



## SEPTEMBER 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Welcome Back
- Early Childhood
- Elementary
- High School
- District News

### Important Dates:

**October 3 – Rosh Hashanah**  
Schools & District Closed

**October 14 – Columbus Day**  
Schools & District Closed

### Quick Links

[School District Website](#)



### District Social Media



### Back To School Resources



### Career Opportunities



## Welcome Back EPS!

Elizabeth Public Schools opened its doors on September 6<sup>th</sup> to officially welcome back students and team members for the 2024-2025 school year.

Members of Elizabeth's city government, members of the Elizabeth Police and Fire Departments, Elizabeth Board of Education members, and administrators from Elizabeth Public Schools central offices visited schools throughout the district to interact with students as they arrived for their first day. EPS also welcomed News 12 New Jersey who stopped at Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30 to highlight the return of students in Elizabeth as part of their Fall Back Into News12 segment.

Elizabeth Public Schools and the Elizabeth Board of Education offer their best wishes for a prosperous school year to all members of the district's learning community!





Welcome Back Students! For more photos and videos, please click on link below:  
[EPS Opened its Doors to Officially Kick off the 2024-2025 School Year \(epsnj.org\)](https://epsnj.org)





## EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Frances C. Smith Early Childhood Center School No. 50



On September 6<sup>th</sup>, Principal Linda Trebino, along with teachers and staff, welcomed back over 300 of the youngest learners as they started a new school year. The day was filled with fun and learning, and a few tears. The returning 4-year-olds settled right into their routine and were happy to be back at their school.



### Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51



On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, School No. 51 staff gathered to discuss their theme for the new school year, 'Set Sail for Success!' They are all on board on the journey to instill a love of learning to their students, offering learning opportunities and experiences in a safe and nurturing environment. These experiences will help catapult their learning to prepare them for academic success.

## ELEMENTARY

### Toussaint L'Ouverture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6



On September 3, 2024, team members at School No. 6 were brimming with enthusiasm. They gathered with great excitement to celebrate and launch the school's centennial year of teaching and learning. As they embark on this milestone, they eagerly anticipate another successful year ahead—"Where Pawsitive Change Happens!" Here's to a fantastic 2024–2025 school year for everyone!

### Winfield Scott School No. 2

During the first day of school, the students at School No. 2 were treated to a wonderful surprise. Students in grades 3-8 were gifted a book bag filled with notebooks, pencils, pens, and other school supplies to start the 2024-2025 school year. Over 400 bookbags and supplies were kindly donated by express and logistics company, DHL. Winfield Scott School No. 2 community thanks DHL for their generous donation to its students!





## ELEMENTARY

### George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1



School No. 1 kicked off the 2024-2025 school year with vibrant lion pride, warmly welcoming returning students, new scholars, and their families. The school community was filled with excitement as students arrived with bright smiles, eager to begin a successful school year.

Principal Mr. Black and Vice Principal Mrs. Madeira, alongside Board Members Iliana Chevres and Jerry Jacobs, were joined by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Cedenio, Elizabeth City Council President Carlos Torres, and members of the Elizabeth Fire Department to greet students and their families. Their presence underscored the strong community support that George Washington Academy enjoys, making the first day of school a special and welcoming experience for everyone involved. Together, they set the stage for a year of growth, learning, and shared success, reaffirming the commitment to fostering a nurturing environment where every student can thrive.

### Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 and 23 Annex

School No. 23 welcomed back their students on September 6<sup>th</sup> to begin a bright new year. The students were greeted with welcome back signs and balloons as they arrived to show them how much they were missed. Teachers and team members were so happy to see the “Butler Gems” back together again. The Butler Gems were also happy to see everyone, especially their friends.





## ELEMENTARY

### Woodrow Wilson School No. 19

Students were greeted by smiling faces from the Principal, Vice Principal, Secretaries, Director of Equity and Inclusion Mr. Etienne, Police Officers, Coordinator of Mechanics Mr. Luis Ferreira and Board Member Mr. Jerry Jacobs. There was lots of excitement in the air. Everyone had smiling faces and is looking forward to an exciting new school year, meeting their new teachers, connecting with old friends, making new friends and most importantly learning lots of new things.



For more resources on Back to School, please visit our website [www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org) and click on “Back to School Parent Resources” icon.





## ELEMENTARY



### Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5



Every year, School No. 5 remembers September 11th as a day that changed our country forever. Students and team members commemorated 9/11 and honored the heroes by participating in a moment of silence. Eighth-grade students Kathryn Valentina Olivo and Mariah Jolie Texidor read the poem "A Day to Remember" by Robin Zelaya. Additionally, students demonstrated their patriotism and respect by attaching red, white, and blue ribbons to the front of the school.

