



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 2026



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every Child, Achieving Excellence

Early Childhood Lottery Registration

February 18 –
March 19





ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Every Child, Achieving Excellence

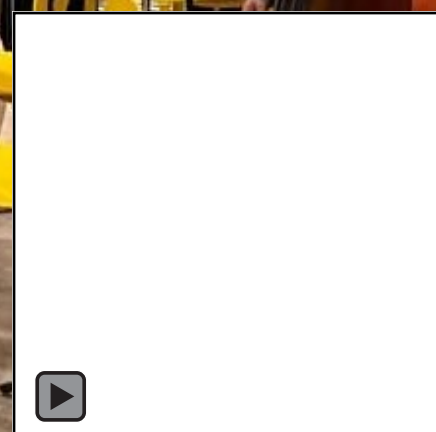
Gifted & Talented Program Application

February 25 – April 10

G&T Information
Session

February 25
School 22

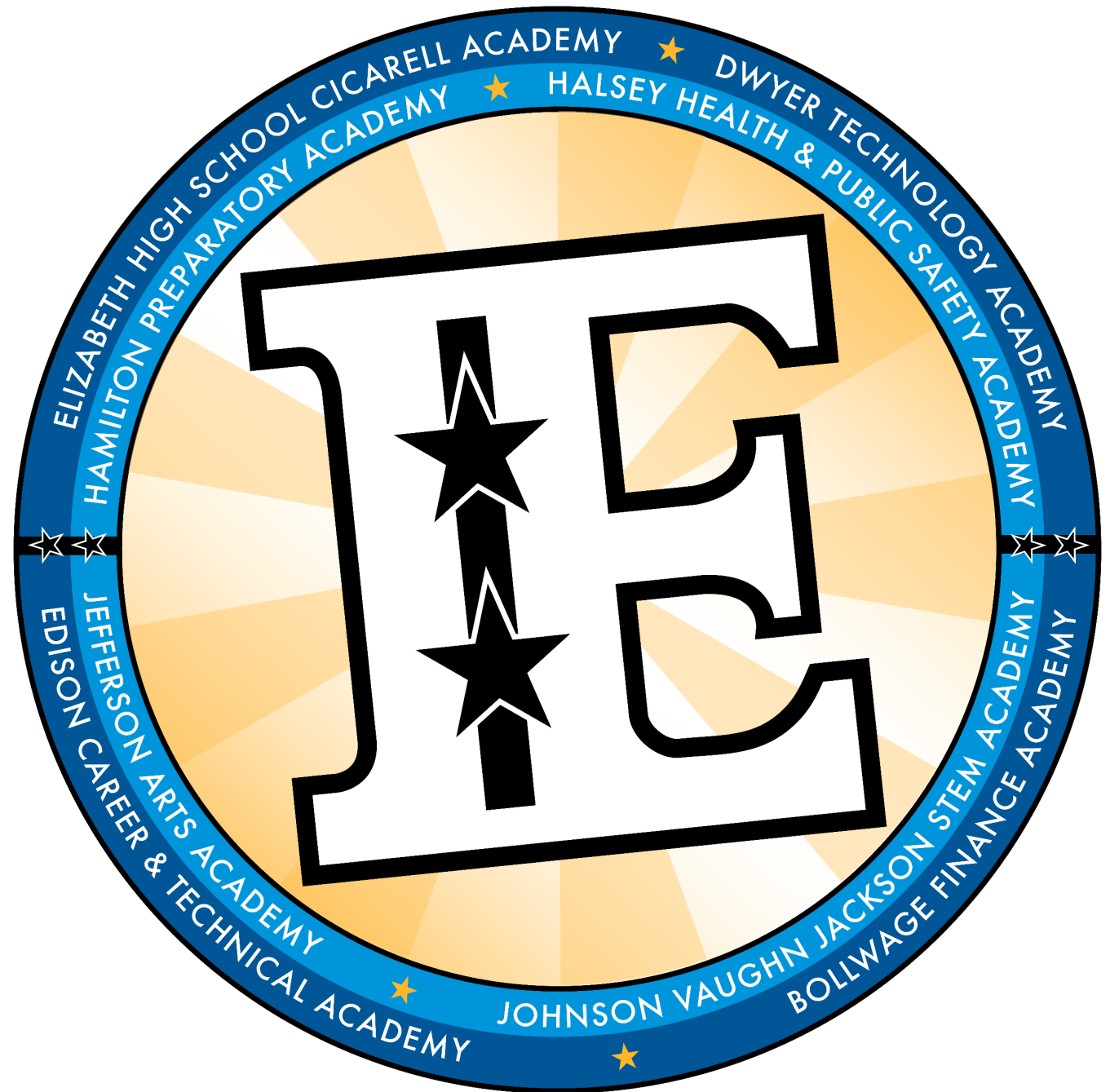
5:30p.m. – 6:30p.m.





