



GOOD NEWS



May The Ewing Public Schools 2026

EHS Senior Lily Bush Receives National Gold Award by Scholastic Art & Writing Awards



“Socks in the Shower” By Lily Bush



On the morning of March 27th, Ewing High School Principal Lisa Sabo, Guidance Counselor Cooper Csillan, and Art teachers Lisa Daidone and Sam DeCavalcante received a parent email with the subject: Lily Bush – National Scholastic Award. This email was sent from Lily Bush’s mother, Courtney Bush. This parent email is what every educator aspires to receive: a note of thanks and gratitude for playing an integral role in supporting their child on their road to fulfilling their dreams. Nice way to start the day!

Ewing High School senior Lily Bush received a letter of congratulations dated March 25, 2026, on being selected as a 2026 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards National Winner. This is an honor given to a very small number of teens. Out of over 110,000 students who entered the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, approximately 2% were recognized nationally. Lily Bush was in that top 2%! Congratulations, Lily!

Lily previously received two Gold Keys this year, in painting and mixed media, and an Honorable Mention for portfolio in the Regional Awards. Lily and her parents were ecstatic to receive notification that her painting, “Socks in Shower,” was honored with a National Gold Award. Lily is invited to attend



the awards ceremony to celebrate her achievements at Carnegie Hall in New York City this June, and her “Socks in Shower” piece will be featured in the 2026 Scholastic Art & Writing Yearbook!

On the college front, Lily was accepted and committed to the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) class of 2030. RISD is a college and museum located in Providence, Rhode Island, just a mere 240 miles from Ewing, New Jersey. Not as far as you might think — you can take a direct Amtrak train to Providence, Rhode Island, right from the Trenton train station! Lily, take your talent and soar, but don’t forget to bring a little bit of Ewing with you on your road to success. See you in the art galleries!

EHS Students Earn College Board Recognition for Academic Excellence



On Friday, March 27, 41 students from Ewing High School (EHS) were honored with the School Recognition Award as part of the prestigious College Board National Recognition Program. This distinction celebrates students who have

demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and strong performance on college readiness assessments.

To earn this recognition, students scored in the top 10% of PSAT/NMSQT test-takers from the fall 2025 administration, placing them among the highest-performing students nationwide. Their accomplishments reflect both academic dedication and a commitment to excellence in their studies.

Among the 41 recognized students, five were additionally honored as First-Generation Award Winners. This distinction highlights students who are paving the way as the first in their families to pursue a college education.

Senior Chaz Gilliard, “Champion of Change”

*Mercer County School Boards Association
EHS Unsung Hero Award Recipient*



The Mercer County School Boards Association selected Chaz Gilliard, a senior at Ewing High School, as an “Unsung Hero” during the County Association awards celebration this past March. The Unsung Hero Award is given out annually by the Mercer County School Board Association in coordination with the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Lisa Sabo, Principal at EHS, had this to say about Chaz, “The Unsung Hero recognition is meant for students who make a lasting impact without seeking the spotlight. Chaz Gilliard has done exactly that. His voice, his advocacy, and his leadership have strengthened Ewing High School, and his influence will continue to be felt long after he graduates.

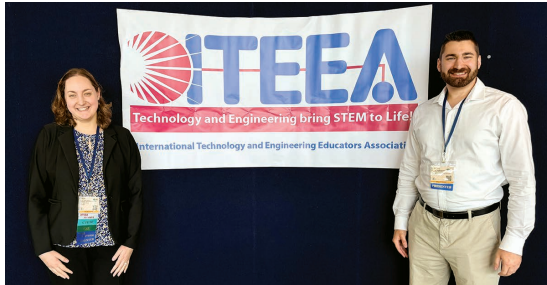
“We are working diligently to reshape the narrative at Ewing High School. We are a highly competitive school that offers a challenging curriculum and rigorous coursework. Our graduates include talented artists, competitive athletes, and students well-prepared for admission to Ivy League and other top-tier institutions. We also produce empathetic, passionate advocates for change. When I think of a champion of change, Chaz Gilliard immediately comes to mind. Chaz was selected as Ewing High School’s Unsung Hero for the 2025–2026 school year because he lives the life every day of leadership, integrity, and quiet impact.”



Parkway’s Panthers Pounce on Learning Night was a huge success! Students and families enjoyed a fun-filled evening with bingo games, engaging STEM activities, plenty of great books, and food.

