Ewing High School is proud to host a thriving drama program, and the students of EHS again showcased their talents at the annual New Jersey Thespian Festival held at Robbinsville High School on December 7th and 8th, 2019 and walked away with statewide accolades.

The yearly theater festival funnels its highest-scoring performers to the International Thespian Festival at Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana, where once again EHS students will be performing and competing on a global scale after impressing in Robbinsville.

Under the direction of Christina Monaco Caldwell and Jessica Bohenberger, the talented EHS performers from the school's International Thespian Society Troupe 4883 shined in the spotlight at the statewide festival, impressing the judges, attendees and fellow participants from around the state with their acting, singing and performing skills. Students were adjudicated to compete for state title designations in musical theatre, acting, and scholarship categories.

“Our students were so excited and I was beyond impressed with how much they've grown as performers since last year,” Ms. Monaco-Caldwell stated. “They were wonderful ambassadors of Ewing High School and I am so proud of their accomplishments.”

“At Ewing High School, our goal is to always promote student achievement in academics, athletics and the arts,” EHS Principal Ed Chmiel added. “We want to give all our talented students an opportunity to shine, and this is just another example of the great work of our staff and students.”

Following is an overview of EHS Award Winners from the Statewide Festival:


**New Jersey Student Thespian Officers:** Brianna Roberts & Isabel Van Wagner

**EHS Troupe 4883 Superior Score Winners:** Pictured Left to Right: Front – Nia Whaley, Zach Benedetti, Isabel Van Wagner; Back – Dylan Greco, Makensie Shields, Mykeal Okwudibonye, Brianna Roberts

**Duet Acting:**
- Mykeal Okwudibonye & Zach Benedetti; “They Fell,” *Almost Maine*

**Musical Theatre Solo:**
- Brianna Roberts; “I’m Here,” *The Color Purple*
- Makensie Shields; “I’m Breaking Down,” *Falsettos*
- Dylan Greco; “So Big. So Small,” *Dear Evan Hansen*
- Zach Benedetti; “Wondering,” *The Bridges of Madison County*
- Isabel Van Wagner; “Lost in the Brass,” *Band Geeks*

**State Showcase Winner:**
- Brianna Roberts, “I’m Here,” *The Color Purple*

**University of the Arts Pre-College Institute Merit Scholarship Winners:**
- Zach Benedetti
- Destiny Weeks

**Silver Honor Troupe Chapter Winner:**
- Presented by Nia Whaley & Portfolio constructed by Bella Latini & Isabel Van Wagner

**EHS Peer Leaders created holiday cards for the pediatric unit residents at the Princeton Medical Center.**

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The Ewing Public Schools

January is School Board Recognition Month!

Thank you for your dedication to the children of Ewing Township and volunteering your time, it is greatly appreciated.

The Ewing Board of Education plays an essential role in our students’ lives. They set the policies for our schools and make important decisions affecting curriculum, financing, and staffing. January is School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey, a time to raise public awareness of the roles and responsibilities of local boards of education and to thank your community’s school board members for their efforts.

The 2019 Ewing Township Board of Education

Mr. Anthony F. Messina, President
Ms. Lisa A. McConnell, Vice President
Mr. Carl A. Benedetti, Jr.
Mr. Kenneth J. Bradley, Sr.
Dr. Channing C. Conway
Mrs. Deborah A. Delutis
Mrs. Karen A. McKeon
Mrs. Stephanie F. Staub
Mr. Bruce J. White

Lore School Cares about the Community!

It is well known around Ewing that the Lore School is a prestigious National School of Character, but to the staff and students of the school, character means not just looking inward, but outward.

“To our students, we emphasize that being a person of character means being someone who cares about others and seeks to give back to the community,” Lore principal Kelly Kawalek stated.

The theme for the school this year is “We are Lore….Here our Roar!” and the youthful Lions have found many ways for the community to benefit from their efforts and good deeds.

Throughout October, students celebrated Socktoberfest, where they donated 1,005 pairs of socks, which were given to local shelters and organizations to support the homeless in our area. In November and December, students participate in Lore’s Giving Tree project, where volunteers selected a ticket from the Giving Tree and purchase a holiday gift for a child in need of support this winter. This year, the project benefited both One Simple Wish, a local nonprofit dedicated to granting wishes to children in foster care, Oaks Integrated Care and also families in the Lore School community. Students and their families, as well as staff members, donated more than 150 items that were gifted to area children for the holidays.

