



Elmsford
UFSD

SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

“ENGAGE, EQUIP, ELEVATE TOWARD EXCELLENCE.”

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Elmsford Community,

We are certainly off to an incredible start this year! Our students and staff have been fully engaged in a wide range of academic and extracurricular activities, while our facilities team continues to make steady progress on important upgrades across our schools.

First, I would like to once again extend my heartfelt congratulations to the outstanding students at Grady for their award-winning Blessing Bag initiative.

During October’s Board of Education meeting, the Elmsford Union Free School District was presented with a plaque from the New York State School Boards Association in recognition of this inspiring project. This statewide program honors schools that exemplify kindness, compassion, and a deep commitment to community service. It was a privilege to accept this award on behalf of our district, and we extend sincere thanks to Sheryl Brady, NYSSBA Area 10 Director, for attending our meeting and presenting the plaque

to me and Former Council Vice President Samuel A., who joined us to accept this meaningful recognition.

Our classrooms remain vibrant centers of learning and discovery—from our kindergartners exploring all things apples, to our Grady second graders mastering number placement, our eighth graders engaging in hands-on science projects that spark problem-solving and creativity, and our high school photography students experimenting with motion. It is inspiring to witness the imagination, curiosity, and enthusiasm our students bring to each new challenge.

Our facilities team continues its diligent work to ensure that our buildings remain safe, efficient, and welcoming. Recent efforts include lighting upgrades, preparations for PSAT testing, and comprehensive roof inspections—all vital steps in maintaining a secure and productive learning environment. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing commitment and professionalism.



The art room at Alexander Hamilton High School has also been buzzing with excitement as our Ceramics students get ready to make use of a newly installed kiln. Several projects are already queued for firing, and I look forward to seeing the creative results that emerge from this addition to our art facilities.

As we move further into the fall season, I encourage everyone in our community to participate in Grady’s annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, beginning November 12 (see details on page 8). This long-standing tradition is a wonderful way to support our neighbors and continue the spirit of generosity that defines our school community.

Warm Regards,
Susan Yom
Superintendent of Schools

VETERAN’S DAY

A special reminder to our families, all schools and district offices will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 11, in recognition of Veteran’s Day.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

EMERGENCY TESTING

The Elmsford Union Free School District will be conducting a comprehensive test of our new emergency alert system on **Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.**

This new alert system, which integrates with our public address (PA) system, is designed to enhance safety and security across all our schools. Testing will involve the indoor and outdoor speakers at each school building. You may hear the test alerts depending on your proximity to one of our campuses. **The alerts being tested include: Shelter in Place, Hold in Place, Evacuate, Lockdown, Lockout and All Clear.**

Please be aware that this is **only a test** and does not indicate an actual emergency. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we upgrade. The safety of our students and staff is our highest priority, and this new technology will allow us to respond to potential threats more effectively.

Senior Angel Hidalgo joins BOE as Ex-Officio member

Senior Angel Hidalgo knows how to keep busy. He's the president of the Alexander Hamilton High School Student Council, a member of the Coding Club, GREEN Club, RADD Club, Finance Club and he plays Football as well as Winter and Spring Track. And yet, somehow, he has managed to add one more item to his "to do" list.

This summer Angel was appointed the Ex Officio member of the Board of Education.

Beginning on July 1, 2025, New York began to require Boards to include at least one student on their board. Student representatives do not get a vote or attend executive sessions. Individual districts determined how students were selected.

For Angel, who as Student Council President presents updates on council events to the Board at their meetings, it was a natural progression for him to take a seat the table.

"I was surprised," Angel said when he was selected for this new role. "Now I want to bring more perspectives and share how students feel," he said. "I report to the Board, and if they are discussing something important, I'll chime in."

He said it's a great opportunity for the Board to hear an opinion from a student.

"Everyone has been so welcoming," he said, when he first joined the meetings over the summer.

