

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Aida E. Rosario | aerosario@paterson.k12.nj.us

Paterson Public School 28 Ranked #1 in New Jersey

Named Top Elementary and Middle School by U.S. News & World Report

Paterson, NJ (November 18, 2024) – Paterson Public Schools’ School 28 has been ranked the **Best Elementary School** and **Best Middle School** in New Jersey by *U.S. News & World Report*. According to *U.S. News*, state assessment data largely determines how most elementary and middle schools are ranked. In the elementary school category, School 28 outperformed 2,347 other schools, while in the middle school category, it surpassed 1,434 schools.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell said, “I am incredibly proud of the School 28 community. The dedication of the staff and the hard work of the students have created a learning environment that truly exemplifies excellence. This recognition highlights the progress we are making as a district to ensure that every child in Paterson receives the education they need to succeed in the future.”

[School No. 28](#) is home to the District’s Paterson Academy of the Gifted & Talented (PAGT), a program serving students grades 2 through 8 from across the city. PAGT students are carefully screened for their ability to excel in a rigorous curriculum and are provided with a learning environment that addresses their unique social, emotional, and academic needs. For students in grades 4 through 8, the curriculum is compacted and accelerated to meet individual student needs, while a variety of clubs during the school day further enhance their academic experience.

“I was humbled to learn that School No. 28 has been ranked as the number one elementary and middle school in New Jersey by [U.S. News & World Report](#),” said Principal Nancy Castro. “This prestigious honor is the result of the hard work and dedication of the entire community. I am deeply appreciative of the collective efforts of our students, their families, and staff.”

The ranking is the latest achievement for School 28. The school was inducted into the National Blue-Ribbon Schools Program (NBRS) for 2018. The program annually honors America’s most successful public and non-public elementary, middle, and high schools. According to NBRS website, the program recognizes both schools whose students achieve at very high levels and schools making significant progress in closing academic achievement gaps among different groups of students.

Links for *U.S. News & World Report* rankings:

- Elementary Schools: [Best Elementary Schools in New Jersey - U.S. News Education](#)
- Middle Schools: [Best Middle Schools in New Jersey - U.S. News Education](#)



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

###