



Elmont Union Free School District

E.L.M.O.N.T.

“Every Little Mind Offers Newfound Talent”



My Brother's Keeper

Elmont, New York



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ELMONT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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About Our District

Located on the Queens/Nassau, Long Island border, Elmont's quiet, tree-lined streets offer an appealing, suburban atmosphere. The varied backgrounds and international origins of Elmont residents, who represent over 100 countries and speak more than 70 languages and dialects, give the community its diverse and vibrant character and contribute to the uniqueness of the school system. Parents, community organizations and local elected officials are strong supporters, and participate in nurturing and preparing youngsters for their roles as citizen, neighbor and responsible, caring adult.



The Elmont School District is the largest elementary school district in Nassau County, serving close to 4,000 children from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Focusing on educational quality and equality for all students, including children with special needs, the district's rigorous, comprehensive academic program establishes a firm foundation in core curriculum areas. Initiatives have led to steadily improving student performance throughout the district on State assessment tests.

Elmont's educational approach develops reasoning and decision-making skills, as well as good citizenship in an environment that is safe and conducive to teaching and learning. Recognizing the need to bridge the span between school and home, the district, through a special assistant position, communicates its goals to the community, coordinates district



participation in community events, welcomes newcomers and introduces them to services. The school district places high priority on maintenance of its facilities with an active capital projects campaign to restore and refurbish its buildings, three of which date back prior to 1930. School grounds offer park-like settings and modern play equipment.

Mission Statement

PHILOSOPHY

The Elmont Elementary School District is committed to creating and maintaining a learning environment in which all students may achieve their greatest potential. This endeavor requires the collaboration of parents, teachers, community members, students, administrators, and the Board of Education. Our philosophy is based on the belief that, among all students, excellence and mastery can be attained, talent can be cultivated and understanding, and mutual respect can be achieved.



VISION

“Cultivating Scholars and Global Citizens”

Every child who receives his/her education in the Elmont Elementary School District will leave the elementary schools ready to meet the challenges and demands of the secondary program in anticipation of becoming a lifelong learner and productive adult.



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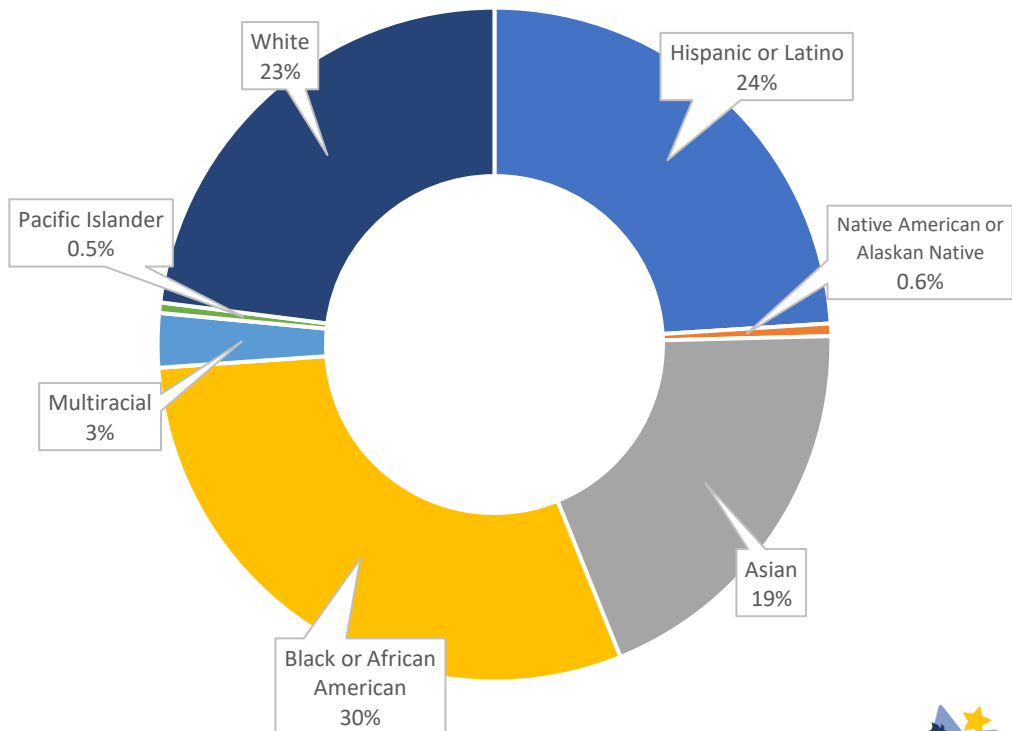