The Ewing Public Schools

Sibling Educators Present Innovative Session on AI & Biotechnology Integration at ITEEA 2026



Two Ewing teachers, who are also siblings, Joanna Papadopoulos, PhD, and Christos Papadopoulos, took the stage at the ITEEA 2026 Conference on March 26, 2026, to present an engaging and forward-thinking session titled “Teaching AI & Biotech in ISTEM Classes.” Their presentation highlighted practical, accessible ways educators can bring cutting-edge technology into the classroom.

The session explored how artificial intelligence, robotics, and biotechnology can be seamlessly integrated into ISTEM education through hands-on, student-centered learning. Attendees were introduced to tools such as FarmBot, iNaturalist, and beginner-friendly AI platforms, with a focus on making these technologies approachable for educators at all levels of experience.

At the heart of the presentation was the featured “Smart Garden” project, where students automate plant care using FarmBot, gather real-world biodiversity data through iNaturalist, and apply AI tools to analyze plant growth patterns. The project demonstrates how interdisciplinary learning can connect plant biology, data science, and robotics in meaningful and engaging ways.

Their session was well-received, sparking conversation and excitement among educators eager to bring real-world technology into their ISTEM classrooms.



month of April by learning how to say ‘hello’ in a different language each day. They even had special guests, including Muhammad in 2nd grade, who taught us how to say ‘hello’ in Mandinka.

Making Connections

Written by Valentina Angon Rojas



Ewing High School Rotary Interact Club traveled to the Trenton Rotary Club to attend a Trenton Rotary Luncheon with its Rotary members. This was all possible due to their wonderful advisor, Ms. Burd, who brought along 19 students to this one-of-a-kind experience. The Rotary Interact Executive Board presented the activities that the club has done so far and the upcoming projects. Along with this, students were able to interact with and make connections with the Trenton Rotary members. They learned about scholarship and volunteer opportunities that will be available to the members over the next few months, including celebrating Trenton’s Heritage Week! Overall, this was a great experience and allowed students to learn more about the purpose and fulfillment of serving others.

Ewing Students Perform with CJMEA Honors Bands and Orchestras

Several Ewing students were nominated by Mrs. Colleen Trast (FMS/EHS Orchestra) and Ms. Melanie Mayerson (AES Band and Orchestra) and accepted to participate in the CJMEA Honors Elementary and Middle School Bands and Orchestras. These ensembles were made up of outstanding instrumental music students nominated by their band and orchestra teachers from all over Central Jersey. Mrs. Trast and Ms. Mayerson are proud of the 42 students who participated and represented Ewing’s music program this year.



FMS Life Skills Students Visit LifeTown

Fisher Middle School Life Skills Students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit LifeTown in Livingston, New Jersey, where they participated in a hands-on, real-world learning experience. LifeTown is a unique simulated town designed to help children and young adults build important life skills in a safe and supportive environment.

During their visit, students explored different areas of the town, including shops, a bank, and a medical center. They practiced everyday tasks such as making purchases, interacting with community helpers, and navigating public spaces. These activities allowed students to strengthen their communication, social, and decision-making skills while gaining confidence in their independence.



The ST Math mascot, JiJi, visited Lore School to celebrate the students’ achievement in math. Thanks to our math coaches, Mrs. Hartigan and Mrs. Angebrannt, and JiJi’s dear friend, Mr. Wahlers, for organizing the visits to each of the elementary schools.



Lore took on the Million Minutes Challenge in March, as part of our National Reading Month Celebration. Ms. Collins’s kindergarten class and their families read almost 100,000 minutes, and as the class with the most minutes read, they won a pizza party.

The Ewing Public Schools

EHS Senior Spotlight: Meet Isaiah Fernandez

Interview by Theresa Hullings



I can remember you stepping over the threshold of the doorway at Lore Elementary School, starting kindergarten with your big smile, your contagious energy, and inquisitive questions. I am sure you carry these amazing traits with you today and have throughout your educational journey. How have these traits shaped the person you are today? These traits shaped the person I am today by helping me to bring a smile to other people's faces. They also helped me get through some hard times. Bringing a big smile into my daily life and workspace creates a peaceful energy.

When you were at Lore Elementary School, you were asked, "What are your hopes and dreams?" Do you remember what they were? What are your hopes and dreams for yourself today? I remember what I said to this day. My hopes and dreams are to be on the Broadway stage and to make people's days happy. My hopes and dreams for myself today are to make my family proud and for them to see all the hard work I have put in over the past years. Broadway, here I come!

Tell us about yourself. I am a confident person who will always stand up for friends and stand up for my community, no matter what. I am a person who will speak when something is not right or when something is wrong. I love the people in my life and show them in little ways how much they mean to me.

