NOVEMBER 2025

SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

"ENGAGE, EQUIP, ELEVATE TOWARD EXCELLENCE."

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Elmsford Community,

During this season of gratitude, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our Elmsford families, students, staff, administrators, and Board of Education trustees. I remain truly grateful for each of you and continue to be deeply impressed by the dedication, support, and commitment to learning you demonstrate every single day.

The past few weeks have been no exception, offering numerous opportunities for students to share their talents, express their interests, and celebrate their identities with their peers.

At AHHS, students presented an outstanding revue in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. The performances—ranging from original poetry and songs to dance, artwork, and more—were remarkable. It was inspiring to witness so many students enthusiastically come forward to honor their heritage and share it with friends and classmates.

This week, we completed our capital project of the roofs at Grady ES and Dixson PS. We thank you for trusting us with this roofing project. This project involved careful planning, a significant financial investment, and close collaboration with multiple parties to ensure durable, high-quality roofs that will protect our students and staff for many years. So please look up and enjoy our new roofs.

Impressive work continues across our classrooms. In recent weeks, students throughout the district have been engaged in lessons focused on reading, writing, math fluency, music, and more. These learning experiences have also extended beyond the classroom through special trips designed to enrich and deepen their understanding. We also thank the Grady National Elementary Honor Society and Ms. Budzynski for organizing our Thanksgiving Food Drive, which was a huge success. We thank everyone for donating food and materials.

I would also like to extend special thanks to Erin Pryor, owner of Elmsford's No Limits Performing Arts Studio. She recently visited the Dixson School and taught students—and their parents, guardians, and special friends—how to dance the "Cha-Cha" during our Formal Friday celebration. Students and guests arrived dressed for the occasion and ready to dance, making for a joyful morning filled with music and movement.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our Elmsford families and friends a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I wish you safe travels and a time of laughter and joy.

Regards,

Susan Yom
Superintendent of Schools



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

We wish all our families a Happy Thanksgiving!
Schools and the District Office will be closed Nov. 27-28.
Students will be on a half-day schedule on Nov. 26.



Energy Savings Seminar

James Frees, Director of Facilities, attended the Schools Energy Saving Seminar at Southern Westchester BOCES, hosted by the BCW Clean Energy Action Coalition, to learn about potential energy saving measures for Elmsford UFSD.

Topics included new funding opportunities from Con Edison, NYSERDA and the NY Power Authority; and reducing costs with solar. Clean energy investments not only reduce operating costs but also set a powerful example of proactive sustainability for our students.



A delicious celebration
Students share foods representing their cultural heritage

Students in Donna Brenna's class were unusually quiet this one morning, occupied by the delicious food they were eating.

"It's just tasty," eighth grader Catherine Bonilla said, adding how she brought in a Dominican dish to share with classmates called mangú, which consists of mashed plantains with fried salami and fried eggs.

The feast also consisted of sweet bread from Mexico, a traditional Ecudorian candy, Tres Leches and more.

Ms. Brenna is bringing back a tradition she began with her students several years ago as a way to enjoy the different cultures represented in her students. The activity was in part inspired by the book her students are reading. The book, "Letters from Rifka," tells the story of a young girl forced to leave her homeland and immigrate to the United States.

"She experiences different cultures and different food," Ms. Brenna said.

As a way to connect with their culture Ms. Brenna had her students first write a heritage poem about themselves.

"We talked about Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, all important facets of the immigrant experience" Ms. Brenna said.

"I love to make it for my family," Aryanna Martinez said, of the Tres Leches cake she brought in to share. "It's a traditional Hispanic dish."

Darien Rosas brought in Conchas, a sweet bread from Mexico.

"It's the only thing I know how to make," Darien laughed as to why he selected the dish to share.

Darien explained that it's typically something eaten at breakfast.

"This group is very involved and animated," Ms. Brenna said of her students. "I felt it would be good for them. We've spoken about different immigrant experiences."

The story of Rifka is resonating with her students.

"She faces obstacles and finds ways to overcome them," Kelly Mogrovejo, whose family is from Ecuador said of the book.

"I like how she experiences other cultures and she travels," Aryanna said.

