

GoodNews

February The Ewing Public Schools 2026

Congratulations to Former Ewing High School Coach, Shelly Dearden, Inducted into the New Jersey State Coaches Association Hall of Fame





Congratulations to Ewing High School's former coach, Shelly Dearden, on her induction into the New Jersey State Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Sunday, January 11, 2026. Coach Dearden was nominated by the current Ewing High School Athletic Director, Christina Monaco Caldwell, for this prestigious honor.

This is what Ms. Caldwell had to say: "Shelly Dearden is an exceptional candidate for the NJSIAA, New Jersey State Coaches Association Hall of Fame, boasting a groundbreaking 31-year coaching career marked by unprecedented success across multiple sports. She is the first coach in New Jersey history to win NJSIAA state championships in three different sports. Girls Soccer (1991), Girls Basketball (1999), and Boys Basketball (2012), making history as the first woman to coach a boys' basketball team to a state title. With over 500 career wins, numerous CVC, Sectional, MCT, and County titles across her programs, and personal accolades including New Jersey Gatorade Coach of the Year and Sportsperson of the Year, her legacy as a highly decorated and influential figure in New Jersey high school athletics is undeniable."

"Above all honors, Shelly deeply cares about her athletes and has created lifelong legends in athletics because of her dedication, sportsmanship, gratitude, and hard work that she instills in her student-athletes."

Shelly's groundbreaking success coaching boys' basketball garnered national attention and was highlighted in Sports Illustrated. She was also recognized by Channel 6 ABC News and NJ Monthly Magazine. NJSIAA highlighted Shelly's success story in the 2024 Women's History Month article. The article started with a single sentence, "Some people seem born to coach, Shelly Dearden is one of them."

Girls Soccer: Seven (7) CVC League Titles, One (1) Mercer County Title, Four (4) NJSIAA Sectional Titles, and One (1) State Championship

Girls Basketball: Five (5) League Titles, Three (3) County Titles, Four (4) NJSIAA Sectional Titles, and One (1) State Championship Title - Coached Nine 1,000 Point Scorers

Boys Basketball: Coach Dearden was the only woman coaching boys basketball in New Jersey at the time of her tenure and one of a handful nationally. Coached Five (5) 1,000 Point Scorers (As of January 15, 2026, Coach Dearden added Ewing High School senior, Terrance Traylor, to the list! She coached Terrance when he was a freshman); Teams amassed nine (9) League titles, one (1) County title, six (6) NJSIAA Sectional titles, and one (1) State title.

Coach Dearden became the only coach in the country to win three State Championships in three different sports.

Coach Dearden was the first woman to win a state title in both girls' and boys' basketball.

Coach Dearden was named NJSIAA Coach of the Year twice, Mercer County Coach of the Year on multiple occasions by multiple outlets, was a Hall of Fame Inductee seven times, and received numerous accolades, including national recognition. She was also inducted into the Colonial Valley Conference (CVC) Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame and the Mercer County Hall of Fame.

As a former student-athlete herself, Shelly was inducted into the Ewing High School Athletic Hall of Fame and The College of New Jersey Hall of Fame for her dedication and success in both athletics and academics during high school and college. She is a role model for all of the students, athletes, and children she has touched over the many years as a teacher and coach.

Shelly was born in California. Her father, Fred Walters, was playing professional baseball at the time. When the family moved back home to the East Coast, they settled in Trenton, New Jersey. Shelly attended St. Hedwig's from Kindergarten through eighth grade, where she got her first start in athletics in basketball and cheerleading. When her family moved to Ewing, she picked up soccer and softball. Shelly started ninth grade at Fisher Middle School and attended tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades at Ewing High School. She went to college right here in Ewing at Trenton State College, graduating in 1985. She was hired as a teacher and a coach for the Ewing Township School District right out of college, and the rest is history!

She is the founder of many community athletic programs, such as Mercer "33" Girls Soccer Awards Banquet and girls summer basketball league at Moody Park in Ewing, New Jersey. She is also the Director of the Shelly Dearden Basketball Camp through the Ewing Township Recreation Department and coached many Ewing Recreation and travel teams, which she currently still does.

What most of us may not know is that Coach Dearden embodies one of Coaching 3 C's: Compassion. You may not see it, but the recipient knows it and is forever grateful. The staff of GoodNews has it on a pretty good authority that she is an expert at ironing, too, especially prom dresses!