### William F. Halloran School No. 22

On Wednesday, September 11, 2024, the students and team members joined to remember the events of 9/11 and honor this day in history. Also, it was a pause to reflect on the importance of remembrance and ensure that the legacy of those lost lives the students and staff at William F. Halloran School No. 22 joined to remember the events of 9/11 and honor this day in history. Students were given red, white, and blue ribbons to tie onto the school's fence in remembrance of those who were lost.





## ELEMENTARY

### Joseph Battin School No. 4

On September 11, 2024, School No. 4 recognized Patriot's Day with a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. to remember those affected by the tragic events and honor the heroes who emerged. In addition, students in Ms. Laveratt's fourth-grade class read the story *The Man in the Red Bandana*, a true story about Welles Crowther's heroism. Students then discussed real heroes in their life and wrote a paragraph detailing their own special heroes.



### Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30



On September 11, 2024, School No. 30 honored the 23rd anniversary of 9/11 with a solemn performance of "Taps" by Steven Cortez Sanchez.

They remembered the nearly 3,000 lives lost on that tragic day, including the brave first responders who sacrificed their lives. "Taps" serves as a reminder of the enduring spirit of unity and resilience that arose from the tragedy.

### Benjamin Franklin School No. 13

Mrs. Sanabria's kindergarten class is proud to present "An All About Me Project." This initiative celebrates each student's individuality, encompassing their culture, race, abilities, and the unique characteristics that define who they are. The project aims to foster understanding and appreciation among students and their families. By showcasing diverse backgrounds throughout the classroom, it encourages students to engage with one another and ask meaningful questions, enhancing their collective learning experience. In Ms. Saltarelli's class the kindergarten students have been working hard on building a classroom community. They listened to the story *September 12th: We Knew Everything Would Be Alright* written by first graders from Missouri. They created their

own heart shaped American Flags and learned how people all over the world came together to help after the attacks on 9/11.





## ELEMENTARY

### Back to School Night



### Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, team members greeted close to 500 parents for *Back to School Night*. This is a time for teachers to share their classrooms, showcase goals, review classroom and school rules, and provides an opportunity to learn about the classroom environment, routines, and expectations. Starting the year inviting parents into the building helps to ensure the year will be a positive and successful one. Special guest, Board Member Dr. Diane Barbosa, was also in attendance to greet parents and welcome them back to school!

### Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5

*Back to School Night* left students, parents, and teachers brimming with excitement for the new academic year. The evening kicked off with a warm welcome from the principal, followed by informative presentations from dedicated teachers who shared insights into the curriculum and classroom activities. Families had the opportunity to tour the school, meet the staff, and receive key information from the school's mental health team. The event not only fostered a strong sense of community but also ensured that everyone felt prepared and enthusiastic for the journey ahead. The school also had Board Member Isaias Rivera visit and speak with School No. 5's learning community. It was a truly memorable night that set a positive tone for the 2024-2025 school year.



### Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30

*Back to School Night* was a success. Board President Charlene Bathelus joined parents and guardians who met with teachers and were invited into the classrooms to discuss plans and procedures of the 2024-2025 school year. Collaboration between parents and teachers is important to the Chessie Dentley family. School 30 hopes to provide the students with a hands-on, academic experience for this following school year as they continue to venture the road to excellence.

### J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

*Back to School Night* was a resounding success, drawing in a large crowd of enthusiastic parents and students. Teachers greeted families with warm smiles, showcasing their classrooms filled with engaging displays and student work. Parents appreciated the opportunity to meet their child's teachers and discuss the curriculum and expectations for the year. Visitor informational tables were set up throughout the building where parents and students were able to learn about various community outreach programs such as the Boys and Girls Club, Kean University, Proceeds, and Make the Road. School programs and extracurricular activities sparked lively conversations among attendees. The school was excited to be visited by Board Member Dr. Diane Barbosa who provided positive messages to all who attended. Overall, the event fostered a strong sense of community and excitement for the upcoming school year.





## ELEMENTARY

### Robert Morris School No. 18



It's As Easy As Saying Hello! On Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, students participated in their first day of *It Starts with Hello Week*. This idea was founded by Sandy Hook Promise to encourage and promote social connections, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging. The school kicked off the day with morning announcements, followed by "Hey Name" tags activity, and concluded the day with our middle school students writing positive messages on the school sidewalk for all to see. The purpose of these messages is to amplify a culture of positivity, remind students how much they matter, and to minimize social exclusion. It's crucial to the school's mission to participate in school-wide activities to embed the sense of belonging for the entire school community. There were a lot of smiles, joy, and connections that the school anticipates will remain for a long time to come.

### John Marshall School No. 20

School No. 20 started the school year off right by promoting character education. John Marshall students are spending their lunchtime with Ms. Santos, our school-based social worker and Ms. Brown, our school counselor to develop positive habits for a successful school year.