Later in the year Ms. Brenna, in collaboration with the students history teacher, hopes to take her students on a field trip to Ellis Island for a closer look at an immigrant experience.

Later in the day a second 8th grade class enjoyed the heritage celebration, sharing Tres Leches, Ecuadorian sweet treats, Jamaican curry chicken and Mexican flautas.











AHHS students celebrate their Hispanic culture with special assembly



















Performers sang, danced, recited, played musical instruments, shared historical and artistic facts and otherwise had a great time.

Those in the audience, enjoyed themselves too, clapping along to the music and giving cheers of support.

Students at AHHS came together for a Hispanic Heritage Assembly, where several student volunteers shared their talents and enthusiasm.

For Juliana Fernandez, who represented her culture of Colombia, she sang a protest song that dates back to the 1970s.

"It's something that brings hope," she said of the song.

As for participating in the performance, she said she wanted to share part of her culture with others and show just how diverse Hispanic culture can be.

The show also included a parade of flags, when students walked out on the stage waving flags from throughout Latin America.

In addition, there was artwork featured, which detailed different animal species in the region.

Primrose Rogers wrote an original poem in Spanish, that she recited. She explained the poem talked of an "endless party," where revelers talked, sang and danced all night.

For Allison Alfonso, she and a group of her friends decided to dance, dance, dance. Together they demonstrated several different styles of dancing.

"I enjoy participating in something like this, I'm really big into my culture," Allison said, adding that her family comes from Colombia.

"It's fun to share, I don't know if other people know about traditions from other countries," Allison said. "I hope they see there are good things in Hispanic culture, in any culture."

Performers volunteer to be part of the performance, and under the guidance of advisors Spanish teacher Haughton Brown and ENL teacher Jhoana Segarra, they rehearsed for several hours and perfected their routines.

"These students are so creative, they share original pieces, poems, original music compositions, it's phenomenal," Mr. Brown said, adding that it is a teaching moment too, for those in the audience are learning things they may not have known.

Events such as this, Ms. Segarra said, helps to expose students to international culture and traditions. She said several research various music and share pieces that have not been heard in decades.

"It gets them a little bit going back to their roots and honors where they come from," she said.

"Are we going to do it again next year?" Mr. Brown asked.

"YES!" responded Ms. Segarra.

Earlier this month it was a reading, writing and research kind of day at Dixson! First graders engaged in a number of learning opportunities related to researching wild and endangered animals, reading and practicing writing long sentences using select words.













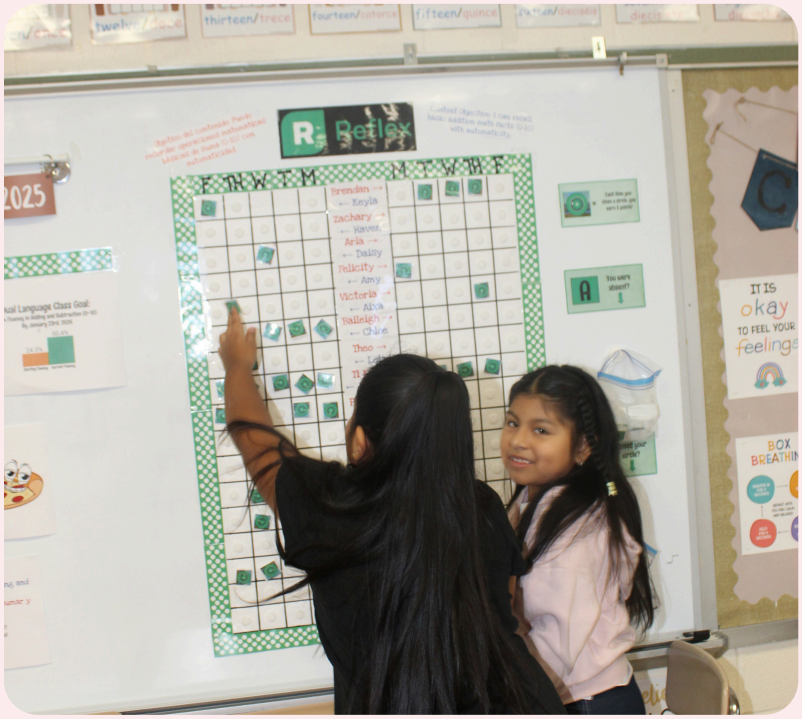






Third graders in Marlix Hernandez math class at Grady recently spent time having fun with Reflex, a math computer program that helps students learn math facts. Students are given a time limit to work their way through problems. They record their progress on a class chart, and have done so well they have earned themselves a pizza party!