Congratulations to EHS Senior Boys Basketball Player, Terrance Traylor, 1,000 Points



It was an exciting night on January 15, 2026, in the Emil Wandishin Gym at Ewing High School, when Ewing High School senior boys basketball player, Terrance Traylor, threw the ball up for a swish to score and join the 1,000-point club! The home crowd was delighted, and to cap off the night, the Ewing High School Boys Basketball team defeated Hamilton West with a score of 72-52.

Congratulations Terrance!

Pictured: Coach Nate Wyatte, Terrance Traylor, and Coach Paul Jones

Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation Supports Ewing Public Schools Through Community Partnership and $3,000 Donation

By Dr. Maria Petsos, Director of Special Services, Ewing Public Schools



The Ewing Public Schools is proud to recognize and celebrate the continued partnership and generosity of Phi Sigma Sigma's Theta Eta Chapter at Rider University and the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation, whose commitment to school and college readiness has made a meaningful impact on our students, staff, and community.

Recently, the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation presented the Ewing Public Schools with a $3,000 donation through its Community Impact Fund. This contribution, accepted by Dr. David Gentile, Dr. Maria Petsos, and Principal Kip Harrison of Antheil Elementary School, supports the Foundation's philanthropic focus on school and college readiness and will help the district continue to enhance learning opportunities for students across multiple grade levels.

"This generous donation was a wonderful and much-appreciated surprise," said Dr. Maria Petsos, Director of Special Services for the Ewing Public Schools. "Phi Sigma Sigma has consistently demonstrated a genuine commitment to supporting their neighboring schools. As a Title I school district, partnerships like this make a meaningful difference for our students. These funds will directly support our Title I programs and help us continue to meet the diverse academic and social-emotional needs of our learners."

This donation builds upon a strong and growing collaboration between Phi Sigma Sigma and the Ewing Public Schools which began during the 2024–2025 school year. In January 2025, members of the Theta Eta Chapter volunteered their time during the district's Winter Sweeps initiative, providing hands-on support to schools and staff. In addition, the sorority has donated instructional materials and books to multiple kindergarten classrooms, directly supporting early literacy and foundational learning.

For more than 50 years, the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation has upheld its Founders' mission of advancing womanhood and supporting the twin ideals of "the brotherhood of man and the alleviation of the world's pain." Through leadership programming, scholarships, need-based grants, and community partnerships, the Foundation continues to foster the next generation of leaders while strengthening local communities.

The Ewing Public Schools is deeply grateful for Phi Sigma Sigma's ongoing support, collaboration, and investment in our students. Partnerships such as this exemplify how higher education institutions and community organizations can work together to promote student success and inspire future educators.



Antheil Elementary School students in Mrs. Wojciechowski's kindergarten class and Mr. Petchel's fourth-grade class got together for their January "Buddy Activity" to make snow sticks to use to measure snow for the remaining months of winter. The fourth-graders helped the kindergarteners paint, mark inches using a ruler, and add accessories. Fingers were crossed for enough snow that the students could report back their measurements!



To get ready for winter, students in Mrs. Beachem's classroom at Antheil discussed how snowflakes are like people, each similar but different, and each beautiful.

Students made two variations of snowflakes to decorate their classroom. They learned that salt is hygroscopic, which allows it to absorb water and air. They used this principle to make salt snowflakes.

The Magic of Upcycling

By EHS Senior and Environmental Club member, Shannon Zhispon





The Ewing High's Environmental Club spent a cozy afternoon sharing the Magic of Upcycling with Parkway Elementary School's STEM Club. The high school students gave a presentation on a method of protecting, preserving, and promoting the health of our planet by turning usable materials into new goods! Later on, club members directed hands-on winter-season-inspired crafts using collected recyclables from the EHS community.

STEM Club members not only took home environmentally-friendly projects, but also the tools to begin the change of environmental sustainability, starting from their homes. The club is setting out to continue its partnership with Parkway and possibly expand to neighboring schools with the intent to educate, empower, and promote environmental sustainability. Thank you to all who participated-stay warm and stay GREEN!

Commitment, Community, and Purpose







On Monday evening, January 5, 2026, the Board of Education held its Organization meeting. Congratulations to Mr. Daniel L. Angebranndt, Mrs. Nicole NW Harris, and Mr. Michael S. Miller on their reelection to the Board of Education. Each brings a wealth of experience to the Board along with their continued dedication and commitment to serving the children of Ewing Township.