COMING SOON

High School
Selection 2026
Information Sessions



DISTRICT FINANCIAL AID NIGHTS



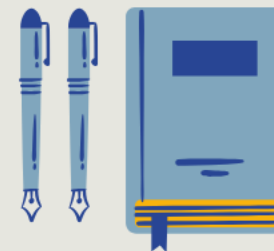
**STUDENTS & PARENTS
MUST BRING LAPTOPS**

**JANUARY 20
JANUARY 27
FEBRUARY 3**

**FEBRUARY 19
MARCH 5**

**MARCH 24
APRIL 21
MAY 12**

5:00PM - 7:00PM



**JOHN E. DWYER
TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY
123 PEARL STREET**

FAFSA:

- ▶▶▶ CREATE FSA ID PRIOR TO ATTENDING AT WWW.FAFSA.GOV
- ▶▶▶ MUST BRING LAPTOP & TAX DOCUMENTS FOR FAFSA COMPLETION WORKSHOPS

SCHOLARSHIPS:

- ▶▶▶ CREATE A GOING MERRY ACCOUNT PRIOR TO ATTENDING AT WWW.GOINGMERRY.COM

▶▶▶ **PRESENTATIONS IN ENGLISH & SPANISH** ◀◀◀

inside

EPSS



News From Central

Elizabeth Public Schools, Elizabeth, NJ

HAMILTON SENIOR RECEIVES FULL SCHOLARSHIP THROUGH QUESTBRIDGE



Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy senior Yusrah Lawal has been awarded a full scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania through the 2025 QuestBridge National College Match, a national program that connects high-achieving high school seniors from low-income backgrounds with full four-year scholarships to 55 of the nation's top colleges.

Lawal was among 2,550 seniors of the Class of 2025 from throughout the nation who were recognized as Match scholarship recipients out of 7,026 finalists to be considered.

She was also awarded the Joy Prescott Humanitarian Award presented by the Kean University Leadership Council because of her dedication to the community. Yusrah has been volunteering most Fridays at a local food bank for the past 3.5 years. Additionally, she took the initiative to find two organizations for which she became an online tutor in math and science--areas where she excels. On average she tutors at least 3 hours a week through those organizations.

EPS PARTNERS WITH MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY FOR FRIENDS DAY



For over 10 years, Montclair State University has hosted Friends Day where over 100 kids with disabilities (ages 5-21) are invited to explore the school's Student Recreation Center. RecBoard, a student-led organization sponsored by the Department of Campus Recreation, plans the fun-filled day of activities for the children with games, arts & crafts, swimming, basketball, and dancing. Each child is paired with two college "buddies" to accompany him/her throughout his/her session. The department's professional staff members oversee the smooth execution of the day's events. This year's event hosted over 20% more kids than last year.

