

Paterson Post

Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow

Together We Can

September 30, 2020

ACROSS THE DIVIDE

District provides devices to all students in time for 2020-2021

First, there wasn't enough money. Then, there weren't enough Chromebooks in vendors' supply chains. But ultimately – with only days to go before the new school year began – Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer was able to announce that enough Chromebooks had been delivered to the district, and enough laptops and tablets had been refurbished, to provide a device to every student. "This pandemic has gotten many of us in the habit of looking for silver linings, those positive things that can emerge during a difficult time. Today, we are here to celebrate a very bright silver lining. In Paterson Public Schools, the digital divide is gone. This is something we haven't been able to say since technology first entered classrooms, and the use of the internet became a way of American life," Shafer said at a press event on Sept. 3rd. "Sometimes it takes extraordinary circumstances to help people achieve extraordinary things. So we are here today to celebrate this extraordinary achievement." Students who received a refurbished device will soon get a Chromebook after the next delivery to the district. The district had been plagued by the digital divide since school buildings closed in March due to the pandemic. At that time, the district had only enough Chromebooks for a third of its 29,000 students. Students without Chromebooks completed assignments on paper packets. For their efforts in closing the digital divide, Shafer thanked Deputy Superintendent Susana Perón, Chris Lewis and Yacine Abada in the Information Technology Department, Central Stores Department staff, the Facilities Department, the Security Department and everyone who worked with them. "They put in the long hours and worked through the weekend because they put the education of Paterson Public Schools students first, above anything else. For that, I am very grateful, and our students will be much better off as they begin the new school year." Web access is being provided through an agreement with Altice USA. The district has established a PPS Google Help Desk to assist students and parents who need help using their devices. It can be accessed by calling 973-321-0914 or emailing ppsgooglehelpdesk@paterson.k12.nj.us.



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PPSCommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us

District Makes A Comeback To Prepare For 2020-2021

For the first time since March 16th, Paterson Public Schools buildings were abuzz with activity, although without the students. Thousands of teachers, secretaries, nurses, principals, vice-principals, supervisors, security guards and facilities personnel returned to work in-person for a single day on Sept. 1 to pick up instructional materials for remote learning, discuss professional development and make other preparations for the 2020-2021 school year. The buildings had been cleaned, disinfected and equipped with thermometers, hand sanitizers and signage reminding people of the precautionary measures that must be upheld to protect against the spread of COVID-19. Staff members completed an online COVID-19 self-assessment form before entering a building. Staff members who answered “no” to all six questions were permitted to enter the building for a temperature check. Temperatures were checked with the help of new wall-mounted thermometers that were installed at all building entrances. Six staff members scored less than a 6/6 on the self-assessment and were not permitted to enter school buildings. The district provided masks to all staff members in attendance. Michael Masefield, a teacher at the Norman S. Weir School, said the day was “very successful.” “Upon entrance, we were asked to take our temperature [with the thermometer] that was mounted on the wall. Plexiglass was out on each teacher’s desk. Each classroom had a bottle of disinfectant spray, a bottle of hand sanitizer and a large roll of paper towels,” he said. Carolyn Azzolini, who also teaches at the Norman S. Weir School said, “Our hallways were clearly marked for when students return, hopefully in November. I was very happy with the way my school was prepared.” Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer expressed her gratitude to all who came to work that day. “The people who came in today have put the district in the best position possible to effectively teach and serve our students’ needs as they learn remotely,” Shafer said. “While I am personally grateful for their commitment, it is the students and their families who will benefit the most.”



CHROMEBOOKS, GOOGLE CLASSROOM HELPDESK LAUNCHED TO ASSIST STUDENTS AND PARENTS

As thousands of Paterson Public Schools students began the 2020-2021 school year through remote learning on Sept. 8th, Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer announced the launch of a new helpdesk, called the PPS Google Helpdesk, to assist students and parents who need assistance with operating Chromebooks and using Google Classroom. The phone number for the PPS Google Helpdesk is 973-321-0914. The email address is: ppsgooglehelpdesk@paterson.k12.nj.us. Responses to messages left on the phone line and to emails sent to the email address will be managed by district faculty member Sherri Brackett.

