

Paterson Post

Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow

Together We Can

June 1, 2020

A New York Giant Boost

District efforts to put a Chromebook in the hands of every student got a New York Giant boost last week from Paterson's own Super Bowl Champion Victor Cruz. Cruz teamed up with Altice USA to donate 100 Chromebooks for students. The announcement was made at a news conference held by Superintendent Eileen Shafer, Deputy Superintendent Susana Perón and School Board Vice President Manuel Martinez, Jr. at the Central Office building at 90 Delaware Avenue. N.J. State Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly and Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh also participated in the event.

"When I learned about the Paterson School District's need of technology for students at home, I knew immediately my charity, the Victor Cruz Foundation, would find a way to help support the devastating challenge," said Cruz, a Paterson native who was coached by Wimberly when he played football for Paterson Catholic. "It took many calls and emails but we're so thankful that our friends at Altice were able to join in support. The need is still great and both myself and the Victor Cruz Foundation will continue to find ways to ensure our future leaders are equipped with the tools they need."



NY Giants Super Bowl Champion Victor Cruz speaks at the announcement of 100 Acer Chromebooks being donated.



Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer delivers her remarks at a press conference last week where a donation of 100 Chromebooks from Victor Cruz and Altice USA was announced.

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State: PPS Bilingual Magnet Schools Program Is An “Outstanding Model”

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has chosen Paterson Public Schools’ bilingual magnet schools as a 2020-2022 recipient of the New Jersey Second Language Learning Regional Model Programs Initiative. The district schools that received the honor are Public Schools No. 8, 16 and 21. The NJDOE grants this recognition once every two years.



As a state-designated model program, Paterson Public Schools’ bilingual magnet program will serve as a resource center for other school districts in New Jersey. Educators from throughout the state will be able to witness the district’s exemplary second language practices for English language learners. Administrators and teachers will be able to discuss matters of mutual concern and explore the potential for collaboration on curriculum development and professional development initiatives.

In addition to the superintendent, the district officials who oversee the bilingual magnet program are Deputy Superintendent of Schools Susana Perón, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Sandra Diodonet, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Cicely Warren, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services/Special Programs Joanna Tsimpedes and Director of Bilingual/ESL/World Languages Lourdes Garcia. The principals are Sham Bacchus at Public School No. 8, JoAnne Riviello at Public School No. 21, and Nancy Tavaréz-Correa at Public School No. 16. Some of the distinctive work that has been done by the district’s bilingual magnet program teachers includes three teachers at School 8 – Martha Cruz, Ivette Soto and Anibal Cintron – [led a team of bilingual students to win the state finals of Samsung’s national STEM contest](#), “Solve For Tomorrow.” The contest had more than 2,000 applicants. Also, in September, [the New Jersey School Boards Association honored School 21 ESL teacher Jason Velante](#) with their “School Leader Award” for his lesson that started with giving his students a writing prompt: *Why I Came to America?* His students’ immigration stories were soon published and circulated through the Paterson Free Public Library and the Wanaque Library. They have also been exhibited at the Paterson Museum, and they have received a special commendation from the Paterson Board of Education.



Open Virtual Memorial for Dr. Glisson At District Website

More than 600 people watched the Open Memorial for Dr. Gerald E. Glisson that was held on May 20. For the benefit of anyone who could not participate in the online event, a video recording of the memorial has been uploaded to the “The Scroller” on the bottom half of the homepage of the district’s website. <http://www.paterson.k12.nj.us/>. Glisson, who was the beloved principal of operations at Eastside High School, died on May 3rd. Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer remembered Glisson as “a dedicated and caring educator who touched the lives of so many people.”



IB Senior Accepted At The University Of Pittsburgh

Abbey-Gale Brooks, a senior in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at International High School (IHS), has been accepted at the University of Pittsburgh. Brooks, [who was named to the first all-Passaic County Girls Winter Track Team for the 200-meter dash last year](#), will begin studying nursing at the university in the fall.