EPS SUPPORTS BE THE CHANGE DURING ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE



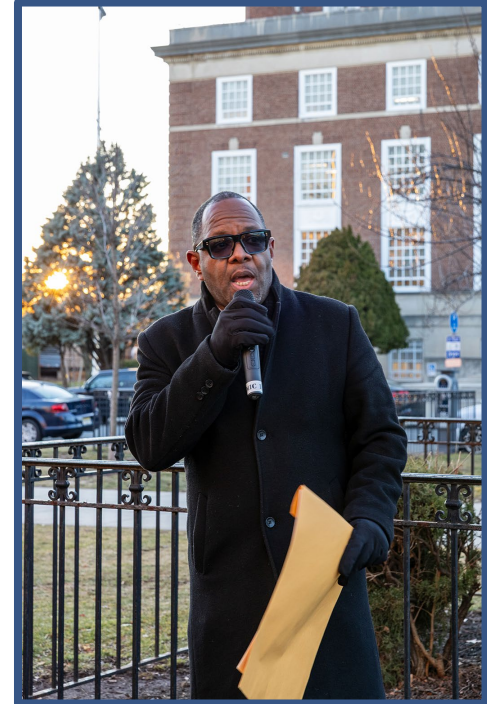
BE THE
CHANGE NJ



Be the Change, a non-profit organization consisting of students from Kean University and other volunteers dedicated to community service and activism projects that help promote peace and nonviolence in urban neighborhoods, partnered with Elizabeth Public Schools, to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to supporting families in the Elizabeth community through its annual holiday food initiative.

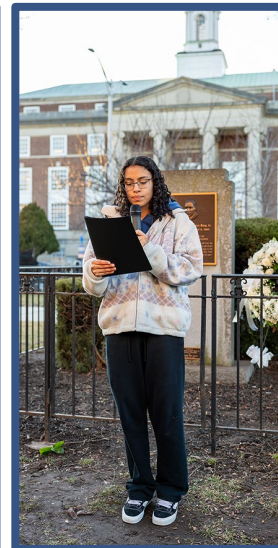
The organization worked tirelessly to gather essential food items, ensuring that families facing hardship could enjoy a warm and meaningful holiday meal. Through the support of Elizabeth Public Schools team members who helped sort, pack, and deliver donations to families in need, Be the Change was able to expand its reach in providing food to families during the holiday season.

EPS PARTICIPATES IN THE KING WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT THE MLK MONUMENT OUTSIDE ELIZABETH CITY HALL



The MLK Committee of Elizabeth NJ, with the support of Elizabeth Public Schools, held a wreath-laying ceremony in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 15 at the MLK Monument in front of Elizabeth City Hall. City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, Elizabeth Board of Education President Maria Z. Carvalho, EPS Director of Curriculum and Instruction Samuel Etienne, Mount Teman AME Church Reverend George Britt, and Union County Commissioner Stanley J. Neron all gave remarks at the ceremony.

EPS PARTICIPATES IN THE KING WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT THE MLK MONUMENT OUTSIDE ELIZABETH CITY HALL (CONT.)



The performances at the ceremony began with “Star-Spangled Banner” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, performed by George Washington Academy School No. 1 & Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 Music Teacher Kerry Stubbs. Additional performances included “Be the Change”, performed by the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy Choir under the direction of Kelly Ann Cubias, an excerpt from “I Have a Dream”, performed by Winfield Scott School No. 2 students, “Litany of Commemoration”, performed by Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy student Dory Madrid, and “My Country, ’Tis of Thee”, performed by the FJC Ensemble Band, under the direction of Miguel Bolivar.

CICARELL, HAMILTON, DWYER, JVJ ACADEMIES MAKE 2025 AP HONOR ROLL



ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL
Frank J. Cicarell Academy



ALEXANDER HAMILTON
LIONS



JOHN E. DWYER
EAGLES



Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan,
Mary Jackson (JVJ) STEM Academy



Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy (EHS – FJC), Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, and Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson (JVJ) STEM Academy were among New Jersey’s schools to earn a place on the College Board 2025 AP School Honor Roll. The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools at Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum tiers for meeting or exceed the criteria of three data metrics, including college culture, college credit, and college optimization. EHS-FJC and Hamilton Preparatory Academy received the Platinum tier while Dwyer Technology Academy and JVJ STEM Academy received Bronze tier, though both earned platinum and gold status among the three subcategories.