Do you need help with your Chromebook or Google Classroom? We're here to help!

The PPS GOOGLE HELPDESK is open for students and parents needing assistance with Chromebooks and Google Classroom.

Please call the PPS Google Helpdesk:
973-321-0914
or email:
ppsgooglehelpdesk@paterson.k12.nj.us.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow
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Four More IB Diplomas Go To IHS Grads

District total grows to seven grads to achieve honor



Three of PPS' latest IB Diplomas recipients: (from left) Emily Cruz, Lisbeth Zenon, and Rosa Rijo,

They might be called Paterson Public Schools' "Magnificent Seven." They are the members of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at International High School's Class of 2020 who have met the rigorous requirements to earn the distinguished IB Diploma. The number of IB Diplomas recipients grew to seven when four more Class of 2020 graduates were notified that were awarded the diploma over the summer. Those graduates are Emily Cruz, who is now a student at Johns Hopkins University; Nishat Hossain, who is now a student at Rutgers University, New Brunswick; Rosa Rijo, who is now a student at the Rochester Institute of Technology; and Lisbeth Zenon, who was accepted to the New Jersey Institute of Technology, the New York Institute of Technology, and Penn State, but chose to serve in the United States Air Force. These four graduates join three previously-announced Class of 2020 IB Diploma recipients, who are Cindy Munoz (IHS valedictorian), who is now a student at the University of Pennsylvania; Nicole Velecela (IHS salutatorian), who is now a student at Cornell University; and Angel Leonora, who is now a student at Seton Hall University. Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer said, "To say we are proud of our IB Diploma graduates would be a huge understatement. These Paterson Public Schools graduates worked very hard during this adverse time of the pandemic to achieve academic excellence, and that is an inspiration to us all. I thank them, as well as their teachers, supervisors, and principal for their dedication and focus. And I offer special gratitude to the parents of these graduates, whose unfailing devotion to their children helped them achieve great success." The seven IB Diploma graduates of 2020 follow Amaya Perez who became the district's first IB Diploma recipient in 2019, the year the first class of the IB program graduated. There were 46 IB students in IHS' graduating Class of 2020, with 25 students vying for the IB diploma. Two students who missed qualifying for the IB the diploma by 1-2 points who will be reevaluated in May 2021. Five students from the Class of 2019 who narrowly missed qualifying and were originally scheduled to be reevaluated in May will now be reevaluated in November. Other members of the Class of 2020 earned certificates that qualify them for college credit in particular courses. Thirty-one qualified for college credit in IB Language and Literature, 18 graduates qualified for college credit in IB Mandarin, two graduates qualified for college credit in Environmental Systems and Societies, 13 qualified for IB World History of Africa and the Middle East, nine qualified for IB World Religions, 11 qualified for IB Physics, 12 qualified for IB Mathematics, and one qualified for IB Art. "The IB Program presents great challenges to our students, but it also offers great rewards," said Principal of the IB Program at International High School Catherine Forfia-Dion. "We are proud of all of the IB Program's participants for taking on the program's rigorous challenges during the unexpectedly challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Follow PPS Social Media!

On **Facebook**, it's @PatersonPublicSchools.

On **Instagram**, it's Paterson_Public_Schools_NJ.

On **Twitter**, it's @Paterson_Public.

Number Of District Students Scoring High On AP Exams More Than Doubles

The number of Paterson Public Schools students who scored three or higher on AP exams has more than doubled during the past year, district officials announced today. A total of 183 students earned a score of three or higher on the exams’ five-point scale on exams that were taken in Spring 2020. This increase follows the district’s doubling the number of students who scored as well on AP exams last year over 2018. In 2019, the total number of students to score three or higher was 86, while in 2018 it was 43. Despite all of the adversity brought on by the pandemic, these students worked hard, stayed focused, and earned high marks on very challenging College Board exams,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “I am very proud of our Paterson students, who continue to show us that they will meet the challenges put before them. I am also very grateful to their teachers and principals for their work in bringing out the best in these students, and to their parents who give their unfailing support to their children.”

