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EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL’S STUDENTS AND STAFF DANCE THE BLUES AWAY WITH *JERUSALEMA*

Social studies teacher uses international dance craze to get Ghosts’ feet moving, spirits rising

PATERSON – In classrooms, in hallways, in the library, even on the basketball court – Eastside High School students, staff, and administrators got their feet moving and their faces smiling as they danced to Master KG’s 2020 hit song *Jerusalema*. It was all captured on video in the final few days of the school year thanks to Orlando Pagan, a social studies teacher at Eastside’s School of Government and Public Administration.

“Everyone forgot their worries and just enjoyed doing something together, not only as students and staff, but as the Eastside family,” Pagan said.

In February 2021, *Jerusalema* became an international dance sensation earlier as people from all walks of life took the “Jerusalema Challenge” by recording videos of themselves dancing to the feelgood tune and then vied for as many social media impressions as they could get. Pagan said he began encouraging students at Eastside to learn the dance last February, and as the video recording stated at the end of June, teachers, administrators, and other staff members wanted to get in on the act.

“Seeing everyone in this video would give anyone a tremendous amount of hope and faith in the future after a long pandemic. It is so wonderful to see members of the school community bonding and being free to celebrate each other,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “A lot of people have been working hard to maintain the social and emotional wellbeing of everyone in our schools. By the looks of the great people in this video, it would appear that Eastside High School has achieved a great amount of SEL success.”

[CLICK HERE](#) to see Eastside High School’s *Jerusalema* video.

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