During this time, students are developing and strengthening positive character development. These students are meeting in small groups each day to support and encourage each other while recognizing their strengths and areas in need of growth. As a team, we are preparing for a wonderful and flourishing year at John Marshall.





# ELEMENTARY

## Elmora School No. 12



On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Millan's Bilingual students, Daniella Abrahan, Lia and Liz Chavez, sang Cuban folklore song, "Guantamera" and recited Jose Marti's famous Poem, "Cultivo Una Rosa Blanca," over the intercom during morning announcements.

Students then visited several classrooms to show classmates their Cuban native clothing and shared with students their favorite traditions while living in Cuba.



## Madison-Monroe School No. 16

Students learned about the remarkable contributions of Hispanics in various fields such as the arts, sciences, sports, and education. Students learned about their rich cultural heritage and achievements of Hispanic individuals such as Cesar Chavez, Diego Rivera, and Gabriela Mistral. Students not only fostered a deeper appreciation for diversity but also encouraged students to recognize and aspire to the heights of excellence demonstrated by these influential figures.





# ELEMENTARY

## Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28

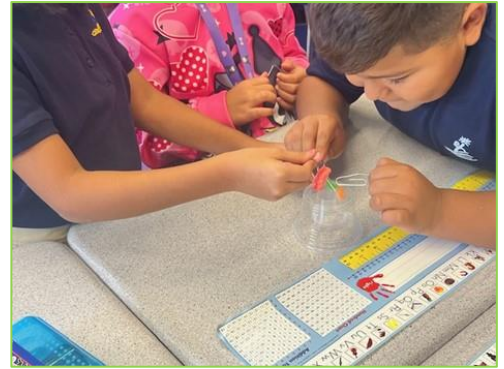
On September 11<sup>th</sup>, School No. 28 had the great pleasure of the United States Navy visiting their school as Elizabeth was named the Birthplace of the Submarine. The marching band and color guard performed as the navy arrived at school. In 1896, the first submarine, the USS Holland (SS-01) was built at Elizabethport on the ground that School No. 28 currently stands and was launched in 1898, becoming the first submarine to be commissioned by the Navy. It was our great pleasure to have the MJROTC cadets interact with several members of the Navy and ask them questions about their service experiences. Navy members also had a chance to walk through the halls to see doors decorated in honor of their visit as they made their way to Veteran's Memorial Park.





## ELEMENTARY

### Abraham Lincoln School No. 14



Students worked in groups of three to figure out how to save Fred. Fred is a gummy worm who enjoys being on his boat at the lake. Unfortunately, his boat flipped over, and his life vest was underneath it. The goal is to turn his boat upright and put the life vest on Fred without touching the boat, Fred, or the life vest with their hands. This activity helps students practice communication, collaboration, problem solving, and perseverance to complete the challenge. It's a great way to start the school year by encouraging students to think creatively while working together towards a common goal.

### Victor Mravlag School No. 21



School No. 21 hosted a movie night. The movie night was presented by Elizabeth Board of Education Member Maria Carvalho, City Council Member Kevin Kiniery, County Commissioner Sergio Granados and Principal Dr. Wansaw. Along with the support of the PTO, students, families, and friends enjoyed watching the movie and spending time with staff and others of the school community. Board Member Stephanie Goncalves Pestana also was in attendance.





## ELEMENTARY

### Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



International Dot Day is a celebration of creativity, courage, and collaboration. This worldwide event is marked by individuals of all ages, aiming to enhance confidence and promote creativity, while acknowledging the profound impact of a single dot on the global community. Second and Third graders at Terence C. Reilly enjoyed reading the book "The Dot" by Peter Reynolds and, just like the main character in the story, drew their own dots and discovered their own creativity. We challenge everyone this school year to make their mark and see where your creativity takes you.

### Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25

Social Worker Mrs. Colleen Reynolds, and Guidance Counselor Amanada Irizarry, will be visiting classrooms this month with activities to teach students vocabulary about feelings and emotions. They will be discussing how to recognize each feeling/emotion, how to talk about them, and how to pick up on the feelings of others.



### Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27

Learning walks serve as a tool to collect important information about instruction and learning. When paired with a deep purpose, and discovery of meaningful next steps, action plans that will positively impact student learning and teacher professional development come to fruition.



Team members embarked on a data collection mission alongside experts Dr. Mary Anton and Eliza Loyola of STRIDES (Schools Transforming: Reinventing Inclusive, Diverse & Equitable Systems). This was an experience that will set the stage for important work this school year.