Elmsford UFSD



AHHS students in Jaymie Giordano's music class were working on their piano skills. Students were learning chords and finger placement on the keyboards before sharing what they had learned with their teacher.









What is a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)?

The development of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a top priority and a key districtwide approach to ensuring all students receive the comprehensive support—academic, behavioral, and social-emotional—they need to succeed.

The Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) organizes student support across three tiers of increasing intensity. Tier 1 provides high-quality core instruction and curriculum for all students, with effective teaching strategies and differentiation ensuring that students succeed. Tier 2 adds small-group, supplemental interventions delivered with fidelity to give students needing extra help more opportunities for practice and targeted feedback. Tier 3 offers intensive, in small group or individualized settings, and data-driven supports for students who have not responded to Tier 2 interventions. Students are identified for tiered services based on multiple measures, including iReady benchmark scores, and receive support from their classroom teachers or Academic Intervention Services (AIS) Teachers.

The District is heavily invested in training administrators, teachers, and pupil personnel services staff. Members of the District attended a four-part PNWBOCES workshop series to build, refine, and relaunch their Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework, aligned with NYSED guidance. The series focuses on: strengthening Tier 1 practices and interventions, enhancing Tier 2 and Tier 3 systems, and building sustainable structures for lasting implementation.

How do we Measure Progress?

In addition to iReady Data, Lexia, IXL and more, this year, AIS Teachers (as well as Special Education Teachers K-6) are being trained in the use of DIBELS for Benchmarking and Progress Monitoring purposes. DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) is a short, research-based assessment used to check how students are developing essential reading skills.

Wilson Training

AIS (Academic Intervention Services) Teachers and Special Education Teachers will also be trained in Wilson Reading Systems. The Wilson Reading System is a structured, research-based program that helps students build strong reading and spelling skills. It uses a systematic, step-by-step approach to teach how sounds and letters work together, making reading more accessible for students who need explicit, multisensory instruction.

Students learn through hands-on activities, repetition, and clear routines that help them become confident, independent readers. The Wilson program is widely used across the country to support students with dyslexia or other reading difficulties, and it strengthens foundational literacy skills for any learner who needs it.

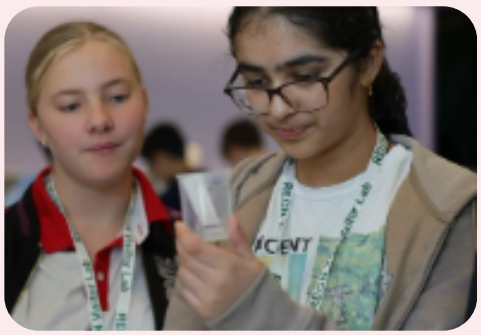
Title I Program: *Before/After School Programs at Dixson and Grady*

Title I, Part A, is a federal program that provides funding to New York State school districts and charter schools with high percentages of students of economically disadvantaged students. The program's goal is to ensure all students have an opportunity to receive a high-quality education and to help close achievement gaps. The District has identified Alice E. Grady ES and Dixson PS as Title I schools.

With Title I grant funds, the District is providing additional reading and math support at Grady (after school) and Dixson (before school) for students. These targeted sessions are designed to help students strengthen key skills and build confidence. For more information, please contact Jeanette Veneziano who is coordinating these programs. We thank Ms. Veneziano and our dedicated teachers who are providing this extra layer of support for our learners.