He said he was encouraged to speak his mind, and Superintendent Susan Yom encouraged him to not be shy and speak.

"I really like how they actually want to hear from the students," Angel said. One idea he suggested was to have a student suggestion box, a place where



Senior Angel Hidalgo now sits on the Board of Education as an Ex-Officio Member.

students can anonymously submit their ideas to improve the school environment. At the next meeting, Angel said he'd like to discuss editing the Student Council By-Laws, in order to have a better balance of class representatives that is not based on the number of students in each grade.

Angel's leadership philosophy, he explained, is to "take charge," and "do first, and figure it out later."

He enjoys being a part of the Student Council, describing the experience as being a family.

"You have a group that is a real community," he said. "We work to be engaged; no idea is a bad idea."

Angel is also focused on the future and would like to study economics and finance at Syracuse University. In the little bit of free time he has, he is working on the e-commerce business he started this past summer, an app that helps athletes develop a plan for recovery in the event of an injury.



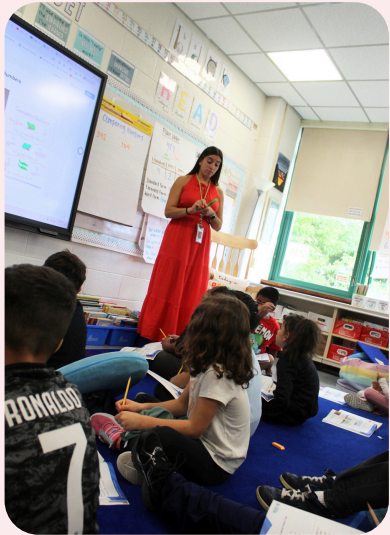
As part of his duties as the Student Council President, Angel was in charge of emceeding the recent AHHS Fall Pep Rally.

SPOTLIGHT: IN OUR CLASSROOMS

Our students have been busy! Students throughout the district have been engaged in a number of important learning opportunities across the educational spectrum, from science and the arts to mathematics and more!