HAMILTON STUDENT RECEIVES THE W.E.B. DU BOIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy student Steven Blair was the recipient of the W.E.B. Du Bois Scholarship Award—an exceptional honor that recognizes his academic achievement, motivation, and future potential.

The W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars Institute Program, through the ALA initiative, was created to expose students to STEM at an early age by providing high-achieving tenth and eleventh grade students with a supportive, science-driven academic and professional network. Designed to promote diversity and inclusion in STEM fields, the program offers students new and exciting opportunities to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while preparing them to become the next generation of innovators and leaders.

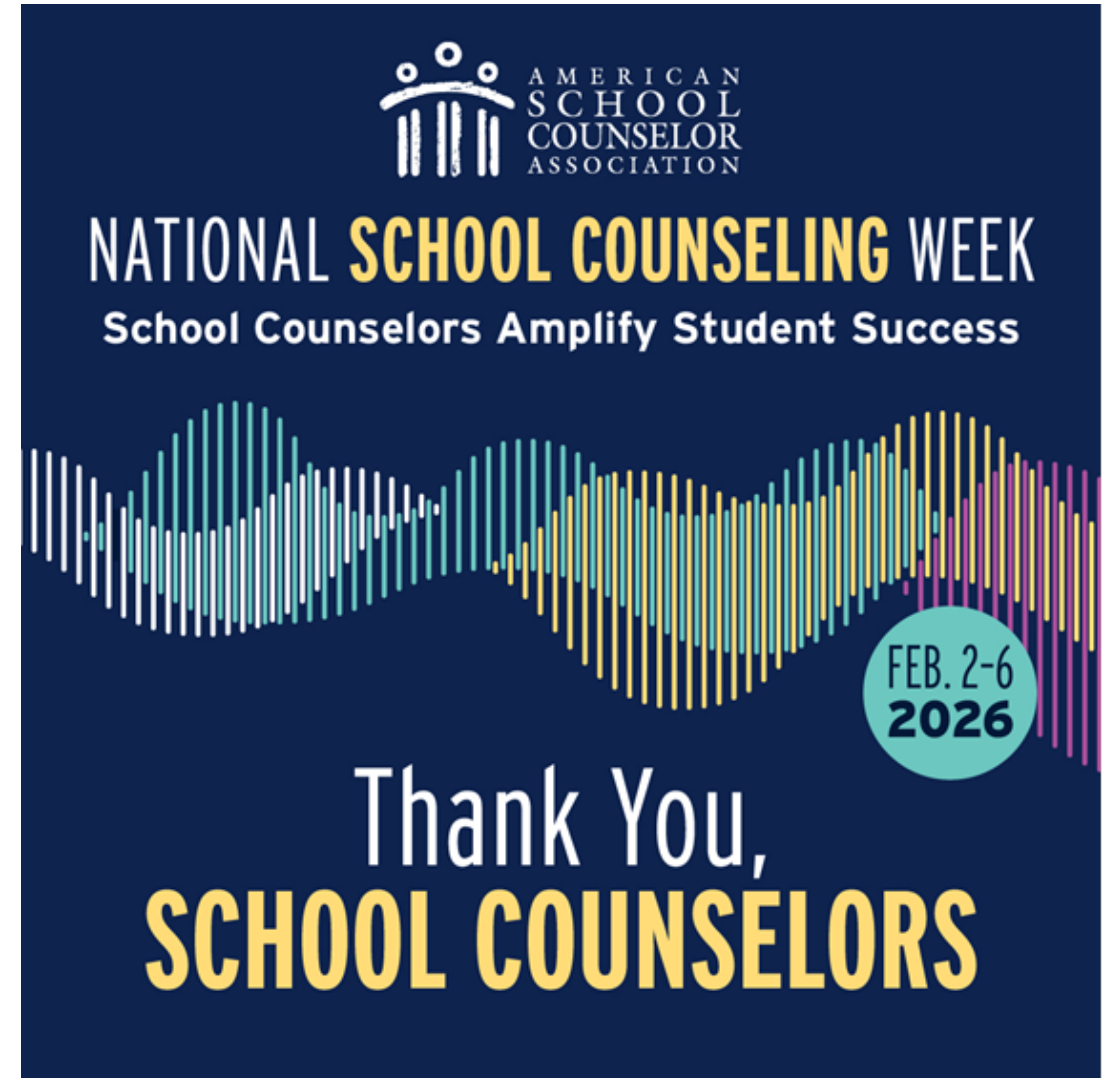
Blair’s achievement reflects his strong work ethic and commitment to academic excellence. As he plans to pursue a career in psychology or become a physician one day, this scholarship serves as an important milestone in his journey and a testament to his dedication to making a positive impact on others.

