



PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Date: December 13, 2024
To: Members, Board of Education
From: Elizabeth J. Blanco, Ed. D., Superintendent
Subject: **INFORMATIVE MEMORANDUM Friday Communiqué**

1. Academics:
 - a) Update on Pan African Immersive Storytelling Academy



PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Academics Division

To: Dr. Elizabeth Blanco, Superintendent
From: Dr. Helen Chan Hill, Chief Academic Officer
CC: Dr. Shannon Malone, Senior Director of TK-12 Schools
Dr. Nadirah Nayo, Director of CIPD & EdTech
Dr. Shannon Mumolo, Director of Enrollment and Engagement
Re: Update on planning of Pan African Immersive Storytelling Academy
Date: December 13, 2024

This communique is provided as an update on the planning toward the Pan African Immersive Storytelling Academy.

As of the close of the initial priority enrollment period, there were 27 eligible students (i.e. current 5th graders) who had submitted to the interest list for the Academy. They will receive additional contact to remind them to enroll when the general lottery opens on January 8, 2025. Outreach has included announcements in the Enrollment Newsletter (via SMORE), postcards and fliers to all elementary schools and at events such as the Black Education Expo, Community Schools Kick-Off, and in local media (see article in [Pasadena Now](#)). An additional press release has been created and will be distributed by the Communications Office to local San Gabriel Valley outlets.

On December 11, 2024 Dr. Nayo and Dr. KiMi Wilson hosted a community event, “Mobilizing Support for the Pan African Immersive Storytelling Academy” to provide updates and provide opportunities for community involvement via the following areas: Steering Committee; Communications Managers; Outreach Volunteers; Sponsorship for supplemental activities.

Dr. Nayo and Dr. Malone continue to work with Dr. Toliver on a communication plan with her staff and parents, and schedule for school tours. Additional steps in process include a virtual information session on January 22; continued distribution of informational fliers and postcards to each elementary school; digital distribution of the virtual cards in district and school publications.

Please share this information with the Board of Education.