MISSION

The mission of the Elmont Elementary School District is to promote the intellectual, socio-emotional, and physical development of our children in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning. The District envisions achieving its mission by:

- Promoting and maintaining high expectations for teaching and learning.
- Monitoring, modifying, and enhancing the way in which teaching, learning, assessment, and evaluation take place.
- Maintaining a safe and nurturing learning environment.
- Ensuring that all students have equal access to all the educational opportunities offered by the District.
- Offering to all students a well-defined, comprehensive, and challenging curriculum that will enable them to successfully approach their future academic work and to meet and exceed local and state standards.
- Actively engaging parents, community members, business, government, and industry in fulfilling their role as partners in the educational process.

Enrollment by Ethnicity



Source – eSchoolData – Student Information System – 2020-2021 School Year



My Brother's Keeper Milestones

National MBK Milestones	NYS MBK Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring all children enter school ready to learn; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring equitable access to high quality schools and programs;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring all children read at grade level by 3rd grade; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding prevention, early warning, and intervention services;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring all youth graduate from high school ready for college and career; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using differentiated approaches based on need and culture;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring all youth complete post-secondary education or training; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to structural and institutional racism;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring all youth out of school are employed; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making comprehensive and coordinated support services widely available; and
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring all youth remain safe and get a second chance if they make a mistake. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging families and communities in a trusted and respectful way.

Elmont MBK Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Birth-2 community outreach program designed to provide support and access to the youngest scholars in our community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a district-wide <i>Teachers of Tomorrow</i> program as a cornerstone of our mentoring program with staff and community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on early literacy development designed to build a foundation of language, vocabulary, and a love of reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed the 5-Year E.L.M.O.N.T. (Every Little Mind Offers Newfound Talent) Curriculum Plan to provide additional resources and support to staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create partnerships (ex. SCHSD) that target opportunities to engage our scholars in STEM-and STEAM-related fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use our staff and community <i>Resource Center</i> as a hub for professional development and outreach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to infuse our district Social Emotional Learning curriculum into our core academic subject areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the district's <i>Inclusive Community Read</i> program and establish it as a pillar of our literacy curriculum



Children Enter School Ready to Learn



- ◆ Implement a Birth – Age 2 program that bridges the gap before Pre-K
- ◆ Establish a community outreach program that encourages early health and developmental screenings
- ◆ Implement a districtwide, full-day Pre-K program

A child's first three years after birth shape brain development and the healthy development of all other systems in the body. What happens during this early period can have substantial effects on both short- and long-term outcomes in learning, behavior, and physical and mental health. By developing partnerships with local health and wellness organizations, social service organizations and governmental agencies, the Elmont School District will help to bridge the gap between the time our scholars are born to their entrance into the District.

This access will focus on early developmental screening, as well as engaging families by providing educational outreach to parents and caregivers. Early screening will help identify developmental delays and intervention services where appropriate. The goal is to improve the readiness level of three-year-olds as they start school. Building supportive relationships and positive learning experiences with the families of our youngest scholars will help all children succeed.

The Elmont School District will also establish a *Staff and Community Resource Center* located in our District Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Building. This resource center will serve as a hub for professional development and outreach to families, providing workshop-based programs in early literacy development, health and nutrition, and parenting strategies that will promote a child's readiness to enter school.

