

— THE DISTRICT — CHRONICLER

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

September 2024

SHAPING THE NARRATIVE

District Engages With Media To Increase Community Awareness Of Its Efforts

The District has adopted a more proactive approach to changing perceptions of its leadership, staff, and students. The Communications Department kicked off the new year with interviews lined up for Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell, who spoke directly to the media about back-to-school preparations, recent changes and improvements, and the teacher shortage and efforts to recruit teachers.

When asked about the planned increase in professional development for staff, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney Henderson told one reporter, “We know that we have to be more ambitious in our goals because, unfortunately, some of our schools are not at the level; they are under-performing. So, we cannot simply do what the State expects us to do. We have to do more.”



Dr. Newell being interviewed by Pat Battle of NBC News 4



Alongside Dr. Newell and Dr. Henderson, Principal Gisela Adorno of Dr. Hani Awadallah School, a native Patersonian, was interviewed, “I just want kids to see that I was them. I, you know, came from a single parent household, I was born and raised in the projects, and I made it. There’s no excuse.”

The Communications Department is now under the leadership of Aida E. Rosario, who joined the District in July. Prior to joining PPS, Ms. Rosario was the VP of Advancement, Communications, and External Relations at SUNY Rockland. She also held notable positions at Univision 41 and Telemundo 47, where she served as Director of Communications and Community Impact for both respectively.

Stay tuned for more positive news about Paterson Public Schools. If you miss anything, you can find in The District Chronicler under our new section: Headline - a comprehensive list of the District’s efforts to communicate its hard work and progress to the community.



PREP WORK

Administrators And Faculty, New And Returning, Get Ready For New School Year

Superintendent's Institute

District and school administrators once again gathered at Dr. Hani Awadallah School to take part in the Superintendent's Institute, a professional development seminar held every August. The institute is a collaborative effort that included three days of impactful learning and essential information designed to support preparation for an excellent school year. The institute is designed to further the District's mission to accelerate achievement for all students by developing, implementing, and adjusting sound instructional practices and nurturing a culture of rapidly expanding capacity.

Opening remarks were given by Superintendent of Schools Laurie W. Newell, followed by Board of Education President Manuel Martinez, Jr. The keynote address was given by Dr. Josue Falaise, founder of GOMO Educational Services.

The institute covered many topics, ranging from the District's Data Response Plan that is headed by Deputy Superintendent Rodney Henderson to AI and School Safety to SAC Policy. Team building was a central focus of the institute as well.



Deputy Superintendent Henderson said, "The energy, passion, and complete engagement our school leaders displayed at The 2024 Superintendent's Institute was beyond encouraging. We became further united in accelerating achievement and improving the educational experiences for students." He added, "Our time together was filled with invaluable knowledge, insights, and best practices that will undoubtedly shape our leadership work for the upcoming school year."

Superintendent Newell said in her opening remarks to the administrators, "Staying in the status quo, where year after year, generation after generation, where we know that we have not had good results, we have to do something different. We have to go back to the research, we have to look at best practices, we have to see what the data tells us to learn how we can make movement and forward change," adding later, "For some of these families, we are their only and their last hope." Coming to the conclusion of her address, the superintendent noted, "We also know that all of our kids are brilliant, and it is going to be up to us to pull that brilliance out of them. That is why these three days are going to be so important."



New Teachers' Orientation

Paterson's newest wave of educators gathered at Central Office at 90 Delaware Ave. for the New Teacher Orientation. Over a hundred new teachers were in attendance for their first day with the District. Superintendent Laurie W. Newell gave opening remarks after a short introduction by Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services & Special Programs Joanna Tsimpedes. PEA President John McEntee, Jr. next addressed with the new hires before orientation began.

"I have to thank you personally, for choosing Paterson to teach in," Assistant Superintendent Tsimpedes said in her remarks, "Our children need you." She also noted the diversity of the new hires and how it reflects the make-up of Paterson's children.

Superintendent Newell said, "You are a very, very important part of this educational journey for our students." She added, "Education is really the platform for which their life and the world can open; and it can open not just for them, but their families and the larger community."