EPS CELEBRATES NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

Elizabeth Public Schools joined school districts from throughout the country in celebrating National School Counseling Week 2026 (#NSCW26) February 2-6, which helps to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within school systems. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

This year's theme is **School Counselors Amplify Student Success.**

Here are some examples of how our school counselors amplify student success.

A graphic for National School Counseling Week 2026. At the top is the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) logo, which consists of three stylized figures under a semi-circle, with the text "AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION" to the right. Below the logo, the text "NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK" is written in large, bold, white and yellow letters. Underneath that, the tagline "School Counselors Amplify Student Success" is written in white. The background features a colorful, abstract pattern of vertical lines in shades of teal, yellow, and pink. In the bottom right corner, there is a teal circle containing the text "FEB. 2-6 2026". At the very bottom, the text "Thank You, SCHOOL COUNSELORS" is written in large, bold, white and yellow letters.

AMERICAN
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL **SCHOOL COUNSELING** WEEK
School Counselors Amplify Student Success

FEB. 2-6
2026

Thank You,
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

School Counselors Amplify Student Success

I **AMPLIFY** STUDENTS' SUCCESS BY...



“I amplify student success by helping students find their voice, build resilience, and believe in themselves, one conversation, goal, and high-five at a time.”

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK School Counselors Amplify Student Success FEB. 2-6 2026

Kassandra Carelli
School Counselor
George Washington Academy School No. 1

I **AMPLIFY** STUDENTS' SUCCESS BY...



“I amplify students' success by helping them to build positive relationships, making sure they feel seen, heard & empowered to be resilient during tough moments and believe in themselves, follow their dreams and never give up. “

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK School Counselors Amplify Student Success FEB. 2-6 2026

Fabi Ramos
School Counselor
Nicholas S. LaCorte - Peterstown School No. 3 Annex

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

School Counselors Amplify Student Success

I **AMPLIFY** STUDENTS' SUCCESS BY...



helping them recognize their progress, celebrate small wins, and build confidence in their ability to grow.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK School Counselors Amplify Student Success FEB. 2-6 2026

Andreaia Giuca
School Counselor
Joseph Battin School No. 4

SCHOOL SYSTEMS **AMPLIFY** STUDENT SUCCESS WHEN THEY...



integrate comprehensive school counseling programs that proactively address academic, career, and social-emotional needs.

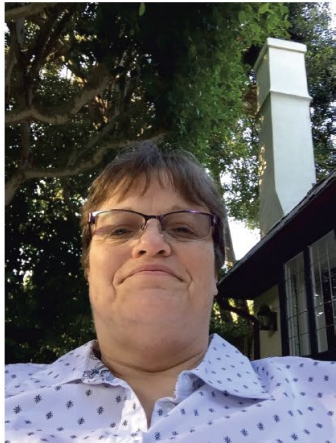
NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK School Counselors Amplify Student Success FEB. 2-6 2026

Christopher Beaty
School Counselor
iPrep Academy School No. 8

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

School Counselors Amplify Student Success

I **AMPLIFY** STUDENTS' SUCCESS BY...



“By validating and amplifying behaviors that reflect growth, responsibility, and positive choice-making.”