Each school year during the month of March, students from Lore School also participate in a service learning project that benefits Meals on Wheels of the Trenton and Ewing area. Students fundraise money, which is used to purchase snacks, bags, and craft materials. During Unity meetings, students organize food bags and create crafts and letters to be included in each bag. Last year Lore students raised more than $600 and created more than 100 food bags for community members. Through this project, students learned a valuable lesson in empathy and helping others in their community.

Lore Elementary School also teamed up with South East Asian Martial Arts Academy (SEAMA) Master Guru Ed to raise money for families whose lives have been impacted by pediatric cancer. Students wrote and delivered morning announcements and planned a school-wide Hat Day to promote pediatric cancer awareness this winter. Of course an annual feel-good event is Lore Schools “Jump Rope/Hoops for Heart” which raises money for, and awareness of, heart disease by combining fun, fitness and altruism.

“These Lore Lions know that you have to take care of the pride,” Mrs. Kawalek said with a smile, “and they do it with pride.”

Antheil’s Helping Hands Club Gives Back!

In November and December, Antheil’s Helping Hands club was very busy, as they held both their Thanksgiving Food Drive and Giving Tree events. The students helped by collecting food donations, organizing food baskets for families to take home, and wrote personal messages to our Antheil families that received donations. Each donation included canned goods and one turkey, in which staff members and other student families offered to donate to our families in need.

The group also helped organize and decorate the Holiday Giving Tree, where students, staff, and parents could anonymously provide a gift to our students in need this holiday season. The Helping Hands club created and decorated “Rocky” bear ornaments, listing items that students requested, such as clothing, toys, books, and more! Members helped facilitate signing out gift tags during school hours, and at PTO Winter Family Night, to make sure every student received the gifts they have wished for!

Ewing High School students enrolled in EHS AP U.S. History class enjoyed the opportunity to tour the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on December 13th, 2019. The Museum of the American Revolution is a Philadelphia museum dedicated to telling the story of the American Revolution. The museum was opened to the public on April 19, 2017, the anniversary of the first battle of the war, Lexington and Concord, on April 19, 1775.
In which activities do you participate in school? I run the Black Student Alliance; I am in charge of public relations for the Drama Club and the International Thespian Society. I am also involved in the Spring musical and have been in Mastersingers since my freshman year.

What activities do you participate outside of school? Outside of school, I represent the state on the International Thespian Society’s NJ State board as a student thespian officer. I am involved in the NAACP ACT-SO program as treasurer and competitor in Music Vocal Contemporary/Classical. I am the youngest member of the classical choir Capital Singers of Trenton. I also devote time to my church choir, write and direct musicals for Christian holidays. I have had opportunities to travel back to the country my parents migrated from with my church on mission trips and given back to impoverished communities.

What awards or acknowledgements have you received in school and/or outside of school? I have received awards for the NAACP ACT-SO program placing Gold 2 consecutive years in Music Vocal Contemporary and Classical. This year I received a perfect superior score for Musical Theatre Vocal at the International Thespian Festival.

What advice do you have for younger children who are interested in Voice and Theatre? My advice for anyone pursuing a career in Voice and Theatre is to never stop chasing your dreams. It holds so much truth. I am involved in Voice and Theatre and it is the reason that I decided I wanted to go to college with a double major in Musical Theatre and Marketing or Musical Theatre and Communications.

The Parkway Preschool Class (3 year olds) participated in their first guided reading lesson of the school year. After a fun and interactive basic shape lesson, the children read the book, “The Shape of Things” by Dayle Ann Dodds, from the Big Day for Preschool Curriculum. Using their pointers and teacher modeling from an accompanying big book, the students began to demonstrate understanding of a few basic features of print. They followed words from left to right, carefully page by page, and repeated key words in the book’s text. These skills are highlighted in the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards. The children really enjoyed this activity and asked if they could read the book again.

In early December, students in Mrs. Cline's second grade class worked with their buddy class, Miss Porreca's kindergarten and first grade class, to mix cookie dough and bake more than 5 dozen sugar and chocolate cookies to send to troops overseas who are currently deployed and won’t be home for the holidays.

In addition to baking cookies, other second grade classes packaged cookies in holiday tins and Ziploc bags and created holiday cards. The holiday cards are sent to thank the soldiers for their service and wishing them a happy holiday season while they are away from their families. The cookies and cards were given to Operation Yellow Ribbon of South Jersey for their care packages for soldiers. It was a very “yummy” way to help others!