You have selected Concert Choir as one of your courses over the past four years. You will grace the stage at the Ewing High School auditorium for your last vocal concert on May 26th. Thoughts? Do you have a favorite vocal piece? I'm a little upset that this will be my last performance on the Ewing High School stage. I have so many memories being on the stage, from my first performance in my very first choir concert to my first musical, *Into the Woods*. It will be a bittersweet moment to leave it all behind.

My favorite vocal piece that I have performed is "The Conversion of Saul." It starts out loud and crazy, but then becomes soft and says "Saul, bow down to God."

Do you participate in any of the other vocal ensembles? I have participated in Master Singers, and I sing in my church choir.

Last words to Mr. Minter? Thank you for everything, and for making my years at high school something special. Thank you for being a person I can laugh or cry to.

This year's first semester, you took Figure Fashion Drawing with Mr. DeCavalcante and Drama through Lit with Mrs. Hill. Any future in fashion and design...costumes? (Just a thought.) I like to design clothes as a side thing, but I don't see myself making fashion or being a fashion designer as a career. I do see myself modeling in clothing that other people design and make. So, the answer is YESSSS!

You are taking the course From Zeus to Superman: Mythology with Mr. Gibbs this last semester. Who is your hero? My heroes are my parents. They have always had my back in life and have always helped and put me in the right direction.

What activities do you participate in at school? I participate in Drama Club, Cooking Club, Black Student Alliance (BSA), and Spanish Club.

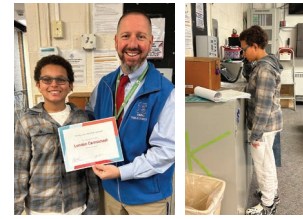
What activities do you participate in outside of school? I participate in my church, "Change Church." We help with families who need help.

I am also in the Kappa League. We talk about how we can make our community better for everyone. Once we get those ideas out, we go and make a change in the world. *(The Kappa League is a premier national mentoring and leadership development program for young men of color in grades 6-12, established in 1969 by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. It focuses on academic achievement, personal development, college/career preparation, and community service.)*

Who or what has positively impacted your life? My family, blood or not, has always made a positive impact on my life. They are willing to show up for me when I'm going through a lot in my life. But the person who made an undeniable positive impact on me personally is my cousin, Nya. She was the first person I came out to as gay, and she welcomed me with open arms.

What are your plans after you graduate from Ewing High School? My plans for the future are to attend Montclair State University for Musical Theatre and then head on to New York City to audition for a Broadway musical.

Tell us something about yourself that your peers don't know...only if you would like to share. The pain and struggles that I have been through in my life have built me into the person I am today.



London Carmichael, a fifth-grade student at Antheil Elementary School, recently earned the exciting honor of serving as "Principal for the Day" after winning the raffle at this year's Antheil PTO Winter Wonderland! London kicked off the day by confidently reading the morning announcements to the entire school, setting a positive tone for students and staff alike.



The Kindergarten students in Mrs. Wojciechowski's kindergarten class at Antheil wrapped up their living things unit on chicks and eggs by hanging out with the real deal for the day. Mrs. Wojo brought in some chicks from home so that the kids K-5 would have a chance to hold them and observe them. The whole school really enjoyed the visit.



Mr. E's first-grade class from Parkway recently became published authors through Student Treasures Publishing! Students worked through every step of the writing process — from brainstorming and drafting to revising and publishing — to create their very own class book. Their hard work, creativity, and dedication truly paid off, and they are beyond proud to see their ideas come to life in print. These young writers are now officially authors, and their excitement has been contagious throughout our classroom!



Parkway second-grade students had a chance to dive into data with the book, *Daphne Draws Data*. After listening

to the story and building their own "human bar graph," students each received their own copy of the book thanks to Storytelling with Data's Data Detectives program.

The Ewing Public Schools

ATHLETICS – LET’S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS!

Winter Season Wrap-up

EHS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Written by Daniel Montferrat, EHS Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach



The EHS Girls Varsity Basketball team won the CVC Colonial Division, adding to a consecutive division streak that dates back to 2017!

Lillie Alston established herself as one of the top players in the conference and earned multiple in-season honors, including two NJ.com Player of the Week selections and WCB Player of the Game honors. For her outstanding play all season long, Alston was named CVC Coaches Basketball Association Player of the Year and First Team All-Conference, recognizing her as the top player in the

Colonial Valley Conference. To cap off her senior year, Lillie participated in the Mercer CYO Senior All-Star Game and represented Ewing in the prestigious NJBCA North/South Senior All-Star Game.