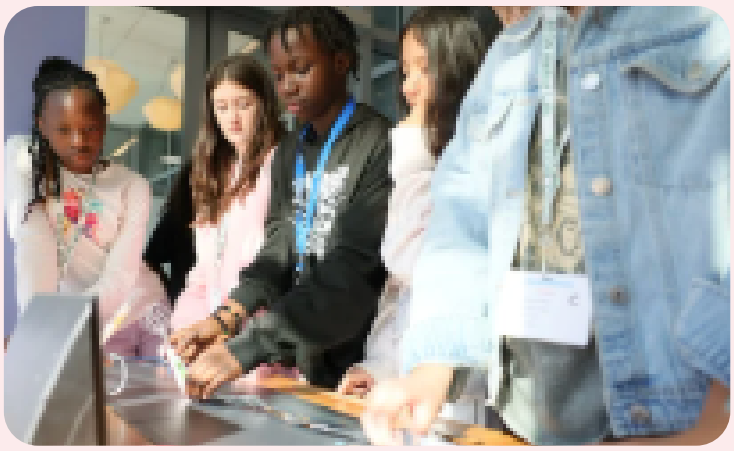
ON THE ROAD: FIELD TRIPS





7th graders recently visited Regeneron and the Bio Bus to learn more about life systems and their impact on the planet.







Our 6th graders had a wonderful experience on our first field trip to Teatown Lake Reservation in Tarrytown, NY! Students participated in hands-on lake studies, exploring the water, observing wildlife, and learning about the different organisms that live in and around the lake. They were excited to discover and discuss the various animals that call the Hudson Valley home. It was a meaningful day of learning, exploration, and teamwork, and we're grateful to have shared this experience together!











Cha! Cha! Cha!

Thank you to Erin Pryor, owner of No Limits Performing Arts Studio for teaching some dance moves with our Dixson students and special friends for Formal Friday!







Alexander Hamilton

2024-25 Winter Track Schedule

Date	Meet	Location	Time	Bus Time
Sun. 12/8	Kick Off Meet I	NYC Armory	5:00pm	3:00pm
Tues. 12/10	Frosh/Soph Meet I	RCC	4:30pm	2:45pm
Sat. 12/14	**Jim Mitchell Invitational	NYC Armory	5:00pm	3:00pm
Fri. 12/27	Pearl River Holiday Invitational	RCC	8:30am	7:00am
Mon. 1/6	League 3C Championships	NYC Armory	1:30pm	11:30am
Wed. 1/8	Dendy Meet III	RCC	4:30pm	2:45pm
Fri. 1/10	Suffern Invitational	RCC	4:15pm	2:45pm
Wed. 1/15	Ridgewood (NJ) Frosh/Novice Meet	NYC Armory	4:30pm	2:45pm
Sat. 1/25	**Westchester County Championships**	NYC Armory	6:00pm	3:30pm
Wed. 2/5	Section 1 Novice Meet	NYC Armory	5:30pm	3:00pm
Sun. 2/16	**Class C Championships**	NYC Armory	9:00am	7:15am
Sum. 2/23	**NYSPHSAA State Qualifiers**	NYC Armory	9:00am	7:15am

All Meet Times Are Subject To Change & Additional Meets May Be Added
These Meets Are For Athletes Who Meet The Qualifying Standard Times/Distances

HAMILTON LADY RAIDERS

Girls Varsity Basketball
ALEXANDER HAMILTON
RED RAIDERS
2025-26

RYE NECK - AWAY DECEMBER 5TH 6:00PM	WOODLANDS - AWAY DECEMBER 18TH 4:30PM	TUCKAHOE - HOME JANUARY 28TH 4:30PM
TBD @ RYE NECK TOURNEY DECEMBER 6TH 12PM / 4PM	BRIARCLIFF - AWAY JANUARY 6TH 4:30PM	YONKERS MA - HOME JANUARY 30TH 4:30PM
TUCKAHOE - AWAY DECEMBER 8TH 4:30PM	YONKERS MA - HOME JANUARY 7TH 4:30PM	VALHALLA - AWAY FEBRUARY 3RD 4:30PM
PUTNAM VALLEY - AWAY DECEMBER 10TH 4:45PM	BRONXVILLE - AWAY JANUARY 12TH 4:30PM	NANUET - HOME FEBRUARY 6TH 4:30PM
RAMAPO - HOME DECEMBER 12TH 5:00PM	NORTH SALEM - HOME JANUARY 14TH 5:00PM	HALDANE - AWAY FEBRUARY 10TH 4:45PM
TBD @ ELMSFORD CLASSIC DECEMBER 13TH 11AM / 3PM	HALDANE - HOME JANUARY 23RD 4:45PM	*WOODLANDS - HOME* FEBRUARY 13TH 4:45PM
NORTH SALEM - AWAY DECEMBER 16TH 5:00PM	PUTNAM VALLEY - HOME JANUARY 26TH 5:00PM	*Denotes Senior Game* Check websites for changes @ https://www.eufsd.org/domain/26

