

June 15, 2020

# Giving Thanks

*COVID-19 Volunteers Honored For Keeping Students Fed, Learning In Pandemic*



Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer and other district officials honored the volunteers who have been playing critical roles in keeping students fed and their education moving forward since school buildings closed on March 17th due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The volunteers are largely district employees who have chosen to work at the district's sites throughout the city to distribute student meals, home instruction packets and Chromebooks. Paterson Public Schools had developed a meal distribution plan when school buildings closed. But that plan couldn't

be implemented without the volunteers who were willing to work at the distribution sites throughout the city. "They could be working from home. But they volunteered to work at our eight distribution sites. Many of them are parents. Some are grandparents. All of them are



motivated by a sense of duty to put the students' needs first," said Shafer, at a news conference held at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex on June 2nd. "Their selfless dedication has made the district exceptional with regard to student meal distribution." Shafer noted when a leading education news web site looked into New Jersey's largest school districts during the pandemic, [it found that no other school district in the state had distributed more student meals than Paterson Public Schools](#). Just days before the news conference, Governor Phil Murphy had praised Paterson Public Schools during one of his COVID-19 briefings for the tremendous job that is being accomplished in the district in making sure students are being fed. To date the district has distributed more than 700,000 meals.

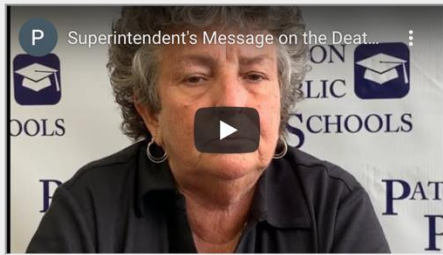
"My department could not have done it alone," said district Executive Director of Food Services David Buchholtz. "It takes all of us. This was all possible under the leadership of Ms. Shafer and the unwavering commitment, hard work and pure love of helping others from our many, many volunteers who are with us today."

## Social Injustice Education Resources Made Available

Following the tragic death of George Floyd and the reactions to it around the world, the district has made available a number of resources to aid in social injustice education on a special page created on the district's website. The "Systemic Racism and Social Injustice" page can be accessed through a Quick Link marked "Social Injustice" on the homepage of the district's website. "As educators, our job is to empower our students, to help them discover what is already there inside them, and to enhance their growth and strength," said Schools Superintendent Eileen Shafer.

"To this end, our academic services team and counseling team has curated educational resources for every grade level that promote acceptance and tolerance." The creation of the web page fulfills a commitment Shafer made in a June 8th letter to parents.

**Teaching about Race, Systemic Racism, and Social Injustice**



**2020 Curriculum Resource Guide**  
Link to a Google Drive with the 2020 curriculum resources from Black Lives Matter with a plethora of articles, videos, lessons, books, etc. for all ages

**Early Childhood/Elementary Resources**  
**BounceBackParenting.com - Grades Pre K-5**  
This link provides parents with 60+ resources to talk to their children about racism, some of which are books, but others use household items like eggs and crayons.

## H.E.L.P. Line Established For Those in Need of Counseling

The district has repurposed its grief counseling line as a H.E.L.P. (Hope, Encouragement Listening Platform) Line to make counselors available to students and community members who are in need of counseling. The H.E.L.P. line's phone numbers are as follows:

- High School Students: 973-321-0548
- Elementary School Students: 973-321-0551
- Adult members of the Paterson community: 973-321-0552

The H.E.L.P. Line's phone lines are open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Need someone to talk to?  
Call the

# H.E.L.P. Line

Hope, Encouragement, Listening Platform

Call if you need help dealing with  
grief, traumatic loss, mental wellness, or social injustice.

**Open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

High School Students	Elementary School Students	Adults (of the district and community)
973-321-0548	973-321-0551	973-321-0552

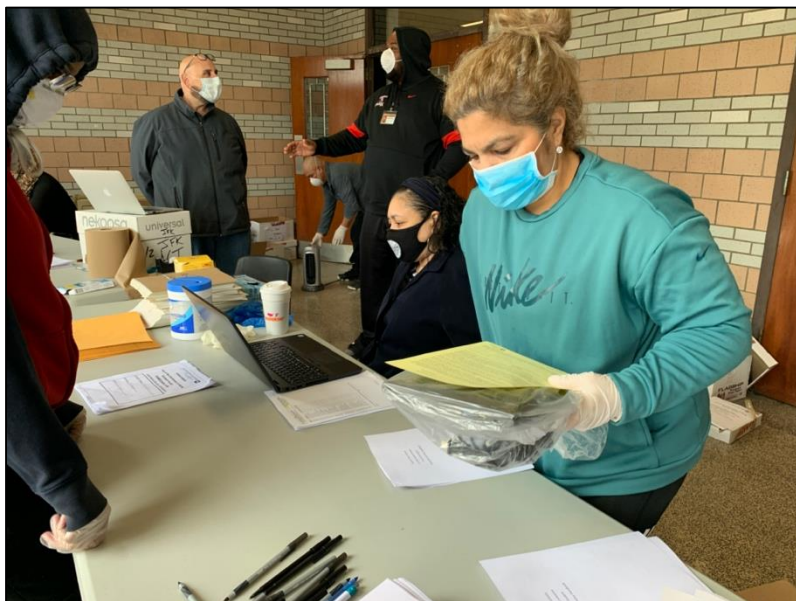
PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## International High School Students, Faculty Collect More Than \$1,000 For Masks

International High School student organizations, teachers and families have collected monetary donations totaling more than \$1,000 that will be used to purchase masks to help guard against COVID-19 infection. The masks will be donated to a local Paterson community organization, according to IHS Principal Robina Puryear-Castro. The student organizations that helped raise the funds were the Spanish Club, the Interact Club, the Environmental Club, and the Chinese Club. Other donations were arranged through the efforts of Huashu Ji, who teaches Chinese.