The Elmont School District prides itself on providing a high-quality Pre-K program and is excited to begin implementation of a district-wide, full-day program. A full-day Pre-K program will continue the work started by our Birth-Age 2 program and will provide a stellar education, at no cost, to a greater number of scholars in our community. The full-day program will emphasize the importance of educating scholars that come from homes that speak languages other than English. With nearly 60% of the registered Pre-K students for the 2021-2022 school year living in homes that speak other languages, the



program will focus on strategies and programs designed to support these scholars. To support this program, an additional, bilingual school counselor and certified TESOL staff will be hired to provide instruction, build community partnerships, and support parental outreach to our ELL (English Language Learner) families.

All Children Read at Grade Level by Third Grade



- ◆ Embed the 5-Year E.L.M.O.N.T. Curriculum Plan to provide additional resources and support to staff
- ◆ Focus on early literacy development for grades Pre-K-2
- ◆ Expand the district's *Inclusive Community Read* program and establish it as a pillar of our literacy curriculum

The District's 5-Year Curriculum Plan is centered on the slogan, "Every Little Mind Offers Newfound Talent." This slogan represents the approach the district has taken to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This approach aims to address not only the potential learning gaps, but also reflects a value-added perspective - one where students are viewed as adding to their learning despite the challenges of the pandemic. The 5-Year Plan represents the opportunities to understand the "newfound talents" our students possess like learning a new skill, honing a new perspective in understanding challenges, the resilience of overcoming obstacles, or simply learning to manage time wisely to ensure assignments are completed. Through this lens, our scholars can demonstrate unfathomable ways to engage in learning and showcase their newfound talents.





Rooted within the 5-Year Curriculum Plan is a laser-like focus on early literacy development for our scholars in Pre-K through second grade. Research shows that children who are introduced to reading early tend to read earlier and excel in school compared to children who are not exposed to language and books at a young age (*American Academy of Pediatrics*). Reading, rhyming, singing, and talking profoundly influence literacy and language development, the foundations for all other learning. The Elmont School District is committed to emphasizing a foundation of language, vocabulary, and a love of reading by implementing a “Balanced Literacy” approach. This approach focuses on the “Five Pillars of Early Literacy” - phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Incorporating programs like *Fountas and Pinnell’s Foundations* and *Interactive Read Alouds*, children will develop the foundational skills necessary to read at grade level and develop the skills that they will carry with them throughout their school years.

Our *Inclusive Community Read Program*, a cornerstone of our 5-Year Curriculum Plan, uses the metaphor of “windows and mirrors” where our children will use literature to learn about and appreciate the rich diversity around them. Research shows that students benefit when they see themselves in their learning materials. In turn, the *Inclusive Community Read Program* focuses on diversity through children’s literature. The goal of the program is to build more inclusive classrooms by using these books as effective tools to affirm diverse student identities and to help facilitate important conversations about equity and belonging. Ultimately, this program provides an inclusive, representative, and equitable language arts curriculum for our scholars.

Mentoring



- ◆ Develop a *Teachers of Tomorrow* program in each school across the district
- ◆ Create partnerships that target opportunities to engage our scholars in STEM- and STEAM-related fields

The Elmont School District will build on its current *Teachers of Tomorrow* program, establishing building-level programs in each of its six schools. The program will partner students with teachers in their respective buildings in a mentor-mentee relationship; allowing students to nurture their love of learning as they embark on a future career in the field of education. This program will funnel students into the Sewanhaka Central High



School District's *Today's Students/Tomorrow's Teachers* program affording additional mentoring opportunity for our students.



The Elmont School District will continue to build project-based learning (PBL) units centered on the Next Generation Science Learning Standards – with a particular emphasis on infusing math and engineering concepts. By engaging our staff in summer curriculum writing opportunities, our teachers can build PBL units that not only engage our students, but prepare them for the rigorous science programs in the high school district. To provide additional foundational STEM skills, the Elmont School District will establish mentoring partnerships between our current Science Research program and those at the Sewanhaka Central High School District. Students in our Science Research program will learn advanced science and engineering concepts, as well as build an understanding for conducting scientific investigations necessary to support a career in the STEM fields. Data from state assessments will be utilized to assess the effectiveness of the curriculum.