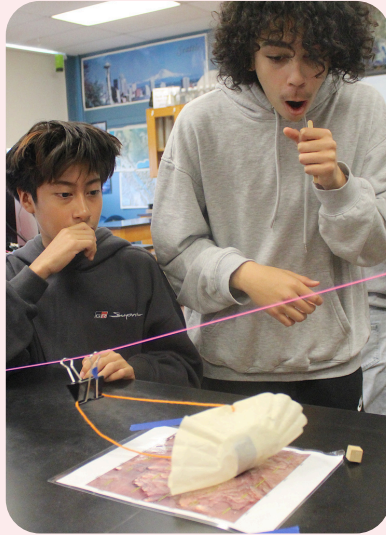
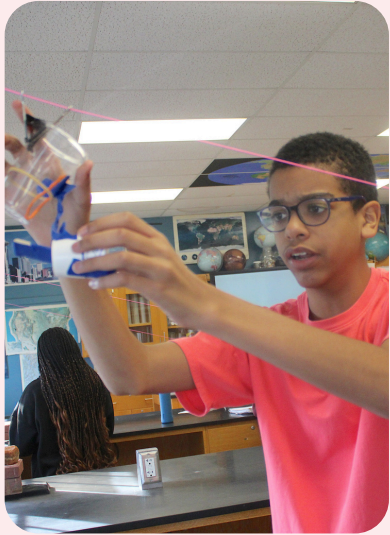
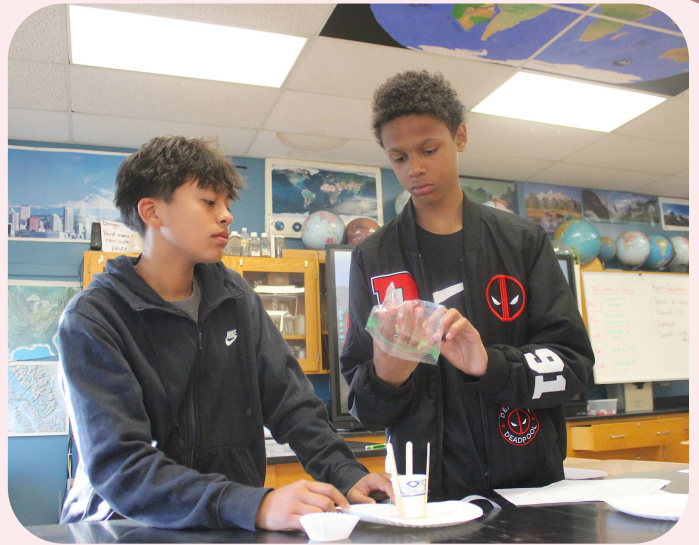
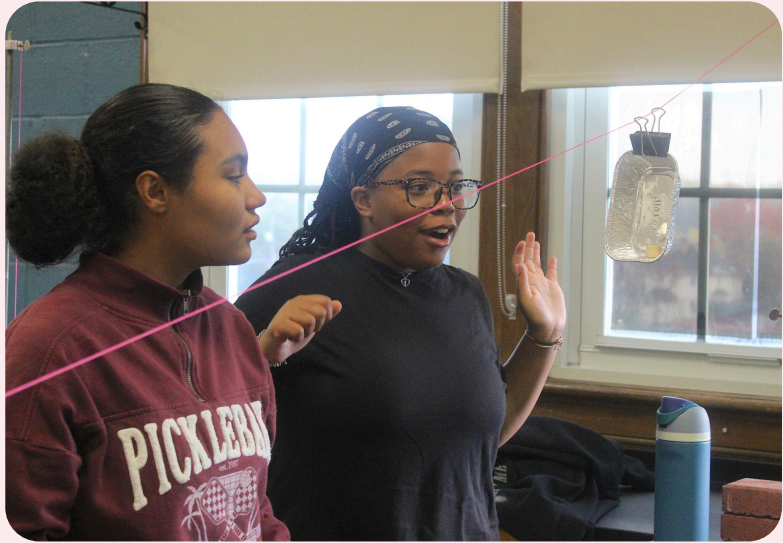
Above, Students in Mr. Joseph Cartolano's Photography class at AHHS enjoyed some time on the Grady playground all for a special project. Students were learning about motion photography, taking a series of action photos. These images will later be edited and layered, resulting in an image of an individual in various steps of one action, such as shooting a basketball, swinging on a swing or coming down a slide!