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## Paterson N.A.A.C.P., Local Churches, Organizations Donate More Than \$11,000 for Chromebooks



Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer thanked the Rev. Kenneth Clayton, the members of the Paterson Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. and leaders of several Paterson churches and other organizations for their donations totaling \$11,871 to purchase Chromebooks for district students. The funds were raised through a coordinated effort of the Paterson Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. with the support of the Paterson churches. "When the COVID-19 pandemic led to school buildings being closed, thousands of our students were stuck at home without devices. We put the call for help in raising resources to get

students the devices they need," said Shafer. "We are extremely grateful to Rev. Clayton and the Paterson Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. who responded to our call by leading this effort to put Chromebooks in the hands of more Paterson students, and to the many leaders of Paterson's churches and organizations who gave their financial support of this effort." The Reverend Clayton said, "Each of us has a choice when students are in need. We can wait and hope that someone will come along and solve the problem for us, or we can take action and do everything we can to provide our young people with what they need to keep their education moving forward. I thank the members of the Paterson Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. and the leaders of the churches and organizations in Paterson for joining together and taking action for the sake of our young people." The churches and organizations that supported this fundraising effort are:

**Churches:** Canaan Baptist Church, Rev. Barry L. Graham, Pastor; St. Luke Baptist Church, Rev. Kenneth D.R. Clayton, Pastor; Seminary Baptist Church, Rev. Alfred Steele; Greater Bibleway Church of Christ, Rev. Pamela Samuels, Pastor; Christ Covenant Church, Rev. Jason Moody, Pastor; KOINONIA and Christian Ministries, Rev. N. Princess Curry, Pastor; Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Betty Montgomery, Pastor; Grace of God Church, Rev. Milena Eason, Pastor; Friendship Baptist Church, Rev. Janel York, Pastor; Christian Fellowship Center and Outreach Ministries, Rev. Joel Rudolph, Pastor; Grace and Restoration Fellowship, Rev. Jerry Wilder, Pastor; First AME Zion Church, Rev. Dr. Douglas Maven, Pastor; Life Changing Word Church International, Rev. William Cash, Pastor; Solid Rock Baptist Church, Rev. Bennett Johnson, III, Pastor.

**Organizations:** Paterson Branch NAACP, Kenneth D.R. Clayton, President; Paterson United Pastors Council, Rev. James Kuykendall, President; Unity of the Spirit Interdenominational Fellowship, Rev. Joel Rudolph, Presiding Prelate; Paterson Pastors Workshop/Clergy On Fire, Rev. Michael McDuffie, President.

**Individuals:** Rev. Betty Montgomery



The district began distributing 7,000 Chromebooks to all high school students at the end of April. At the beginning of May, 1,667 Chromebooks, that were purchased with redirected budget funds, were distributed to as many middle school students as possible. After those efforts, about two thirds of the district's students remained without a device or access to the internet while schools have been closed.

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## Four PPS High School Seniors Awarded \$1,000 Scholarships From The Educational Council of Passaic County



Four graduating high school seniors were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships from the Educational Council of Passaic County. The four scholarship recipients are:

**Amina Issacs** of International High School, who will attend Felician University to major in biology.

**Ashane Brown** of the Rosa L. Parks School of the Fine and Performing Arts, who will attend Albright College to major in accounting.

**Phaezon Peak** of the School of Education and Training at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex, who will attend Berkeley College to major in graphic technology.

**Gianfranco Romani** of the School of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex, who will attend Rutgers University (New Brunswick) to major in computer science.

"I want to extend my warm congratulations to our four college-bound seniors who were awarded scholarships from this esteemed countywide organization," said Schools Superintendent Eileen Shafer. "These four soon-to-be high school graduates will soon be starting their college education. Having additional financial resources will surely help them along their journey. We are all grateful to the Educational Council of Passaic County and its sponsors for making these resources available to our students."

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## GOPA & SOIT Seniors Get Into College With Robert and Seth Memorial Foundation's Help

Fifteen high school seniors from the School of Government and Public Administration and the School of Information Technology, both at the Eastside Educational Complex, were awarded new laptops for college on Friday. The award was in recognition of the students' "exceptional achievements." The laptops were made available through the efforts of the Robert and Seth Memorial Foundation, a Mahwah-based nonprofit organization that helps students get into college. Representatives from the foundation – Walter Ginsberg, Robin Ginsberg and Alan Dlugasch – have been volunteering twice a week to assist students with applying for financial aid, searching for colleges, and advocating for students with colleges and universities for acceptance and financial aid. Participating students applied to more than 50 colleges and were awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships.

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**PPSCommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us**

## **Upcoming Events**

### **June 17: Board of Education Regular Meeting**

6:00 p.m. – Meeting to be held virtually.\*

### **June 19: Virtual Graduations**

9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. See the website of your child's school for details.

### **June 24: Board of Education Special Meeting**

5:00 p.m. – Meeting to be held virtually.\*

### **July 8 & 9: In-Person High School Graduations**

Rain dates: July 10 & 13

\*Board of Education meetings held virtually will be live streamed and available for viewing on the district's website at [paterson.k12.nj.us/11\\_BOE/BOE\\_LivestreamPlayer.php](http://paterson.k12.nj.us/11_BOE/BOE_LivestreamPlayer.php). Members of the public who want participate in the public comment portion should register in advance by emailing [public@paterson.k12.nj.us](mailto:public@paterson.k12.nj.us) no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 17 and 4:00 p.m. on June 24.

**Effective Academic Programs • Creating & Maintaining Healthy School Cultures  
Family & Community Engagement • Efficient & Responsive Operations**

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