VARSITY

HAMILTON RED RAIDERS

Boys Varsity Basketball
ALEXANDER HAMILTON
RED RAIDERS
2025-26

TUCKAHOE - HOME DECEMBER 8TH 6:15PM	DOBBS FERRY - HOME JANUARY 9TH 6:15PM	BRIARCLIFF - AWAY JANUARY 30TH 6:15PM
MONTFORT ACAD. - HOME DECEMBER 12TH 7:00PM	PUTNAM VALLEY - HOME JANUARY 12TH 6:45PM	TUCKAHOE - AWAY FEBRUARY 3RD 6:15PM
TBD @ ELMSFORD CLASSIC DECEMBER 13TH 1PM / 5PM	YONKERS MA - AWAY JANUARY 14TH 6:15PM	WOODLANDS @ PEEKSKILL FEBRUARY 7TH 6:00PM
DOBBS FERRY - AWAY DECEMBER 15TH 5:00PM	CROTON HARMON - HOME JANUARY 16TH 6:45PM	EDGEMONT - HOME FEBRUARY 9TH 6:15PM
HASTINGS - HOME DECEMBER 18TH 6:15PM	HALDANE - AWAY JANUARY 23RD 6:30PM	BRONXVILLE - AWAY FEBRUARY 11TH 6:15PM
PEEKSKILL @ MONROE DECEMBER 19TH 6:00PM	HASTINGS - AWAY JANUARY 26TH 6:15PM	*PAWLING - HOME* FEBRUARY 13TH 6:30PM
YONKERS MA - HOME JANUARY 7TH 6:15PM	NORTH SALEM - AWAY JANUARY 28TH 6:45PM	*Denotes Senior Game* Check websites for changes @ https://www.eufsd.org/domain/26



JV & MODIFIED

Girls JV Basketball
ALEXANDER HAMILTON RED RAIDERS
2025-26

TUCKAHOE - AWAY DECEMBER 8TH 6:00PM	BRONXVILLE - AWAY JANUARY 12TH 6:00PM	NANUET - HOME FEBRUARY 6TH 6:00PM
PUTNAM VALLEY - AWAY DECEMBER 10TH 6:15PM	NORTH SALEM - HOME JANUARY 14TH 6:30PM	HALDANE - AWAY FEBRUARY 10TH 6:30PM
NORTH SALEM - AWAY DECEMBER 16TH 6:30PM	HALDANE - HOME JANUARY 23RD 6:15PM	WOODLANDS - AWAY FEBRUARY 13TH 6:00PM
WOODLANDS - AWAY DECEMBER 18TH 6:00PM	PUTNAM VALLEY - HOME JANUARY 26TH 6:30PM	
PAWLING - HOME DECEMBER 19TH 6:45PM	TUCKAHOE - HOME JANUARY 28TH 6:00PM	
BRIARCLIFF - AWAY JANUARY 6TH 6:00PM	YONKERS MA - HOME JANUARY 30TH 6:00PM	
YONKERS MA - AWAY JANUARY 7TH 6:00PM	VALHALLA - AWAY FEBRUARY 3RD 6:00PM	

Check websites for changes @ https://www.eufsd.org/domain/26
Follow Us On Twitter: @RedRaiderAD