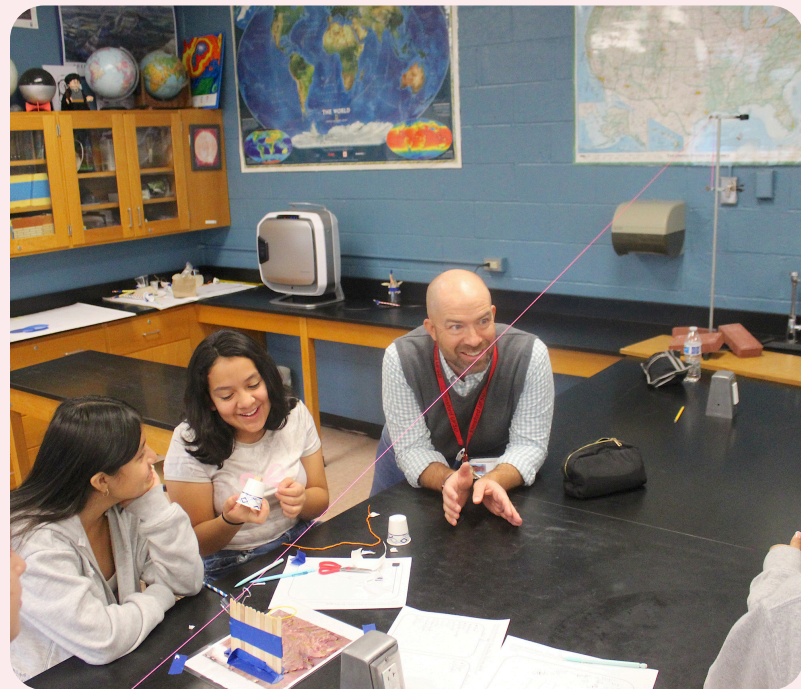
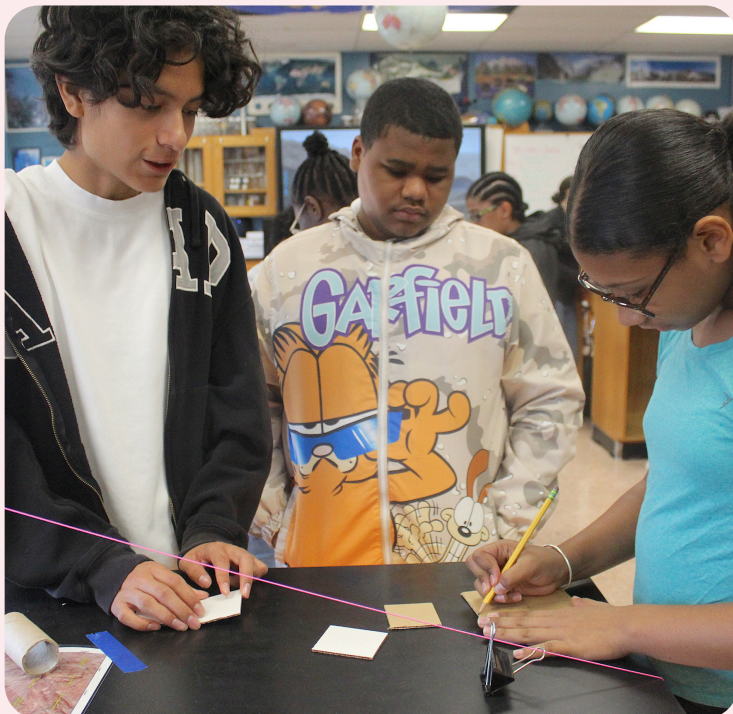
At left, Grady Second Graders in Ms. Princiotta's class learned all about place value - hundreds, tens and ones!

Dixson Kindergartners were having fun with APPLES! During some classroom time, students learned about the different parts of an apple. They colored apple pictures, created and labelled an apple design they glued together and even danced to an apple song, pretending to be making an apple pie!



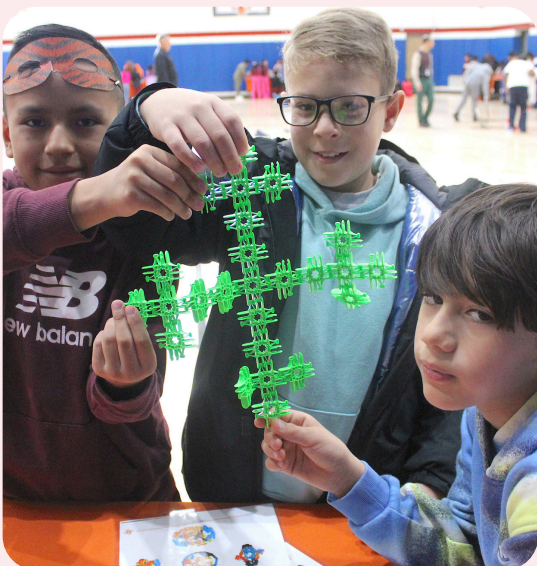


Eighth graders at AHHS recently took on an engineering challenge in their science class with teacher Mr. Rich MacLeish! The mission was to design and build a structure that would successfully slip down a zip line and drop a wooden block on the surface of Mars! Students exhibited their creativity in their designs, and had fun watching (and hoping) their block had a successful landing!



Staff from Regeneron participating in the company’s “Day of Giving,” and recently visited the school and shared some great fun, artistic, inspiring STEM activities from the Westchester Children’s Museum.