During the Organization meeting, yearly elections were held for the positions of President and Vice President. Mr. Miller was elected to continue as President of the Board of Education, and Mrs. Harris was elected to continue in the role of Vice President for the 2026 year.

EHS Senior Spotlight: Meet Emily Guzman-Solares



As you start your second and final semester of high school, your schedule includes the course, "Student Voices in Action." Why did you choose this class? This class was one of the recommended classes to take for my career path. I'm hoping this class will reinforce my love for civil engagement. Plus, I also love Ms. Chiavuzzo. She is an excellent teacher that reinforced my love for learning. I am excited to be part of this hands-on interactive class with my peers and see what I learn and accomplish.

Did you know that February 20, 2026, is World Day of Social Justice? Does this day have any meaning to you? The Theme for 2026 is "Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps for Social Justice." Yes, World Day of Social Justice is important to me. The 2026 theme resonates with me not only due to the current political issues but the struggles many communities and minorities have faced historically. This day is a reminder of the importance of equality, and creating opportunities for everyone, no matter their background.

Do you have a favorite subject? English and history have always been tied for first place. My love for English has much to do with my struggles to learn it as a second language at a young age. That might seem confusing, but, to me it signifies the challenges I overcame and the outcome I came to love. Now I'm an excellent writer and have many essays and pieces I proudly let people read—it's a way to explore ideas, tell stories, and express myself. History is just as important because I love learning about the past and understanding the stories, struggles, and achievements that shape the world we live in today.

What activities do you participate in at school? Oh gosh, where to start? I am very involved in school, and I enjoy staying active in my school community. I am the President of Ewing High School's Key Club, Co-Vice President of Student Council, and Co-Vice President of Rotary Interact Club. I also serve as the Events Coordinator for the Black Student Alliance and am an active member of the Yearbook Club. I am also a proud member of the National Honor Society. In addition to my leadership roles in clubs, I am a two-sport varsity athlete. In the fall, I dedicate my time to field hockey, where I served as a team captain during my last season, and in the spring, I play lacrosse, a sport that has become a huge part of my high school experience.

What accomplishments are you most proud of? I am most proud of accumulating over 300 hours of community service. Reaching this milestone has been incredibly rewarding, and I am still actively involved in volunteering. Through my service, I've had the opportunity to help a variety of causes, connect with different people, and see the real impact of giving back. Community service has taught me the importance of empathy, and it reinforced my decision to run for Key Club president.

Who or what has positively impacted your life? My mother, Celia Solares, has had an incredibly positive impact on my life. She has been my strongest support, often behind the scenes, providing strength in moments when I didn't even realize I needed it. Playing sports has also shaped my life in a meaningful way. Whether I'm low to the ground gripping my hockey stick or leaping into the air to catch a ball in lacrosse, I feel completely free — free from the pressures of academics, home life, extracurriculars, and other stresses. On the field, I can focus, push myself, and simply enjoy the moment, which has taught me discipline, and the importance of doing some things I truly love.

What are your plans after you graduate from Ewing High School? I plan to attend a 4-year college and pursue my passion for law and criminology. In the future, I will further my education as I plan to attend law school.

What is your favorite quote or book? One of my favorite quotes is, "If you walk the footsteps of a stranger, you'll learn things you never knew, you never knew." – Pocahontas

Tell us something about yourself that your peers don't know… only if you would like to share. Something my peers don't know about me is that I've read a total of 439 books from my freshman year to date!

The Winner is: Teriyaki Chicken and Vegetable Dumpling!

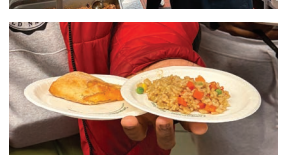
Ewing Public Schools' Food Services Department hosted a tasting with the Ewing High School Public Health classes. Students sampled the many new products available by vendors to possibly "spice" up the lunch and breakfast menus in the cafeteria.

Anthony Tucci from Acxion joined the Food Services team to promote products from Pilgrim's, ULTRA, Sparkling Ice, Land O' Lakes, and Brookwood Farms. Additional products were shared by Greg Ivancich from Schwan's.