## HIGH SCHOOLS

### Elizabeth High School - Frank J. Cicarell Academy



On September 13<sup>th</sup>, a club fair was held to acquaint students with clubs, honor societies, and other student organizations in the school. Principal Mr. Cummings said, “This year we have expanded the number of clubs and honor societies to include National Science Honor Society, National History Honor Society, Analog Gaming, and Chess. We are very excited about our clubs. They are places which nurture leadership and exhibit excellence.”

Other FJC Clubs include Yearbook; Student Government; Freshman Club; Sophomore Club; Junior Club; Senior Club; National Honor Society; Italian Honor Society; Key Club; Odyssey of the Mind; Speech and Debate; Garden Club; National English Honor Society; Mu Alpha Theta; Art Club.

### John E. Dwyer Technology Academy



Students have been actively involved in the school’s greenhouse, and their hard work has led to a successful application for a STEM grant.

Thanks to the grant, they will be purchasing hydroponic units and implementing a hydroponic gardening program.

This project will provide students with valuable hands-on experience in sustainable gardening.



For more information, please visit:

[2024 Stem Educational Growth Grant Awarded to Union County Schools & Nonprofit Organizations](#)



## HIGH SCHOOLS

### Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy



Two students from Hamilton had a busy summer.

Leonardo Quintero is one of thirty-nine students accepted into the New Jersey Youth Scholars Program where scholars plunge into an inter-disciplinary college level five-week summer program. This summer the program theme was *Wartime Cultures: Knowledge and Art in Conflict for the Aftermath*. Leo stated that this was “a life changing experience” and he engaged in scholastic study, developed camaraderie with the other students, participated in field trips related to the theme, enjoyed a culturally diverse food festival. Plus, he performed a comedy routine for other participants and faculty.

Also, according to 12<sup>th</sup> grade student Camila Sossa, “The Hispanic Student College Institute Summer 2024 was a transformative experience for me. This program not only clarified the steps I need to take for college, but it also inspired me to believe in my ability to succeed in higher education. It made the future feel more tangible and attainable, leaving me with a renewed sense of confidence.” Camila also participated in the 2024 NJIT STEMx High School Program to prepare her for biomedical engineering in college. Camila related that STEMx “was an empowering experience for me as a Hispanic girl interested in pursuing STEM. The hands-on sessions in applied engineering technology, like 3D printing and robotics, gave me the chance to explore a field I’m passionate about in a way that felt tangible and exciting.” Great job Camila!



### JVJ STEM 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Annex

There was a ball of excitement rolling through the summer. The freshmen open houses gained a tremendous amount of attention from eager eighth graders. When the summer started, over 200 freshmen were chosen to be welcomed to the JVJ STEM Academy ... with an added surprise.

After a lot of hard work, this freshmen class is the first class to be housed at the new JVJ STEM 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Annex building. They are excited to start their path to enter STEM-related fields in the future. A special thanks to everyone who helped make this happen.





## HIGH SCHOOLS

### Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy



As the new school year kicked off, team members made sure the first day back was one filled with warmth, smiles, and excitement. Teachers, counselors, and administrators greeted students with enthusiastic hellos and offering a helping hand to ensure a smooth transition into the year ahead. With friendly faces all around, the school quickly buzzed with the promise of new opportunities and memories yet to be made. It's clear that this year is off to a great start, thanks to the welcoming energy of both staff and students alike.

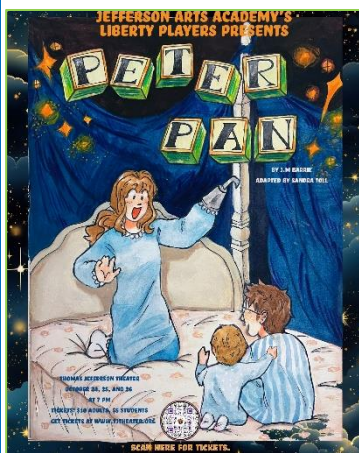
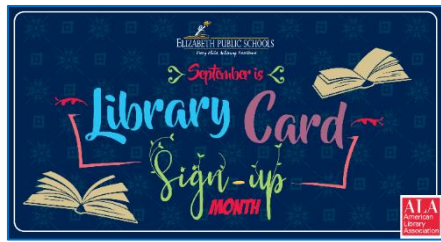
### J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, scholars attended the Historically Black Colleges & University (HBCUNY) New Jersey High School Education Day at Kean University. *Senior Scholars* attended educational workshops, cultural exhibits, and explored academic programs and scholarship opportunities from various HBCUs. Scholars also participated in community service activities and attended the college fair. This fantastic educational experience was enjoyed by all students in attendance.





## District News



***You are empowered to achieve excellence!***  
Send us excellent news on the great things happening in your school to Delilah Sousa email: **[enews@epsnj.org](mailto:enews@epsnj.org)**

## Elizabeth Board of Education



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