Students visited different stations where they enjoyed hands-on activities, including KEVA building blocks, Lux Connectors to construct 3D creations, “Squishy Circuits,” to learn about how much conductivity Play-Doh has, they crafted “Stomp Rockets,” creating paper aircraft that were launched in the air with their stomps! Students also transformed into animals after creating a headpiece depicting the camouflage animals use in the wild, and they went back in time, learning how a Victorian-era Zoetrope works, by creating their own animated drawings they then saw come to life using the Zoetrope!



Pep Rally!

Celebrating our Fall Sports teams!



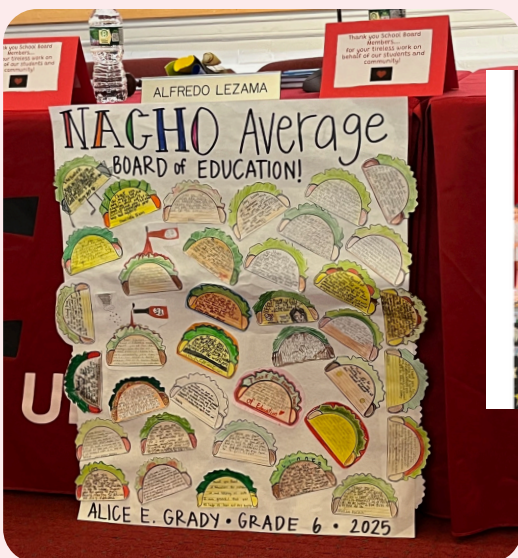
SPOTLIGHT: RECOGNITIONS AND THANK YOUS



During the October Board of Education meeting, the Elmsford Union Free School District was honored with a plaque from the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) as part of its “Culture of Caring” initiative. This statewide program celebrates schools that demonstrate exceptional commitment to kindness, compassion, and community service.

NYSSBA recognized Elmsford for the “Blessing Bag Initiative” led by the Grady Student Leadership Council. Through this thoughtful project, students assembled and distributed bags filled with essential personal items and uplifting messages to support individuals in need throughout the community.

Sheryl Brady, NYSSBA Area 10 Director, presented the plaque to Superintendent Susan Yom and the Board of Education. Former Council Vice President Samuel A., was also on hand to accept the honor.



October 13-17 was School Board Recognition Week! During the October Board of Education Meeting, our Board received a special thank you from our students! The Grady Choir shared a special performance in appreciation and board members were given special thank you signs and treats in appreciation!

We thank our Board of Education for their dedication to the community, President David Hecht, Vice President Alfredo Lezama, Rita Azrelyant, Justin Datino and John Hecht.



The District is buzzing with renewed energy as Leah Zilich steps into her role as the new Director of Special Education. Since her arrival, Ms. Zilich has expressed immense admiration for the unwavering dedication of the district's special education teachers, speech and language pathologists, psychologists, counselors, nurses, occupational therapists, AIS teachers, and aides, emphasizing Elmsford's commitment to prioritizing student success. "From my very first days here, I've been blown away by the dedication of our special education teachers, speech and language pathologists, psychologists, counselors, nurses, occupational therapists, AIS teachers, aides, as well as so many others who support our students every day. I feel lucky to be part of a district that truly puts students first," stated Ms. Zilich.

Since the beginning of the school year, the Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services staff have been diligently working to build strong relationships with students, and foster classroom routines that elevate academic achievement. The department's collective care, skills, and expertise have ensured students feel supported and academically prepared to learn.

Comprehensive Programming Designed for Student Success

EUFSD offers a range of specialized programs to meet the diverse needs of its students:

AIS (Academic Intervention Services): This program provides targeted support in reading or math for students who are nearing, but not yet reaching, grade-level expectations. AIS offers additional practice and reinforcement to build confidence and promote classroom success.