Students enjoyed sampling pulled pork mac and cheese, hot honey chicken and biscuits, teriyaki chicken and vegetable dumplings, vegetable fried rice, beef taco Fiestada pizza, beef and cheese Fiestada sandwich, buffalo chicken Fiestada sandwich, breakfast egg rolls with sweet chili sauce, peanut butter and honey Uncrustables, whole grain strawberry mini loafs, and Sparking Ice beverages. Valerie Chernish, Director of the Food Services Department, shared a survey with the students so







students could let the Food Services Department know what they liked and what they didn't like as much. The teriyaki chicken and vegetable dumpling received the overall highest vote.

It was a fun morning enjoyed by the students, administration, and kitchen team. The Food Services Department looks forward to adding student favorite choices to future menus throughout the district.



The Ewing Public Schools

FMS AND EHS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAMS BOUNCE INTO COMMUNITY SERVICE



This winter break, the Fisher Middle School and Ewing High School girls' basketball teams proved that their teamwork extends far beyond the court. In a special collaborative team-building event, players from both programs joined forces to serve the local community.

Working side-by-side, the athletes successfully prepared and packed 100 bagged lunches for donation to Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK). This project provided a unique opportunity for our middle school and high school student-athletes to bond, practice effective communication, and reflect on the importance of service to others. Players learned that while winning on the court is a goal, the character they build through serving their community is what truly defines them as a team.

Ewing Public Schools is proud of these young women for spending their time off giving back and embodying the true spirit of a student-athlete. Way to go, Fisher Eagles and Lady Blue Devils!

2026 Ewing Township Board of Education

Mr. Michael S. Miller, President
Mrs. Nicole NW Harris, Vice President
Mr. Daniel L. Angebranndt
Mrs. Eve R. Bolden
Ms. Elyse Carmichael Henderson
Ms. Deborah A. Delutis
Ms. Sandra Hereford-Crawley
Ms. Sandra L. Herrington
Mrs. Jennifer L. Miller

Notice of Board of Education Meetings

The Ewing Township Board of Education has scheduled the following Board Meetings. All meetings are regular business meetings unless otherwise noted. The Board will meet at 6:00PM and at that time, there will be a brief opening and the Board will move into Closed Session and return to the public at 6:30PM.

DATES:

February 23, 2026
March 16, 2026 (Preliminary Budget Presentation/Tentative Approval)
April 27, 2026 (Public Hearing on Budget/ Approval of Final Budget)
May 18, 2026
June 22, 2026
July 27, 2026
August 24, 2026
September 28, 2026
October 26, 2026
November 23, 2026
December 14, 2026
January 4, 2027
(Note: There will be NO Closed Session unless otherwise specified.)

For questions or information, please contact the Superintendent's Office:

609-538-9800 ext. 1102 thullings@ewingboe.org
www.ewing.k12.nj.us

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The EHS National Honor Society hosted a drive-up winter coat donation event on January 2, collecting hundreds of coats for Jersey Cares. We are grateful to the Ewing community for coming together to support neighbors in need across New Jersey!



Ewing Police Sergeant, Matthew Folis, delivered coats to Lore School Nurse, Christine Sobey, from the Ewing Police Coat Drive. Thank you for keeping our students warm!

February 2026 Schedule in Ewing Schools

Feb 3	EHS - Athletics Division I Signing Day
Feb 5	FMS & Elementary School - 2nd Marking Period Report Cards: Genesis Parent Access
Feb 6	Antheil - PTO Valentine's Day Dance @ 6:30pm **National Wear Red Day – Raise Awareness of Heart Disease**
Feb 7	Parkway - PTA Pancake Breakfast @ 8:30–11:00am
Feb 9	**SCHOOL CLOSED – *Staff Development Day***
Feb 10	Parkway - PTA Meeting @ 6:00pm FMS - FPA Virtual Meeting @ 7:15pm
Feb 11	EHS - Semester 1 Report Cards/Genesis Parent Access
Feb 12	EHS - Back to School Night – Semester 2 @ 6:30pm Antheil - PTO Meeting @ 6:30pm
Feb 14-20	Random Acts of Kindness Week
Feb 16	**SCHOOL CLOSED – *Presidents' Day***
Feb 17	Lore - PTA Meeting @ 7:00pm
Feb 19	Lore - Title 1 Event: Lions Love Learning @ 6:30pm Parkway - Mobile Dentist Visit





