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Paterson Public Schools Selected to Host Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Event

Paterson P-Tech is one of only three institutions nationwide to be accepted into the program.

Paterson, NJ (January 21, 2025) - Paterson Public Schools proudly announces that Paterson P-Tech High School has been selected to participate in the prestigious Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Managed by an international group of amateur radio organizations and space agencies, [ARISS](#) allows students to engage in live, voice-only communication with astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) using amateur or satellite radio. This innovative program introduces students to space technologies and the science behind space communications, offering a unique hands-on learning experience.

“Being selected for this program highlights our commitment to providing our students with a comprehensive learning experience,” said Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “Through programs like ARISS, we aim to inspire our students to explore the endless possibilities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.”

The district’s participation in ARISS is the result of a rigorous proposal process led by Carlos Miranda, Ed.D., Planetarium Manager at Paterson P-Tech High School. The proposal detailed how the program would be integrated into the curriculum to enrich students’ education. As one of only four districts in the state with a P-TECH high school, Paterson P-tech equips students with an associate degree in applied science upon graduation, along with valuable tech-sector experience.

Dr. Miranda shared his excitement about the program, stating, “Acceptance into ARISS demonstrates our commitment to preparing students for success by providing them with unique educational experiences beyond the traditional classroom.”

Students will connect with the ISS at the P-Tech Planetarium, with support from the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club (FLARC). The district anticipates the live communication will occur between July and December 2025. The date will be announced as soon as it’s confirmed.

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, the P-TECH program 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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