Analís Maldonado proved to be one of the Blue Devils’ most dependable and impactful players. Known for her toughness, relentless energy, and ability to make plays on both ends of the floor, Maldonado consistently stepped up in big moments throughout the year. Her strong performances did not go unnoticed, as she was recognized by NJ.com and WCB as Player of the Week and also earned Game MVP honors from both platforms. Maldonado’s leadership, scoring ability, and defensive intensity were key factors in Ewing’s success, and earned her Second Team All-Colonial Valley Conference Coaches Basketball Association (CVCBA).

London Bennett established herself as one of the Blue Devils’ most consistent and versatile players. Known for her defensive intensity and ability to contribute in multiple ways, Bennett played a key role in Ewing’s success throughout the season. Her strong performances were recognized by NJ.com and WCB when she earned Player of the Week and Player of the Game honors. Bennett’s ability to make plays on both ends of the floor made her a crucial piece of the Blue Devils’ lineup. For her outstanding contributions this season, she was named Second Team All-Colonial Valley Conference Coaches Basketball Association (CVCBA).

EHS GIRLS WINTER TRACK TEAM HAS A STUNNING SEASON!

Written by Daniel Johnson, EHS Head XC/Track Coach



Spring track has started strong, but let’s reflect on our Winter Track success and take a moment to recognize this year’s accomplishments.

The Lady Blue Devils achieved their first-ever CVC Championship! EHS Sophomore, **Angel Johnson**, helped the team accomplish this goal by taking first in the 55-meter hurdles and the 55-meter dash. Angel was also voted as the CVC Girls Winter MVP after her championship performance.

The Lady Blue Devils are power-ranked 34th as a team in New Jersey, with Angel leading the team with 89 points.

The Lady Blue Devils ran at the New Balance Nationals Indoor Track & Field championships in Boston, Massachusetts, March 12-16, 2026. Angel Johnson placed 46th out of 100 athletes competing in the 60-meter hurdles and improved to New Jersey #9 in the 60-meter hurdles, running a time of 8.93,

which is a new school record. The Lady Blue Devils 4x200 relay of **Angel Johnson, Leah Daniels, Karis Crossland, and Faith Settles** ran a blazing time of 1:44.6, which is also a new school record and places them as #2 All Time Mercer County in the event and #1 this year in Mercer County! **Leah Daniels and Faith Settles** later teamed up with **Dasan Jones and Kha-neaf Mack Hornsby** to run the mixed 4x4 and finished within the top 10 out of 33 teams competing. The team of **Angel Johnson, Karis Crossland, Athena Green, and Victoria Seaton** teamed up in the shuttle hurdles to run a school record of 35.58 and also finished within the top 10. Their time keeps them as Mercer County #1 for the year and New Jersey #5. WOW!

EHS GIRLS WRESTLING – A MONUMENTAL SEASON!

Written by Dennis J. Zedalis, Head Wrestling Coach



The girls had a pretty cool season this year. Coach Zedalis (Coach Z) had to bring in a new assistant coach during the offseason, and he thought, who better than the former Jackson Memorial wrestler, his father. Coach Papa Z came all the way from Pittsburgh to help his son coach the girls’ wrestling team this year. Coach Z and Papa Z could not be happier with the girls’ monumental season. It included five (5) CVC place winners at the CVC tournament in January, two (2) District Champions, three (3) Region Qualifiers, and one (1) State Qualifier.

At the CVC tournament, **Alexandra (Alex) Neuberger** took home the gold, **Raymonda Kamara** took silver; **Kayla Kerr and Angie Fuentes Barrios** walked away with bronze, and **Danielle Narmah** took 7th. At the end of the season, **Alex Neuberger, Raymonda Kamara, and Danielle Narmah** really hit their stride as all three qualified for regions, and Alex and Raymonda won their respective brackets. While Raymonda and Danielle had a good showing at the regional tournament, Alex Neuberger finally got to the state tournament! Alex went down to Atlantic City, where she upset Natalia Rusin, pinning her in the second period. Alex had lost to Natalia three times prior to winning that match — you go Alex! Every girl that Alex lost to this year was a state placer at this year’s tournament. Alex caps off an unbelievable career of three (3) CVC titles, a district title, a four-time region qualifier, and a one-time state qualifier with a top 12 finish!

**Please visit our district website for the
May 2026 calendar of events:
ewingk12njus.finalsite.com/calendar**

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

☎ 609-538-9800 ext. 1102

✉ thullings@ewingboe.org

🌐 www.ewing.k12.nj.us

Design and layout by Daniella Crescente

GoodNews is an official publication of The Ewing Public Schools. ©2026 GoodNews