Brooks said her parents immigrated from Jamaica and worked hard to ensure that she had better educational opportunities than they had. She decided to pursue a medical career at the end of middle school.

“I chose nursing because it will help me gain the experience necessary for a smooth segue into the next steps towards my dream profession, which is becoming a neurosurgeon,” Brooks said.

Throughout her high school years, Brooks has successfully balanced her rigorous academics in the IB program with her extracurricular activities, including four years on Eastside High School’s varsity track and field team. She shadowed her own primary care doctor every Thursday and Saturday for a total of 120 hours and worked more than 300 hours of community service.

With regard to the IB program, Brooks said, “The IB program not only offered a multitude of rigorous courses to prepare me for college, but also provided me with resources that were very

Public School No. 15 Students Get A Video Shout-Out From New York Giants' Golden Tate

Students from Public School No.15 got a giant video shout out from none other than New York Giants wide receiver Golden Tate. The Super Bowl Champion congratulated the students for their “excellent participation” in the NFL’s PLAY 60 program. NFL PLAY 60 encourages young people to get physically active for at least 60 minutes a day. Students from 10 district elementary and middle schools took up the challenge to commit to an hour of physical activity at the beginning of the school year.



It was then that the Cooper Institute, a health and wellness research organization, began working with district physical education educators in tracking the students’ activity with the institute’s Fitnessgram software. It was the Fitnessgram data that showed School 15 students were the best in the district in keeping their commitment to be active for at least an hour a day.

“I want to congratulate our students at School 15 for keeping their commitment to daily exercise, as well as their dedicated physical education teachers and school administrators for instilling healthy habits in our students,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “I also want to thank Golden Tate of the New York Giants for giving our students his special recognition of their accomplishment.”



School 15’s physical education teachers Alexa DeRose, Allison Jones and Holly Rispoli implemented the NFL PLAY 60 and Fitnessgram programs with the support of Principal Ramona Garcia, Vice Principal Helen Guarente, and Physical Education Supervisor Clarissa Adams.

“This department wanted to make it clear that fitness can be fun!” DeRose said “If you introduce activity into their daily routines at a young age, they will enjoy movement. That doesn’t mean running all the time. We danced, raced and had contests where students didn’t realize we were exercising until we reflected on the lesson.”

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Norman S. Weir Math Teacher and Students Named To National Honor Roll For Significant Math Achievement By Education Technology Company

Angela Larkin, a middle school math teacher at the Norman S. Weir School, and her students were named to the Renaissance National Honor Roll for outstanding performance in advancing students' achievement in math. It is [the only National Honor Roll distinction to be awarded to a New Jersey school](#) by the Renaissance company.

Renaissance is a national provider of pre-K to 12 education technology. Larkin and her students earned this distinction by guiding effective implementation of Accelerated Math, a program developed by Renaissance. The honor acknowledges work the students had done since September and that continued after school buildings closed due to precautions against the COVID-19 virus in March.



"I am elated that my students were able to receive such a prestigious honor, said Larkin, who has taught at the Norman S. Weir School for eight years. "I will continue my commitment to student growth and achievement in math."

The Accelerated Math program provides deep math practice at the unique levels K–12 students need in order for them to grow—from foundational skills to grade-level standards.

Renaissance's National Honor Roll is designed to help educators tap into the power of Accelerated Math by guiding their implementation in ways that promote and accelerate student growth. Renaissance provides educators with research-based data targets for reading and math practice and interim and formative assessments as well as strategies that lead to an effective and sustainable implementation. Over the course of the school year, educators implement the programs with fidelity, while striving to achieve data points that research has shown result in greater student growth. Participating in National Honor Roll provides educators the ability to engage in conversations with fellow educators using the programs via Renaissance Royals, a community for Renaissance educators.

