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Aida E. Rosario
aerosario@paterson.k12.nj.us

EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL 11TH GRADER WINS NATIONAL CONTEST

Paterson junior takes 2nd place in national contest, highlighting commitment to summer learning and academic achievement

Paterson, NJ (September 25, 2024) – Paterson Public Schools is proud to announce that an Eastside High School student, Francesco La Barrera Puse, has been named the second-place winner in the Beable Summer Splash Contest From Home! This nationwide contest encourages students to continue their learning over the summer to help prevent the "summer slide"—a decline in academic skills during the break.

Francesco's hard work and dedication earned him second place, and he will be awarded a stainless steel Beable water bottle, a trophy, and a \$50 Amazon gift card. The contest incentivized students to log in and complete learning activities throughout the summer, with more work translating to additional raffle entries.

"We are thrilled to celebrate Francesco's achievement," said Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Superintendent of Paterson Public Schools. "His commitment to learning and success in this national contest is a testament to the talent and hard work of students in our district."

The [Beable Summer Splash Contest](#) helps students stay engaged during the summer months, giving them a head start for the upcoming school year. Francesco's accomplishment showcases the drive of Paterson students to excel both inside and outside the classroom.

For more information about Paterson Public Schools and its programs, please visit our [website](#).

About Paterson Public Schools

Paterson Public Schools serves over 26,000 students from pre-K to 12th grade in New Jersey's third-largest city. About 70.6% of the student population is Hispanic, 16.3% are Black, 6.5% are Asian, and 5.0% are Caucasian. Recognizing its proud traditions, diverse community, and strong partnerships, the mission of Paterson Public Schools is to provide an academically rigorous, safe, and nurturing educational environment that meets the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students. The district is committed to preparing students for post-secondary education and careers. Despite the Paterson community being classified as low-income, many of its students achieve high academic success. A growing number of elementary school students are reading at or above grade level, and more high school students are earning college credits through Advanced Placement exams and enrolling in college-level courses before graduation. Paterson Public Schools is distinguished as one of only 17 school districts in New Jersey to offer the competitive International Baccalaureate program and is among just four districts with a P-TECH high school. In collaboration with IBM and Passaic County Community College, allows students to graduate with an associate degree in applied science and valuable tech sector experience. For more information, visit www.paterson.k12.nj.us

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