DECEMBER 2025

SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

"ENGAGE, EQUIP, ELEVATE TOWARD EXCELLENCE."

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Elmsford Community,

Happy Holidays to our families, students, staff, and community!

December has been a wonderful blend of meaningful classroom learning and festive celebrations across the district. The EUFSD community truly embraced the spirit of the season through joy, generosity, and togetherness.

I am especially grateful to our incredible music department for presenting such an outstanding District Holiday Concert. Thank you to Grady Choral Director Christopher Funke and Band Director Michael Webb, along with AHHS Choral Director Megha Swamy and Band Director Jaymie Giordano. A heartfelt thank you also goes to our choir members and musicians, whose dedication and talent made the evening such a joy.

I would also like to recognize the staff at Dixson for helping to create another delightful "Dixson Holiday Show" for our families and friends. Our kindergartners and first graders sang a variety of songs celebrating the season and simple holiday fun. The performance ended on a high note when the Dixson staff surprised the audience with an original rendition of "The 12 Days of Dixson," much to everyone's delight.

Our Grady National Elementary Honor Society students truly captured the giving spirit by hosting a "Giving Tree," collecting hats, scarves, and gloves for those in need. Thanks to the generosity of our community, the tree quickly filled, reflecting the kindness and compassion that defines the EUFSD.

We are also grateful for our continued partnership with the Village of Elmsford. The Grady Chorus and Band added to the holiday cheer by performing at the Village Tree Lighting ceremony, helping to usher in the season.

As we head into the holiday break, I look forward to carrying this sense of goodwill with me—a time to rest, recharge, and



enjoy special traditions with family and friends.

I can't wait to welcome our students and staff back in the new year as we continue the wonderful work happening across our schools each day.

May you embrace the joy of the season,

Susan Yom
Superintendent of Schools

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We wish all our families Happy Holidays!
Schools will be closed Dec. 22 through Jan. 4. We are excited to see students on January 5, 2026.

The Season of Giving

Shout out to one or our own, Jason Roberts, Jr. for his great work during this season of giving!

Jason helped to organize a diaper drive, collecting much needed goods for families in need.

Learn more about his work in this special story thanks to News12 by clicking on the following. link, https://tinyurl.com/4p55rphh



BOCES CTE program offers AHHS students hands-on learning



Jayline Torres



Jenell Aboagye & Viviana Arellano



Lindsay Espinoza & Nicole Jackson



Christian Johnson

The Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Career Services offers area high school students from across the region a variety of alternative education programs to develop real-world skills in several industries.

Juniors and Seniors have an opportunity to select from more than 21 Career and Technical Education programs, from Advertising and Graphic Design to Welding, spending half their day at the Valhalla campus, while completing their core high school courses at their home school.

Close to 30 students from Alexander Hamilton High School are enrolled in one of these programs. We caught up with a few of them to learn more about what attracted them to and why they selected BOCES and what they enjoy about their specific program.

Jayline Torres, Junior
COSMETOLOGY
"I chose this because this is what I want to do once I get out of college. I want to have my own salon."

"Learning the new things, like learning how to do rollers, and learning stuff I didn't know, like there is more than just blow drying."

Jenell Aboagye, Senior
EMS
"I decided to come to BOCES because I wanted to learn medical stuff, I like to learn about the body systems, how it works and what could affect it, and how it functions. I feel like BOCES is the right place for me."

Viviana Arellano, Senior
EMS
"I decided to come to BOCES because I knew it was a school that had a variety of choices. … I chose EMS specifically because I want to learn how to help people and I also know I want to become a nurse and know this subject and the things we learn here will later apply to nursing."

Lindsey Espinoza, Senior
CULINARY ARTS
"I came to BOCES for the experience. I needed credits to graduate, and I thought it would be a more fun option, rather than stay sitting in class all day studying on a computer. I can actually do something like baking and cooking. "

"I like helping, talking with my classmates and baking. I learned some knife skills, and different types of cuts like julienne."

Nicole Jackson, Senior
CULINARY ARTS
"I chose BOCES because I like hands on experiences. I am not big on sitting down at a desk and reading and stuff like that."

"I think it's the baking portion, learning the health benefits, healthy options. My parents are up on age so they can't eat certain things, like have sugar. I get to experiment with different pastries and making them healthier and flavorful."

