toward education. No matter where your journey takes you, you will continue to impact the future of children through education.
Love, Vinnie

CONGRATULATIONS

JOHN KOSIK

ESS

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Congratulations, Jessica!

What an incredible achievement!

Your commitment, passion, and hard work have truly paid off, and we couldn't be more proud of you.

We're so lucky to have you in our family and excited to see all the amazing things you'll continue to accomplish.

Here's to lots more success and happiness ahead!

With love,

Mary, Vinnie, Michelle, Dave, Sierra & Ember

Jessica,

We are incredibly proud of all you have accomplished thus far. This is a well-deserved award achieved through the hard work you've put in to help make East Brunswick schools a better place to learn science. The teachers and students you've worked with are fortunate to have had you guiding them along the way.

We are looking forward to what you will accomplish next because your dedication to students, teachers and the overall education of science will never waver regardless of the target of tha dedication in the future.

Mom and Dad

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CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE HONOREES:

Jessica DiBenedetti

Lisa Ruggiero

Elizabeth Stankiewicz

Austin C. Kosik, Jr.

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