

# Paterson Post

Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow

Together We Can

September 16, 2019

## Welcome Back! Let's Make 2019-2020 Our Best Year Ever!

### Superintendent Shafer Begins Freshman Pep Rallies



Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer began her series of “Welcome to High School, Class of 2023” pep rallies on Monday at International High School. She is scheduled to visit all 12 of the district high schools to speak to the ninth grade classes. “We want to reach out to our students who are making the very important transition into high school and let them know of the fantastic opportunities for success we have for them during their high school years,” Shafer said.

### NSW Students Reenact Firefighters’ Heroism on 9-11



Students at the Norman S. Weir School honored New York City firefighters on the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9-11 by climbing the school building’s stairs. Each student had a badge with a photo of one of the firefighters, recalling the heroism of those who gave their lives in responding to the attacks on the World Trade Center. Students solemnly placed their badges on the school’s 9-11 remembrance wall. Paterson Firefighter Kyle Mizdol arranged for firefighter helmets and a jacket worn by one of the firefighters at Ellis Island during the cleanup of Ground Zero to be loaned to the school from the Paterson Fire Department.

The project was the idea of Patricia Tookmanian’s fourth grade class.



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## **P.S. No. 13 Is Keeping It Green – and Scores an Award**



Public School No. 13 has won the Best Schoolscape Award in City Green's "Greenest Place in Paterson" garden contest. This is the third consecutive year the school has won the award. The school has a vegetable garden and outdoor classroom next to its playground, as well as a flower garden in front of the school. The gardens are managed by the Public School No. 13 Green Team, building administrators Nicole Booker and Cosmo Braico, and teachers Deborah Burton and Stephanie Mearizo.

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## **PPS Doubles Success in AP Exams, Ranks Third-Highest in State in High Scores Growth**

Paterson Public Schools doubled the number of students who scored three or higher on Advanced Placement (AP) exams in the past year, and the district ranks number three statewide in growth among students who achieved this score during the past three years.

A total of 86 students earned a score of three or higher on the exams' five-point scale on exams that were taken in spring 2019, according to district data. In 2018, the total number of students to score three or higher was 43.

Meanwhile, data released by the College Board showed that in 2016 the district had 18 students score three or higher on AP exams. That number grew to 86 this year, a 378 percent increase – the third largest increase in the state.

AP exams are graded on a five-point scale, and many colleges use a score of three as the minimum requirement for awarding college credit to the student. Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer said the data was "encouraging news." "The district is moving in the right direction because more students are willing to enroll in an AP course and facing all of its challenges, and more teachers are trained in teaching AP courses. Our students, teachers and parents who have made this progress possible have good reason to be proud of what they have done."

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## **Summer Graduation Comes Back after Long Absence**

In a ceremony that has not been held in more than a decade, Paterson Public Schools officials conferred diplomas on 33 high school graduates who completed their requirements for graduation this summer. A total of 61 students became high school graduates through summer work.

"Today, we celebrate a group of very special scholars," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer during her commencement address. "The students who have made the most of the past few months, and did it in a way that will impact the rest of



their lives for the better. And so let me say directly to our esteemed graduates, congratulations to each and every one of you. I could not be more proud of you.”

The ceremony held at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex auditorium was the first of its kind since 2005, according to some district officials. In June, Paterson Public Schools officials made a concerted outreach effort to students who had only a couple of course requirements to complete before being eligible to receive a high school diploma.

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## All City Band Planning



Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer has been gathering music teachers, educators, students and community stakeholders to plan an All City Band to perform at this year's Thanksgiving Classic football game between the Kennedy Knights and the Eastside Ghosts on November 27. What Shafer envisions is a marching band of students and alumni from both Kennedy and Eastside that would ignite spirit and pride in Patersonians as Eastside High School's Marching 100 had in previous years. "We want students and alumni from all of the district's high school programs to participate at the Thanksgiving game," said Shafer. "This is an effort to bring people throughout the Paterson community together through the talents of our students and our alumni." Interested in joining the All City Band? Sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/WRnSeS5WWAwVjrs26>

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## PPS Pushes for Parents on Portal

District officials are reaching out to parents, urging them to increase their use of the Campus Parent portal. The Campus Parent portal is an easy and convenient way for parents and guardians to connect with their child's grades, homework assignments, and attendance records. It delivers all of this information to their PC or mobile device. District staff members signed up parents at the Great Falls Festival during Labor Day weekend, and more outreach efforts are being planned. Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact the main office at their child's school to activate their accounts and have easier access to information about their child's progress in school.





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## Fifty PPS Teachers Win \$200 Shopping Sprees for the Classrooms



Fifty Paterson Public Schools teachers won \$200 to spend on their classrooms in the “Back to School Paterson Teacher Giveback Raffle,” an online raffle was made possible by two-time NFL Pro Bowl safety and Paterson native Mike Adams through his nonprofit, the Team Adams Foundation. The 50 winning teachers shopped on Saturday at the Dollar Tree store on West Broadway. “Teachers give of themselves every day, and often make personal sacrifices in order to provide their students a suitable learning environment,” said Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren. “We greatly appreciate Mike Adams’ generosity and thoughtfulness in helping

Paterson teachers create awesome classrooms for their students.” Mike Adams said that every year when school starts, he likes to do something that will benefit Paterson students. “This year I decided to see how impactful it would be to give back directly to the teachers. I’m excited to be able to help where I can,” he said.

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## ACT Academy Teacher Gets Press in Air National Guard



ACT Academy’s Javier E. Godoy, a bilingual math teacher, serves in the 1-114th Infantry Battalion of the Air National Guard. He was recently featured in an article entitled, *Air Assault* in the battalion’s monthly newsletter, *The Blue Devil*. Godoy has also coached the Knights’ soccer team in past years.



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## P-TECH Art Teacher Awarded Grant for Supplies

Katherine Machere, an art teacher at P>TECH Academy, was awarded an arts grant of \$250 from the California Casualty insurance company. The grant will be used to help Machere’s students obtain art supplies.

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## Mindfulness Comes to STEM Academy

Sixteen teachers at the School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) joined Principal Dante Petretti, Ed. D., and Biology Teacher and Social-Emotional Learning expert Danielle Hoffman in the school's new initiative, "Mindful Mondays." Each Monday, the educators will model a different mindful exercise or activity with the staff during a common planning period. Teachers are encouraged to take the activities back to their classrooms and use them with their students.



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### Upcoming Events

#### **Sept. 18: Board of Education Regular Meeting**

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

#### **Sept. 19: Back to School Night (P.S. No. 7, Don Bosco & NRC)**

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

#### **Sept. 24: Back to School Night (Grades 9-12)**

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

#### **Sept. 26: Back to School Night (All other Pre-K-8)**

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

#### **Oct. 8: Board of Education Workshop**

6:30 p.m. at the Administrative Offices, 90 Delaware Avenue

#### **Oct. 9: Yom Kippur**

District Closed

#### **Oct. 11 HARP Blood Drive**

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at HARP Academy, 5 Colt Street

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Paterson Post is a publication of the [Department of Communications](#).  
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