Christian Johnson, Senior
BARBERING
"I chose BOCES because, I feel like college isn't for me, I have a lot of tension, I need to move my hands. I feel like hands on jobs; blue collar jobs are better for people who don't want to sit in a classroom all day and the is more money there."

"Everyone is really respectful here. You can ask questions. You feel comfortable with everyone. It's a good learning experience. Not a lot of people get to be here so that's why it's such a big deal to me."

With a chill in the air, it seemed like the perfect time for Dixson students to draw their own snowmen while in art class! After a brief discussion from Art Teacher Ms. Sanft, about large, medium and small circles that make up the seasonal character, students started their project. They'll be back to put on the finishing touches!











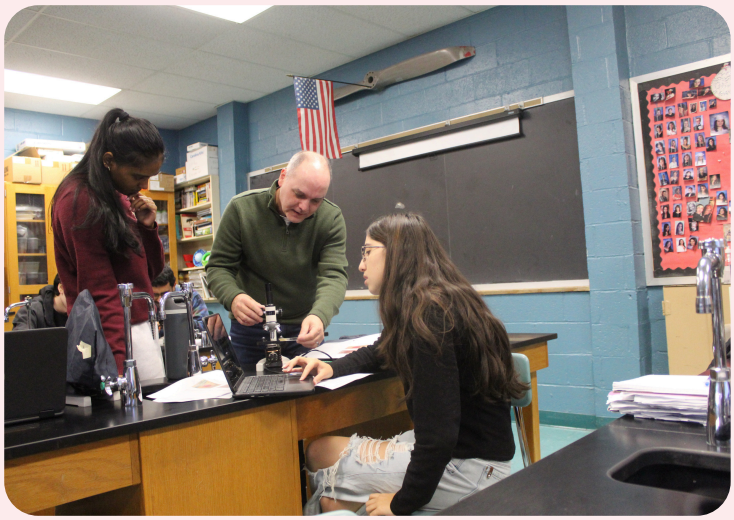
There was some serious conversation going on at Grady in Ms. Breen's fifth grade classroom as students and their teacher discussed some vocabulary words they may come across in the book they were to begin that day. One student even demonstrated what a "grimace" was, scrunching his face up in imaginary pain, causing a spasm of giggles from his classmates. The room soon turned very quiet, once students grabbed their books and began to read, delving into "Earthquake Terror," by Peg Kehret.