Subject	# of Score 3 or Above (2018-2019)	# of Score 3 or Above (2019-2020)
2-D Art & Design	6	3
Biology	1	7
Calculus AB	0	3
Chemistry	0	2
Computer Science Principles	7	30
English Lang. & Composition	10	29
English Lit. & Composition	1	5
European History	0	1
Macroeconomics	0	1
Physics 1	0	1
AP Seminar*	0	19
Spanish Language & Culture	57	66
U.S. Gov’t & Politics	0	1
U.S. History	3	14
World History: Modern	1	1
Total	86	183

After Showing Appreciation To 170 Essential Workers, Kennedy BTMF Students Continue Fundraising Efforts

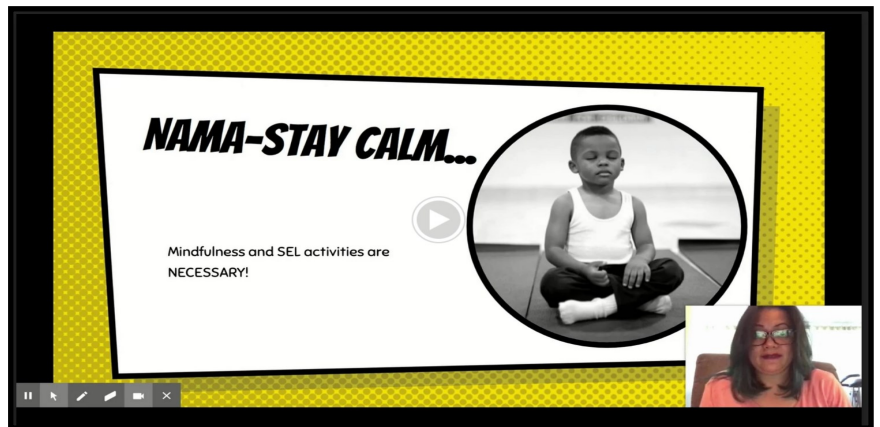


A fundraiser launched by students at the School of Business, Technology, Marketing and Finance (BTMF) at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex raised enough money to show appreciation for 170 essential workers. So what will these future business leaders do next? Raise more money! The students, led by students Lorennys Garcia and Reyismel Valerio, are members of BTMF’s DECA chapter. DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) is a national nonprofit organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. They started the BTMF DECA Cares campaign in July with the goals of helping to stimulate the local economy and showing appreciation for some of Paterson’s essential workers by providing lunch from local restaurants for 100 local nursing home workers. In August, the students had lunches delivered to 170 employees at nursing homes with the \$380 the campaign had raised. Now the students have set their sights on reaching their fundraising goal of \$1,000. BTMF DECA’s social media handles are btmfdeca on Instagram, Btmfdeca on Facebook, and @BtmfDeca on Twitter. “Lorennys and Reyismel devoted themselves all summer to helping local businesses and our unsung heroes who work in Paterson’s nursing homes,” said Martine Grant, faculty advisor to the DECA Chapter at BTMF. “We hope that more people will join our cause to support nursing home employees and Paterson’s small businesses.”