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Public School No. 21 Seventh-Grader Accepted Into Prestigious Scholars Program

Anel Cabrera Moya, a seventh-grader at Public School No. 21, is one of 25 students accepted into the Young Scholars Program, which is run by NJ SEEDS. NJ SEEDS (Scholars, Educators, Excellence, Dedication, Success) is a nonprofit organization that prepares motivated, high-achieving, low-income students for admission to private schools and colleges. The organization strives to ensure that their students receive financial aid from the schools they attend covering 90 to 100 percent of expenses. Cabrera Moya will begin the Young Scholars Program with a five-week session this summer. She will continue participating on Saturdays through the next academic year, and participate in a second summer session next year. In order to be accepted into the program, Cabrera Moya had to submit standardized test scores, behavioral assessments, writing samples and portfolio of student of achievement. Also, she and her parents were interviewed by the program's admission committee. Cabrera Moya also submitted a recommendation from Elissa Barry, her literacy teacher. Her guidance counselor, Siobhan Simpson, provided the required reports and assessment data. She also had the unfailing support of her parents, Nelson Cabrera and Ana Moya, and School 21 Principal JoAnne Riviello.

Pritchard Industries, Inc. Donates KN95 Masks to District

Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer welcomed officials from the Pritchard Industries, Inc. to the Central Office Building and thanked them for the company's donation of 500 KN95 masks for district employees. "We are grateful for this generous donation of personal protective equipment for our employees," said Shafer. "These are items that are in great demand and they will help to protect the district's essential workers." The masks were delivered by Pritchard Vice President Tom Martin, Operations Manager Osvaldo Oliveros, and Director



(From left) Pritchard Operations Manager Osvaldo Oliveros, Superintendent Shafer, Director of Operations Kevin Fitzpatrick

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IB Senior Accepted At Brigham Young University

Brigitte Garcia, a senior in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at International High School (IHS), has been accepted at Brigham Young University (BYU). Garcia will begin studying at the university in the fall and is currently intending to study nursing.

Garcia has maintained robust involvement in extracurricular activities. As an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Garcia has participated in community service efforts such as helping to pack 60,000 meals for people in need. She had also served as her church's young women class president, which gave her a religious education role for girls ages 11-18. At school, Garcia is a member of the National Honor Society and the Chinese Honor Society. Garcia has also been a volunteer at Englewood Hospital since she was a freshman, and she said that she plans on studying pre-nursing at BYU in hopes of getting accepted into the school's nursing program.

"Not only has IB helped me push myself academically, it has also helped me gain confidence in myself," she said. "It has helped shape me into the person I am today. Without the IB program, I do not think that I would have the opportunities I have now or the confidence to pursue the things that I am passionate about."

Free COVID-19 Testing Available To All Patersonians

Through a partnership between Paterson Public Schools and the City of Paterson, all Paterson residents have access to COVID-19 testing. Drive through and walk up facilities are available. Residents must show a photo ID and proof of residency. The testing is free, regardless of whether the resident tested has symptoms or health insurance.



The two COVID-19 testing sites are:

- Eastside High School, 150 Park Avenue
- John F. Kennedy Educational Complex, 61-127 Preakness Avenue

The hours of testing are:

Monday, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday through Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Upcoming Events

June 3: Board of Education Special Meeting
5:00 p.m. 90 Delaware Ave.

June 8: End of 4th Marking Period

June 10: Board of Education Workshop Meeting
6:30 p.m 90 Delaware Ave

June 17: Board of Education Regular Meeting
7:00 p.m. 90 Delaware Ave

June 19: Virtual High School Graduations

The meetings will be conducted remotely from 90 Delaware Ave, Paterson, NJ. Members of the public and the Board of Education will participate by teleconference. Members of the public who want to participate in the public comment portion should register in advance by emailing public@paterson.k12.nj.us by **no later than: 4:00 p.m. on June 3, 5:00 p.m. on June 10 and 17**

Participants will state their name, address, and the phone number they will be calling from.
[Complete Information for June 3](#)