

Paterson Post

Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow

Together We Can

October 15, 2019

Reaching for the S.T.A.R.S.



For the first time in the district's history, a Paterson Public Schools superintendent has completed a tour of incoming freshmen classes and holding a pep rally at each of the district's 12 high schools.

Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer began the tour on September 16th. Her last stop was at Students Transitioning and Achieving Real Success (S.T.A.R.S.)

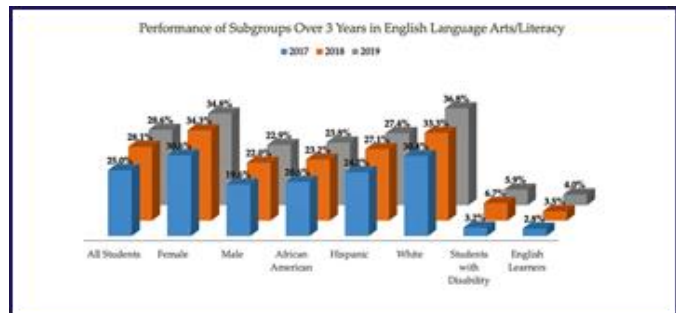
Academy on October 2. "I set out to show

our district's ninth graders how important they are to me," Shafer said. "Everywhere I went, I told them of the tremendous opportunities that are available to them while they are in high school. That held true at S.T.A.R.S. Academy as much as it did in any other high school. Every Paterson Public Schools student is able to take steps forward to the most fulfilling and independent life possible. Our students at S.T.A.R.S. Academy are no exception to that."

PPS State Assessment Scores Up During the Past Three Years

Paterson Public Schools students are showing growth in state assessment scores over the past three years, according to New Jersey Department of Education data. Of the grades tested in Spring 2019, all but one showed growth in the number of students who were proficient in English Language Arts (ELA) since Spring 2017.

Proficient third-graders grew by 4 percent, while fourth-graders were up 4.1 percent, fifth-graders were up 2.8 percent, sixth-graders were up 7.1 percent, seventh-graders were up 3 percent, eighth-graders grew by 6.5 percent and 10th-graders grew by 6.2 percent. In mathematics, the number of students who were proficient also increased in all but one of the grades tested from Spring 2017 to Spring 2019. Proficient third-graders grew by 2.4 percent, while second-graders grew by 2 percent, fifth-graders grew by 2.2 percent, sixth-graders grew by 1.4 percent, seventh-graders grew by 0.6 percent, and eighth-graders grew by 0.7 percent. Proficient Algebra 1 students grew by 1.3 percent, while proficient Algebra 2 students were up 4.6 percent. The data also showed that the district is aligned with the state in increasing the number of proficient students in both ELA and mathematics from 2017 to 2019. "While we still have much more work to do, this data shows that the district is moving in the right direction," Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "The aggressive reading program in the elementary grades, as well as the updated math curriculum, are helping students perform better on state assessments."



Student Participation in Dual Enrollment Increases

Enrollment among district high school students in Dual Enrollment classes more than doubled during the past two school years. The Dual Enrollment program allows students to earn college credit for classes they are taking during high school. This is made possible through partnerships with colleges and universities throughout northern New Jersey. During the 2017-2018 school year, 208 district high school students were enrolled in dual enrollment courses. That number climbed to 561 during the 2018-2019 school year, an increase of 170 percent. Meanwhile, the number of students who earned a grade of C or higher (the requirement to earn college credit) was 197 in 2017-2018. That number rose to 510 in 2018-2019, an increase of 159 percent. Participating colleges include Passaic County Community College, William Paterson University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Seton Hall University and Rutgers University.

Volunteers Band Together to Build Playground at School 19



Volunteers from throughout the Paterson community and beyond joined together on October 5th to install a new playground at Public School No. 19. The playground was donated by the nonprofit Alexandra's Playground and it features state of the art equipment for ages 5 - 12. Volunteers included district officials, members of the School 19 community, Alexandra's Playground, and the New Jersey Community Development Corporation.

Three PPS Schools Awarded Musical Instruments

Public School No. 3, Public School No. 12, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex were each awarded \$23,000 worth of new musical instruments by the Save The Music Foundation. The nonprofit organization made the donations in partnership with Sound Start: A Sound United Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the PNC Foundation. "The district holds music education in high priority, and it is extremely helpful to have these resources available in the schools where we have dedicated music educators at work," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer.



Dinner Program Launched at 11 Schools



This year's dinner program for students has been launched at 11 district schools, and additional dinner sites are expected to open through the school year as more afterschool programs begin. The 11 schools presently serving dinner are Public Schools No. 1, No. 5, No. 6, No. 10, No. 15, No. 18, No. 24, No. 27, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex, the Young Men's Leadership Academy, and Eastside High School. About 1,000

students are participating in the dinner program. The district's Food Services Department began serving dinner to students in the 2016-2017 school year with a pilot program involving two schools. About 100 students participated in the program at that time. In 2017-2018, the program expanded to 13 schools serving about 500 students. During the last school year, 23 schools served dinner with about 1,400 students participating.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 16: Board of Education Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex

Oct. 19: Family & Community Engagement 2019 Parent Conference

8:30 a.m. at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex

Oct. 23: Teacher Job Fair

4:00 p.m. at the Administrative Offices, 90 Delaware Avenue

Oct. 25: Staff In-service

1:00 p.m. Student Dismissal

Paterson Post is a publication of the [Department of Communications](#).
We welcome your submissions on school and district related events. [Click here](#) to submit stories and photos.