Elementary School Teacher Creates Video to Help Students Get Acquainted with Virtual Learning

Elementary school students who are new to the world of virtual learning as school started this month have a guide in Michelle Van Hoven. Van Hoven, a.k.a. “Miss V” to her music students at Public School No. 2, has produced a brief video message to guide students through a day in the life of virtual learning. The video, “All About That (Virtual) School 2 Life,” runs less than three minutes and opens with Van Hoven cheerfully greeting students with, “Hello people! If you’re confused about what to do every day, I’m here to help you out.” The video continues by going through a daily schedule and showing how it will play out on the Google Classroom platform. The entire video can be viewed at the following link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IJNCm_beKRvKHtd2oCemqezsLyfDx-x6/view



District, Community Organizations Launch Campaign Supporting Parents Of The City’s Youngest Learners

Paterson Public Schools officials joined with representatives of the Paterson Education Fund, Paterson Reads, Mayor Andre Sayegh, Paterson First Lady Farhanna Balgahoom Sayegh and their son, Ayden, on Aug. 26th to launch “Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing.” The campaign aims to give parents and caregivers the tools to talk, read and sing more with their young children from birth, increasing meaningful interactions that are critical to healthy brain and language development. “The time a parent spends reading and talking with a child is the very bedrock of that child’s future academic success. Read to a child and the child’s vocabulary grows. Images form in the child’s conscious mind. Ask a child a question about what you just read together, and the child’s cognitive abilities are engaged. When the child speaks to answer your question...the child develops a greater command of language.” “In this time of challenges, we are thrilled to have Talk, Read, Sing!,” said Inge Spungen, Executive Director of The Paterson Alliance. “This is an excellent tool to help parents and caregivers support their children and supplement their virtual learning.” “Today, almost 60 percent of children in the United States start kindergarten unprepared, lagging behind their peers in critical language and reading skills,” said Rosie Grant, Executive Director of the Paterson Education Fund. “Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing’ will motivate and support parents and caregivers to talk, read, and sing more with their young children.” Grant explained that 500 parents who received the Talk, Read, Sing tote bags with books today would be connected with “Trusted Messengers” through online Zoom meetings. The Trusted Messengers are individuals who already had close relationships with Paterson families. They were recruited through partnering organizations including the district’s Early Childhood and Family and Community Engagement Departments, CUMAC/ECHO, Oasis—A Haven for Women and Children, New Destiny Family Success Center, Partnership for Maternal and Child Health, Passaic County Coalition for Young Children, The Paterson Alliance. Support for Paterson’s “Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing” has been provided by The Nicholson Foundation, The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, The Turrell Fund, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.



New Field House Will Bear Dr. Glisson's Name

Family, friends, dignitaries join together for dedication ceremony

A new field house at Bauerle Field to be constructed by the City of Paterson was dedicated on Friday to the legacy of Dr. Gerald E. Glisson. Glisson, who was the principal of operations at the Eastside Educational Campus, died in May after testing positive for the COVID-19 virus. "He was the most giving man that I know and an administrator who was second to none," said

Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer. Among the many people who gathered at Bauerle Field for the ceremony were Glisson's wife, Michelle, and daughters Sydney and Skylar. They and their friends and family members wore blue and orange t-shirts bearing Glisson's name on the front and, on the back, the three motivation words Glisson is most remembered by, "All Us We." "He was a friend to all of us," said Board of Education Commissioner Vincent Arrington with his colleague on the board, Commissioner Emanuel Capers, at his side. Mayor Andre Sayegh acted as emcee. "Today, we are here for him, because he was there for us," the mayor said. City



Council members Dr. Lilisa Mimms and Ruby Cotton, who sponsored the resolution to name the field house after Glisson, spoke on behalf of the council, and Council Gilman Choudhury also attended. There were many members of Glisson's fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, in attendance as well. Among them, N.J. State Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, who remembered his departed fraternity brother fondly by his nickname of "G" and for his positive, team-building spirit, "All Us We' was just who G was," Wimberly said. "When you walk into this field house when it's done, you're going to see 'Gerald Glisson' written all over it."

Upcoming Events

- Oct 12:** Columbus Day — District Closed
- Oct 14:** Board of Education Workshop Meeting
6:00 p.m. via www.paterson.k12.nj.us/11_BOE/BOE_LivestreamPlayer.php.
- Oct 21:** Board of Education Regular Meeting
6:00 p.m. via www.paterson.k12.nj.us/11_BOE/BOE_LivestreamPlayer.php.

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