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK School Counselors Amplify Student Success FEB. 2-6 2026

Cindy Lichtenstein
School Counselor
Christopher Columbus School No. 15 Annex

I **AMPLIFY** STUDENTS' SUCCESS BY...



giving them the space to express their emotions, grow their confidence and set their own goals.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK School Counselors Amplify Student Success FEB. 2-6 2026

Malaisha Pierre-Louis
School Counselor
Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

School Counselors Amplify Student Success

BLACK LIVES MATTER AT SCHOOLS BECAUSE...



equity ensures all students have access to support, opportunity, and resources needed to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK School Counselors Amplify Student Success FEB. 2-6 2026

Jasmine Lee-Barnes
School Counselor
Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30

SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS AMPLIFY STUDENT SUCCESS BY... working together to promote a sense of belonging!!



NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK School Counselors Amplify Student Success FEB. 2-6 2026

Safiyyah Howell and Jill Aller
School Counselors
J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

School Counselors Amplify Student Success

I **AMPLIFY** STUDENTS' SUCCESS BY...



providing a safe space for my students and doing my best to advocate for their needs. I focus on students' strengths and use my role to make a positive impact.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK School Counselors Amplify Student Success FEB. 2-6 2026

Tamara Guzman
School Counselor
John E. Dwyer Technology Academy

I **AMPLIFY** STUDENTS' SUCCESS BY...



advocating for them, guiding them through challenges, and helping them believe in their own potential!

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK School Counselors Amplify Student Success FEB. 2-6 2026

Monica Sarmiento
School Counselor
John E. Dwyer Technology Academy

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

School Counselors Amplify Student Success

FAMILIES CAN HELP **AMPLIFY** THEIR STUDENT'S SUCCESS BY...



consistently supporting their child's goals and aspirations while celebrating his/her academic progress.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK School Counselors Amplify Student Success FEB. 2-6 2026

Kalinna Johnson
School Counselor
Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy

ELIZABETH MINUTEMEN BOYS BASKETBALL COACH PHILIP COLICCHIO EARNS CAREER WIN NO. 600 AT BATTLE BY THE BAY



Elizabeth Minutemen boys basketball coach Philip Colicchio earned his 600th career win with a 66-50 Elizabeth victory over Chester High School (PA) at the Battle by the Bay in Atlantic City on February 7. He was presented with a Board resolution honoring the milestone achievement by Board Members Jerry D. Jacobs and Stephanie Clervoyant-Noel, Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. and EPS Athletic Director Ben Candelino during boys basketball and cheerleader senior night on February 11 at the Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center.

ELIZABETH FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL UNDEFEATED UNION COUNTY CHAMPIONS



The Elizabeth freshman boys' basketball team, led by head coach C. Neil Pascual, completed a perfect 20–0 season and captured the Union County Tournament Championship with a 58–48 win over New Providence.

HALSEY HEALTHY & PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY SENIOR SELECTED AS U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR CANDIDATE IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Admiral William F. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy senior Izabelle Silva Rebelo has been selected as a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholar in Career and Technical Education by the U.S. Department of Education.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. Only 20 of the 161 Presidential Scholars selected each year are from the Career and Technical Education category.

Rebelo was among 141 overall students and five in the category of Career and Technical who were selected as candidates from the State of New Jersey.



EHS – FJC ALUMNA EARNS NOMINATION FOR 45TH COLLEGE TELEVISION AWARDS

Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy Class of 2022 graduate Luciana Martinez has been nominated for the Television Academy Foundation's 45th College Television Awards.

For forty-four years, The College Television Awards have recognized excellence in student production. Martinez, now a senior at Montclair State University, received a nomination in the News category for her work as a director and producer on the 30-minute special FOCUS: Our Mental Health.

In addition to showcasing student production, the College Television Awards are an entry point for a career in television and media. College Television Awards nominees and winners will become part of the Television Academy Foundation's Alumni family and have the opportunity to participate in year-round networking opportunities and events with industry leaders.

Winners will be announced during a red-carpet awards ceremony on March 28, 2026 at the Television Academy in North Hollywood, California.



Courtesy of Television Academy Foundation



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