Co-Teaching Model: EUFSD implements a co-teaching model where a general education teacher and a special education teacher collaborate in the same classroom. This approach ensures lessons are personalized to accommodate various learning styles, providing every child with the opportunity to thrive. Co-teaching is proudly offered across all grade levels.

Special Classes: For students requiring more focused and individualized support in reading, EUFSD provides "Special Classes." These small-group settings are led by Special Education Teachers who utilize specially designed instruction to strengthen students' skills and address reading needs.

Meet the Dedicated Professionals Supporting Elmsford Students

The Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services Department is comprised of a remarkable team of professionals committed to student well-being and academic growth:

Special Education Teachers: These educators deliver specially designed instruction to students with disabilities, addressing individualized education program (IEP) goals through Co-Taught or Special Class Models. The team includes Ms. Farrell and Ms. Maric at Dixon; Ms. Kelly, Ms. Castoral, Ms. Davis, Ms. Harris, Ms. Tenzer, Ms. Veneziano, and Ms. Warren at Grady; and Ms. Benke, Ms. Campbell, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Dwyer, Ms. Gutierrez, Ms. Weill, Mr. Weinberger, and Mr. Gentile at Alexander Hamilton.

Speech & Language Pathologists: Ms. Henriquez and Ms. Delaney provide essential services to help students develop communication skills, from clear articulation to vocabulary building and confident expression of ideas.

School Counselors: Ms. Ahern, Ms. Luccioni, and Mr. Hernandez at Alexander Hamilton, and Ms. Pena at Grady and Dixon, offer social and emotional support, guiding students in problem-solving, fostering friendships, and preparing them for future success.

School Psychologists: Ms. Martucci at Alexander Hamilton and Ms. Guerra at Grady and Dixon collaborate with families and teachers to understand student learning needs and provide strategies to support their growth.

School Social Workers: Ms. Rosello supports students at Alexander Hamilton and Grady, connecting school and home, assisting families in accessing resources, and promoting students' emotional and behavioral development.

Occupational Therapists (OTs): Mr. Pellegrino and Ms. Frondi work across the district to support students with fine motor skills, sensory needs, and daily tasks, enabling full participation in school.

School Nurses: Ms. Lederman at Alexander Hamilton, Ms. Burford at Grady, and Ms. Charles at Dixon ensure student health, safety, and readiness to learn.

AIS Teachers: Ms. Wright and Mr. Carpanzano at Dixon; Ms. Potenza, Ms. Hopper, Ms. Fulgione, and Ms. Espinosa at Grady; and Ms. Brenna at Alexander Hamilton provide additional support in reading and math to strengthen skills and build confidence.

Teacher Aides: Ms. Lebron-Areizaga, Ms. Gonzalez, Mr. Larios Lezama, and Ms. Blanshaw offer invaluable hands-on support in classrooms, encouraging independence and student engagement.

Want to Learn more About Special Education?

The Community Support Network (CSN) at Westchester Institute for Human Development is the Hudson Valley's resource for individuals with disabilities, their families, and supporting professionals. We provide resources, training, direct services, and guidance on disability-related issues. <https://www.wihd.org/what-we-do/community-support-network/> (Click Trainings and Workshops for a list of Upcoming Trainings available at no cost to families)!

HALLOWEEN PARADE



The ghosts, ghouls and goblins, and the skeletons, princesses, and robots took over our campuses during the annual Halloween Parade! This year our young students had fun taking a tour of the AHHS Campus!



All fired up!

It won't be long now before students in the new Ceramics class at AHHS have their work finished in the new kiln! The kiln was recently installed and is just waiting to for the final touches before it can be fired up and finish the students' pinch pots and coil pots!