Program Timeline

In collaboration with the Sewanhaka Central High School District, initial programming in the Elmont Union Free School District will be as follows:

Mid 2020 – ongoing



The Elmont School District and Board of Education developed and approved a Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity (DEI) policy based on the pillars set forth in the NYSED – Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework.



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This policy establishes the foundation for the continuous review of our Board policies and regulations to reflect diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of our district – including, but not limited to, the code of conduct, curriculum development, instructional practices, and hiring practices. Additionally, we have partnered with ESBOCES DEI Office to further enhance our DEI roadmap and provide professional development to our staff.

Mid 2020 – ongoing



Beginning in October of 2020, the Elmont School District expanded its community read program to include texts that envelop a variety of cultural, and societal perspectives, allowing our students to see themselves in what they read and what they learn. The district’s *Inclusive Community Read* program places students at the center of their learning, where their personal experiences build connections between what they read and what they learn. To support this initiative, the Elmont School District has implemented a professional development program, aimed at new teachers, to provide the foundation our staff will need to implement this program alongside the pillars of the NYSED – Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework. Data from the Teacher Inclusive Community Read Program Survey, equity walks, and needs assessments will be utilized to assess the effectiveness of the programs.

End 2020 - ongoing



The Elmont School District will build on its current *Teachers of Tomorrow* program, establishing building level programs in each of its six schools. The program will partner students with teachers in their respective buildings in a mentor-mentee relationship; allowing students to nurture their love of learning as they embark on a future career in the field of education. This program will funnel students into the Sewanhaka Central High School District’s *Today’s Students/Tomorrow’s Teachers* program affording additional mentoring opportunity for our students.



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Early 2021 – ongoing



The Elmont School District will continue to build project-based learning (PBL) units centered on the Next Generation Science Learning Standards – with a particular emphasis on infusing math and engineering concepts. By engaging our staff in summer curriculum writing opportunities, our teachers can build PBL units that not only engage our students but prepare them for the rigorous science programs in the high school district. To provide additional foundational STEM skills, the Elmont School District will establish mentoring partnerships between our current Science Research program and those at the Sewanhaka Central High School District. Students in our Science Research program will learn advanced science and engineering concepts, as well as build an understanding for conducting scientific investigations that are necessary to support a career in the STEM fields. Data from state assessments will be utilized to assess the effectiveness of the curriculum.

Mid 2021 – ongoing



The Elmont School District will continue to grow in its partnership with the Sewanhaka Central High School District in preparing our 6th grade students for transition into 7th and 8th grade. Through the work of our school guidance counselors, we will continue to provide students with the skills they will need to be successful in middle school and beyond. With a focus on social-emotional learning, digital citizenship and college and career readiness, our students are well prepared for the demands of high school. In addition, the Elmont School District will continue to develop its transition programs by partnering with both guidance counselors and building administration from the high school to ensure a smooth and comfortable transition for our students. Additional resources will be utilized to further support this initiative via hiring more clinical support staff as outlined in the 5-Year Curriculum Plan.



Mid 2021 – ongoing



The Elmont Union Free School District will continue to build connections with the myriad of student mentoring programs at the high school level (ex. Men of Elmont). These mentoring opportunities for our students are in support of the pillars of the *My Brother's Keeper* program.

Accountability

The following indicators will be used to measure the effectiveness of the Elmont Union Free School District's *My Brother's Keeper Program*:

Accountability	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative and Summative assessment scores (including ENL exits) • Referral suppression and expulsion reports • Percentage of students placed in ENL programs • Chronic absentee reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th grade transition student survey • <i>Inclusive Community Read Program</i> survey • Equity Walks • Needs Assessments • Curriculum Audits

In addition, the Elmont Union Free School District will use informal data collected from our community partnerships, professional learning networks, and interviews with various stakeholders to make the necessary changes that result in positive outcomes for our scholars.