Boys JV Basketball
ALEXANDER HAMILTON RED RAIDERS
2025-26

TUCKAHOE - HOME DECEMBER 8TH 4:30PM	YONKERS MA - AWAY JANUARY 14TH 4:30PM	WOODLANDS - AWAY FEBRUARY 6TH 4:30PM
DOBBS FERRY - AWAY DECEMBER 15TH 6:30PM	CROTON-HARMON - HOME JANUARY 16TH 5:00PM	EDGEMONT - HOME FEBRUARY 9TH 4:30PM
HASTINGS - HOME DECEMBER 18TH 4:30PM	HALDANE - AWAY JANUARY 23RD 4:45PM	BRONXVILLE - AWAY FEBRUARY 11TH 4:30PM
PAWLING - HOME DECEMBER 19TH 5:00PM	HASTINGS - AWAY JANUARY 26TH 4:30PM	TBD - TBD TBD TBD
YONKERS MA - HOME JANUARY 7TH 4:30PM	NORTH SALEM - AWAY JANUARY 28TH 5:00PM	TBD - TBD TBD TBD
DOBBS FERRY - HOME JANUARY 9TH 4:30PM	BRIARCLIFF - AWAY JANUARY 30TH 4:30PM	TBD - TBD TBD TBD
PUTNAM VALLEY - HOME JANUARY 12TH 5:00PM	TUCKAHOE - AWAY FEBRUARY 3RD 4:30PM	

Check websites for changes @ https://www.eufsd.org/domain/26
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Modified Girls Basketball
ALEXANDER HAMILTON RED RAIDERS
2025-26

POCANTICO - AWAY DECEMBER 15TH 4:30PM	LEFFELL - HOME JANUARY 14TH 4:30PM	PORT CHESTER - HOME FEBRUARY 9TH 4:30PM
WOODLANDS - HOME DECEMBER 16TH 4:30PM	PORT CHESTER - AWAY JANUARY 16TH 4:30PM	LEFFELL - AWAY FEBRUARY 12TH 4:30PM
PEEKSKILL - AWAY JANUARY 18TH 4:45PM	WOODLANDS - AWAY JANUARY 23RD 4:30PM	
YONKERS CSEE - HOME JANUARY 7TH 4:30PM	PEEKSKILL - HOME JANUARY 26TH 4:45PM	
PAWLING - HOME JANUARY 9TH 5:00PM	PAWLING - AWAY JANUARY 30TH 5:00PM	
YONKERS MA - HOME JANUARY 13TH 4:30PM	YONKERS MA - AWAY FEBRUARY 6TH 4:30PM	

Home Games @ Alice E. Grady Gym
Check websites for changes @ https://www.eufsd.org/domain/26
Follow Us On Twitter: @RedRaiderAD

Modified Boys Basketball
ALEXANDER HAMILTON RED RAIDERS
2025-26

POCANTICO - HOME DECEMBER 15TH 4:30PM	TUCKAHOE - HOME JANUARY 28TH 4:30PM	LEFFELL - HOME FEBRUARY 12TH 4:30PM
GARRISON - AWAY DECEMBER 16TH 4:45PM	IRVINGTON - HOME JANUARY 30TH 4:30PM	MT. VERNON - TBD TBD
IRVINGTON - AWAY DECEMBER 18TH 4:30PM	DOBBS FERRY - HOME FEBRUARY 3RD 4:30PM	
LEFFELL - AWAY JANUARY 14TH 4:30PM	WHITE PLAINS - AWAY FEBRUARY 6TH 4:30PM	
PORT CHESTER - HOME JANUARY 16TH 4:30PM	DOBBS FERRY - AWAY FEBRUARY 9TH 4:30PM	
WOODLANDS - AWAY	HASTINGS - HOME	

*Home Games @ Alice E. Grady
Check websites for changes
https://www.eufsd.org/doma

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 3, Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
Dec. 4, Financial Aid Night, AHHS Library, 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 9, District Holiday Concert, 7 p.m.
Dec. 17, Dixson Holiday Show, 10 a.m., @ Grady Auditorium
Dec. 19, Dixson Fitness Friday
Dec. 22-Jan. 2, Holiday Recess, Schools Closed



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Grady National Elementary Honor Society food drive! An impressive collection of non-perishable food items were donated for distribution throughout the community.