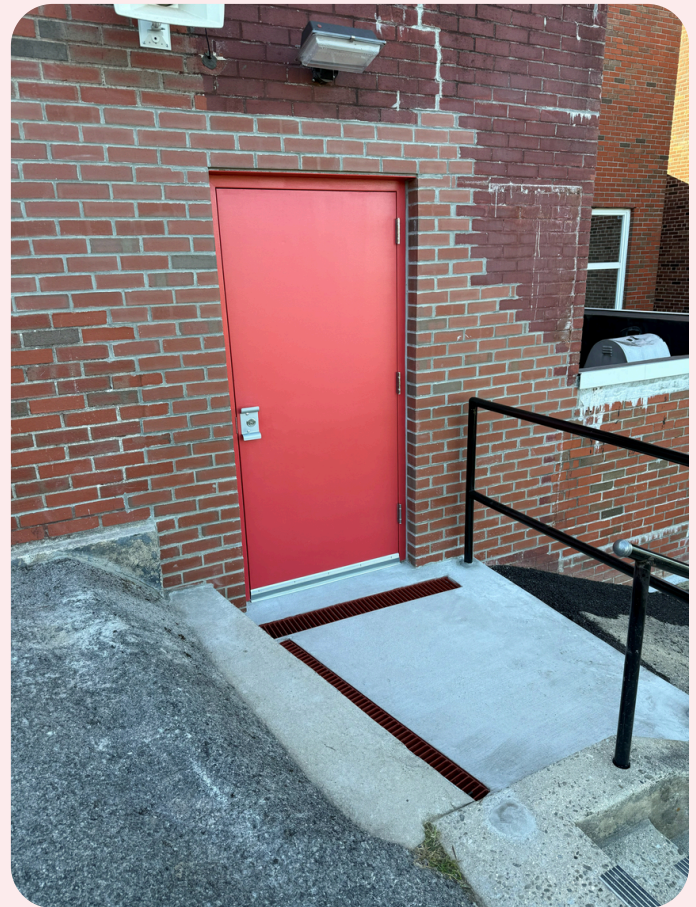




Our District's newly installed roofs were inspected on Oct 21, 2025. The inspection was conducted by the roofing manufacturer as part of the warranty process.



A recent facility initiative was to check and repair entry lighting district-wide as we experience shorter daylight hours. This effort supports our Districts' focus on safety and security.



Through the DASNY grant, the weight room door and landing was repaired.

SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS



The EUFSD was represented during the Village of Elmsford's 115th Anniversary of the Village of Elmsford on Elmsford Day, October 4, 2025. Thank you to our Board Trustees, the PTSA, students, school administrators, and staff who participated!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Daylight Savings Time Ends, time to “fall back,” Sunday, Nov. 2. Don’t forget to set your clocks back one hour!

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Nov. 4, Superintendent’s Conference Day, **No School for students***

Nov. 11, Veteran’s Day, Schools and District Offices Closed

Nov. 12, Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.

Nov. 12-14, Grady Book Fair

Nov. 20, Parent-Teacher Conferences, 6 p.m.

Nov. 21, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Half-Day for Students

Nov. 24-26, Dixson Book Fair

Nov. 26, Half-Day for Students

Nov. 27-28, Thanksgiving Break, Schools and District Office Closed

ALICE E. GRADY
**THANKSGIVING
FOOD DRIVE**

NOV. 12
UNTIL
NOV. 24

Suggested items include:
Rice, Soup, Beans, Canned Vegetables or Fruit, Cranberry Sauce, Instant Mashed Potatoes or Canned Yams, Canned Gravy or packets, Stuffing Mix, Pasta, Sauce, Boxed Pudding, Pie Filling, Cake Mix, and Cornbread Mix

**If you are interested in donating a fresh turkey breast or small turkey, please reach out to Mrs. Budzynski & NEHS*

BRING YOUR HEALTHY NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS TO ALICE E. GRADY SCHOOL. THERE WILL BE BOXES BY THE MAIN OFFICE.

THANK YOU!

The poster features a yellow background with autumn-themed illustrations including a turkey, pumpkins, and various leaves. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold and regular fonts. The dates 'NOV. 12 UNTIL NOV. 24' are prominently displayed on a pumpkin graphic.