

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTNERS WITH BROOKLYN NETS COMMUNITY FOR
BASKETBALL CLINIC AT SCHOOL 20**

Empowering Students Through Sports, Education, and Community Engagement

Paterson, NJ (October 7, 2024) - Paterson Public Schools is excited to announce a new partnership with the Brooklyn Nets Community program, aimed at promoting student growth through sports, mentorship, and community involvement. The newly launched program at Paterson School 20 hosted its first basketball clinic on Wednesday, October 2, 2024.

The clinic took place in the School 20 gymnasium, where middle school students participated during their regular physical education classes. Coaches from the Brooklyn Nets Youth League led the sessions, working alongside the school's physical education teachers to provide a dynamic and educational experience for the students.

"Our partnership with the Brooklyn Nets Community will provide unique opportunities for the students at School 20 to learn valuable life skills like teamwork and goal setting," said Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell. "I believe this will be a fun and educational experience, and I am eager to see the positive results as the program progresses."

This program is open to all students at School 20, from kindergarten through 8th grade, and is designed to help students grow not only athletically but also academically and socially. The Brooklyn Nets Community program will provide ongoing mentorship and support throughout the school year, focusing on three key pillars: education, basketball, and community investment.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with the Brooklyn Nets Community," said Michael Hill, Principal of School 20. "This initiative offers our students an incredible opportunity to grow both on and off the court. It's not just about basketball; it's about building the character and skills our students need to succeed in life."

The program aims to inspire students through motivational connections with the Brooklyn Nets Community, encouraging them to become active and engaged members of their community and helping them develop confidence, communication skills, and leadership qualities. Throughout the year, the school will track students' academic and behavioral progress to assess the program's impact. The basketball clinic is only the beginning of a partnership that promises to provide valuable, lifelong skills to students in Paterson.

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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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