When you traveled to Nebraska for the International Thespian Festival this summer, what was your first reaction when you found out you were selected one of the three individuals to perform in the National Showcase? When I found out that I was selected for a callback in Nebraska, I was completely shocked and overwhelmed at first. While I was in Nebraska I had the opportunity to be in a new musical that was commissioned in Nebraska. This musical, however, took a majority of my time at Thes Fest, I barely had time to eat or sleep, so the day I performed my solo to be adjudicated, I ran around the campus from rehearsal to sing. I never realized how much of an impact I had on my judges until finding out that I had a perfect score. I couldn’t help but think about all the things that my parents have sacrificed for me to be in this country, I never would have thought that I would be among kids that I trained their whole lives for this opportunity.

What is your favorite Broadway Show? My favorite show of all time is Once on This Island. I saw this show for the first time at Rider University and I never realized how much diversity when it comes to Broadway shows it was beautiful to see my Caribbean culture displayed on stage. I decided to write my college essays about the impact this show has had on my life because it truly is the best musical ever!

What are your plans after you graduate? I plan to go to college with a double major in Musical Theatre and Marketing or Musical Theatre and Communications.

Follow us on twitter: www.twitter.com/TheEwingSchools
### January 2020 Schedule in Ewing Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSED – HAPPY NEW YEAR!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>School is Open – Welcome Back!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>BOE Organization Meeting @ 7pm @ FMS Media Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>FMS - FPA Meeting @ 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>EHS - Winter Concert @ 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lore - LPA Meeting @ 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Parkway - PTA 5th Grade Community Meeting @ 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parkway - PTA Meeting @ 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>FMS - Winter Band Concert @ 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>EHS - Winter Concert Snow Date @ 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>FMS - Winter Orchestra Concert @ 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>Lore - LPA Movie Night @ 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSED - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>FMS - Winter Band &amp; Orchestra Concert Snow Date @ 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>EHS - Accuplacer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parents Educating Parents (PEP) Meeting - 5:30pm @ EHS Cafeteria</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transitions Talk Series - Workshop #1 - 6pm @ EHS Cafeteria</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ESL Family Night - 6:30pm @ Parkway School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27-29</td>
<td>EHS Early Dismissal 9-12 ONLY - Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>FMS - Winter Vocal Music Concert @ 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>EHS - End S1 T2 Q4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSED - Gr 6-12 ONLY - Transition Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>K-5 ONLY Early Dismissal @ 1:40pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO AM Integrated Preschool-Conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 31</td>
<td>FMS - Book Fair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## EPEF Grants in Action

### Positive Physical Education Plan – Lore School

The Positive Physical Education Plan grant targets all students grade Preschool Age 3 through 5th grade. Students are introduced to the “24 Virtues in Action”. Students benefit from having the opportunity to discover what they are good at, what they are interested in, and what creates balance and happy feelings. The activities range from fine motor STEAM to gross motor and adventure! Something for everyone!

Please help us create more amazing grants like this one by donating to us at www.EPEF.org

## Emergency School Closings

We will communicate during emergencies via our official communication portals: the district website, Instant Alert, Channel 19/31. Twitter is not an official emergency communication tool.

Should there be a delayed opening, all students report to school 1 hour and 30 minutes later than normal. Do not drop your child off earlier as there will not be sufficient staff for supervision.

### Delayed Opening Hours:
- Ewing High 9:15am
- Fisher Middle 9:55am
- Elementary 10:30am
- O’Brien Academy 9:05am

### Early Dismissal Hours:
- Ewing High 12:15pm
- Fisher Middle 12:55pm
- Elementary 1:40pm
- O’Brien Academy 11:55am

Please visit our website daily for up-to-the minute information: www.ewing.k12.nj.us

## Instant Alert

Instant Alert is an important communication tool for The Ewing Public Schools. A link is available on our website under Parent Information/School Closings. It is the responsibility of the parent/staff member to manage the profile for receiving alerts. Please update your profile.

If you are receiving alerts and are not a member of the Ewing Schools community, please notify us (538-9800 X1102 or thullings@ewingboe.org).

The Ewing Public Education Channel (FIO31/Comcast 19) displays district and school information, concerts and awards presentations.

### Virtual Backpacks, Calendars and Headlines

Pages on the website are where you will find up-to-the minute information on district-wide events, deadlines, fundraisers and interesting stories about our schools, students and staff. Ewing Recreation and other area events are posted in the VBP under Community Information.

Residency Investigation Hotline 538-9800 X8999
Anonymous Tip Hotline 538-9800 X1199

Policies and Regulations: All current policies and regulations for The Ewing Public Schools are available on our website under the Board of Education/Board Policy/Regulation tab.

Community Connector: Contact Lauren Zablow at lzablow@ewingboe.org.