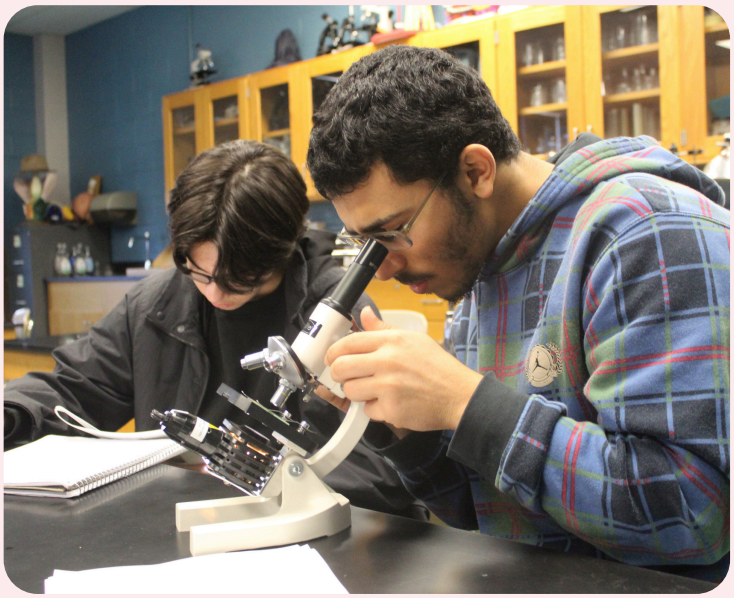






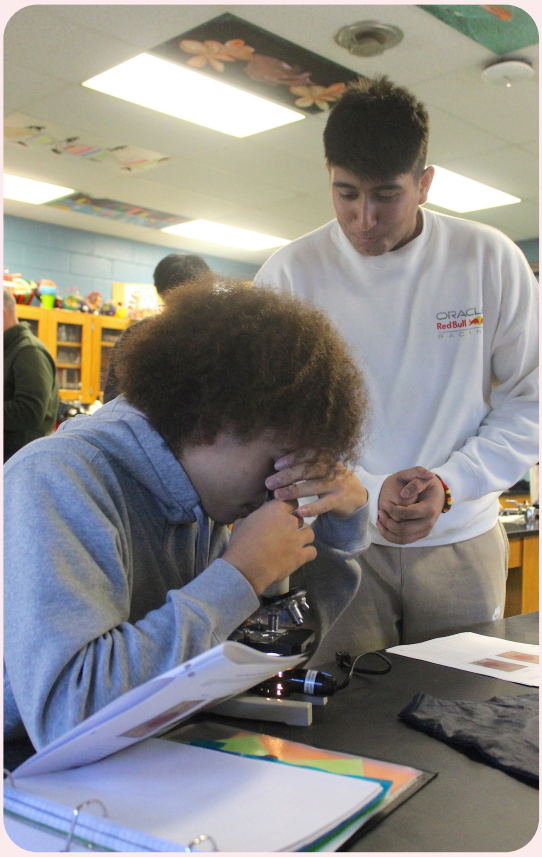






AHHS Seniors in James Murphy's AP Biology class recently took a very close look at cells undergoing mitosis, when a single cell divides into two genetically identical cells. The next step for the students will be to calculate the rate at which the cells divide in order to create a mitotic index, measuring the percentage of cells that undergo mitosis.







District Holiday Concert

Congratulations to all our choir members and band performers for their amazing performance during the District Holiday Concert! The audience was treated to a spectacular performance by the Grady Chorus, directed by Christopher Funke, several outstanding numbers from the Grady Band, directed by Michael Webb, more wonderful songs from the AHHS Chorus, under the direction of Megha Swamy and a rousing show by the AHHS band, directed by Jaymie Giordano! It was a great night of music full of seasonal songs!














Dixson Holiday Concert

They did it again! Our Kindergarten and First Graders performed their hearts out at the annual "Dixson Holiday Show" today! They had fun singing a number of seasonal songs in front of an audience of family and friends. If that wasn't enough, the Dixson staff dazzled with their rendition of "The 12 Days of Dixson!"



















ON THE ROAD: STUDENTS PERFORM FOR VILLAGE HOLIDAY EVENT





What a great way to ring in the holiday season! Our Grady Choir and Band, under the direction of Christopher Funke and Michael Webb, provided some entertainment during the Village of Elmsford's Tree Lighting Celebration held on the evening of Dec. 4!











Congratulations to the AHHS Girls and Boys Varsity Basketaball on their tournament championships!

2025 Elmsford Classic Girls Basketball Tournament

All-Tournament:
Riley Jenkins
Peekskill

All-Tournament:
Somaya Blackman
Alexander Hamilton

All-Tournament:
Agelys Encarnacion
Yonkers CSEE

All-Tournament:
Kiara Surrell
Alexander Hamilton

All-Tournament:
Dejanae Buckley
East Ramapo

Glen Mason Memorial Tournament MVP:
Jaya Oliva
Alexander Hamilton

2025 Elmsford Classic Champions:
Hamilton Lady Raiders

2025 Elmsford Classic Boys Basketball Tournament

All-Tournament:
Victor Sterling-Lopez
Montfort Academy

All-Tournament:
Gerry Pompilus
Alexander Hamilton

All-Tournament:
Matthew Dillon
Yonkers CSEE

All-Tournament:
Hasani Price
Alexander Hamilton

All-Tournament:
Jayden Melendez
Ramapo

Glen Mason Memorial Tournament MVP:
Zachary Davis
Alexander Hamilton

2025 Elmsford Classic Champions:
Hamilton Red Raiders

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 5, Schools reopen following Holiday recess
Jan. 14, Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., AHHS Auditorium
Jan. 19, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Schools & District Office Closed
Jan. 30, Dixson/Grady Fitness Friday



Once again, the Grady National Elementary Honor Society stepped up to help the community! This month they hosted a "Giving Tree," collecting hats, scarves and mittens to be distributed to those in need. Thank you to all who donated to make this such a successful event!