While it has added 120 new hires, Paterson Public Schools is currently still short by 158 educators. Recruiting strategies are being reviewed by Human Resources to meet the need of filling the remaining spots. As in the past, staff are being asked to refer anyone that they know who is interested in being a teacher. Seminars are periodically scheduled by HR in becoming a certified teacher throughout the year. [For more information, please visit the Employment page on the District's website.](#)



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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The District opened to students on September 5th, ending their two-month Summer vacation and introducing them to their new teachers and classes. Superintendent Laurie W. Newell and Board of Education Commissioner Valerie Freeman greeted students at some schools, wishing them and staff an excellent start to their new year.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Superintendent Laurie W. Newell, with some members of her cabinet, attended a [Meet & Greet at the Palestinian-American Community Center in Clifton](#) with members of Paterson's Palestinian community in mid-September. After introductions by the organization's Executive Director, Rania Mustafa, and Civic Engagement & Advocacy Manager, Haliema Twam, the Superintendent spoke about her accomplishments, plans, expectations, and hopes for the District.

She described her view of each school as both a leader and as a mother, saying, "When I go into a classroom, I always say, 'Is this good enough for my two children?' If it's not, then it's not good enough for anybody else's children." Dr. Newell later adds, "...we have students' lives in our hands, and they don't get a do-over." Towards the end of her comments, she referenced questions from former colleagues in Essex county as to why she was returning to Paterson, to which she answered, "Paterson is the best place on the planet," continuing, "it resonates with me because I came here as an immigrant...they (the students) could have my story."

The meeting concluded with a Q&A in which the Superintendent spoke about equity, student expression, professional development, and her confidence in the District's more than 2,100 teachers.



Rania Mustafa, Laurie W. Newell, and Haliema Twam

PASSING THE TORCH

2024 - 2025 DISTRICTWIDE PTO LEADERSHIP



The Districtwide PTO Leadership is excited to announce the PTO Leadership Board for the 2024-2025 school year. We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Soriano for his tenure as president of the PPS Districtwide PTO Leadership team.

During his tenure, Mr. Soriano transformed the PTO Leadership into a formidable advocate for Paterson Public Schools. His innovative approach and strong connections have fostered numerous partnerships and parental involvement initiatives, significantly impacting our community. His leadership has inspired many, and under his guidance, we have seen a remarkable increase in parental participation and support for our schools. We celebrate Mr. Soriano's remarkable contributions and congratulate him on a job well done. Though he steps down from the presidency, we are delighted that he will continue to serve as an executive board member, taking on the role of 2nd Vice President. In this capacity, he will focus on developing better processes and behind-the-scenes efforts to ensure the continued success of the PPS Districtwide PTO Leadership.

We would like to congratulate Ms. Rocio Pena, the new PPS Districtwide PTO Leadership president, for the 2024-2026 school year term. Ms. Pena has held several PTO positions throughout the district, bringing her knowledge, business acumen, and advocacy skills to this position. We welcome her as our new PPS Districtwide PTO Leadership president.

Ms. Rocio Pena - President of PPS Districtwide PTO Leadership, also serving as vice president of AHA PTO.

Ms. Ravon Roberson - Continuing as 1st Vice-President of PPS Districtwide PTO Leadership for the 2024-2025 school year, also serving as president of her child's school PTO at School # 25.

Mr. Soriano - 2nd Vice President of PPS Districtwide PTO Leadership for the 2024-2026 school year

Ms. Janice Mastery - Correspondence Secretary of PPS Districtwide PTO Leadership for the 2024-2025 school year, also serving as president of PPS School One PTO.

Ms. Jorkis Arias - Recording Secretary for PPS Districtwide PTO Leadership for the 2024-2026 school year, also serving as president of AHA PTO.

Ms. Cortea Akens - Treasurer of Districtwide PTO Leadership for the 2024-2026 school year, also serving as president of Rosa Parks PTO.



PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR TOMORROW'S TEACHERS

This summer, students from the Education and Training Pathway at John F. Kennedy and across the District, were afforded the opportunity to participate in William Paterson University's Aspiring

Now in its fourth year, the program aims to both expand and diversify the state's teaching workforce through a partnership with high school juniors and seniors from diverse school communities like Paterson's.

Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren said of the program, "The Aspiring Educators Program is an example of a long-term recruitment strategy that allows districts to "grow their own" by providing students with a priceless experience in the classroom, while earning dual enrollment credits.

The day for attending Paterson students is split into two parts, the first taking an on-campus teacher education course and the second having them return to the city to serve as teaching assistants in the District's extended school year program. With tuition covered by contributions from the partner school districts, as well as state and federal grants, students earn three transferable college credits and a \$2,000 stipend.

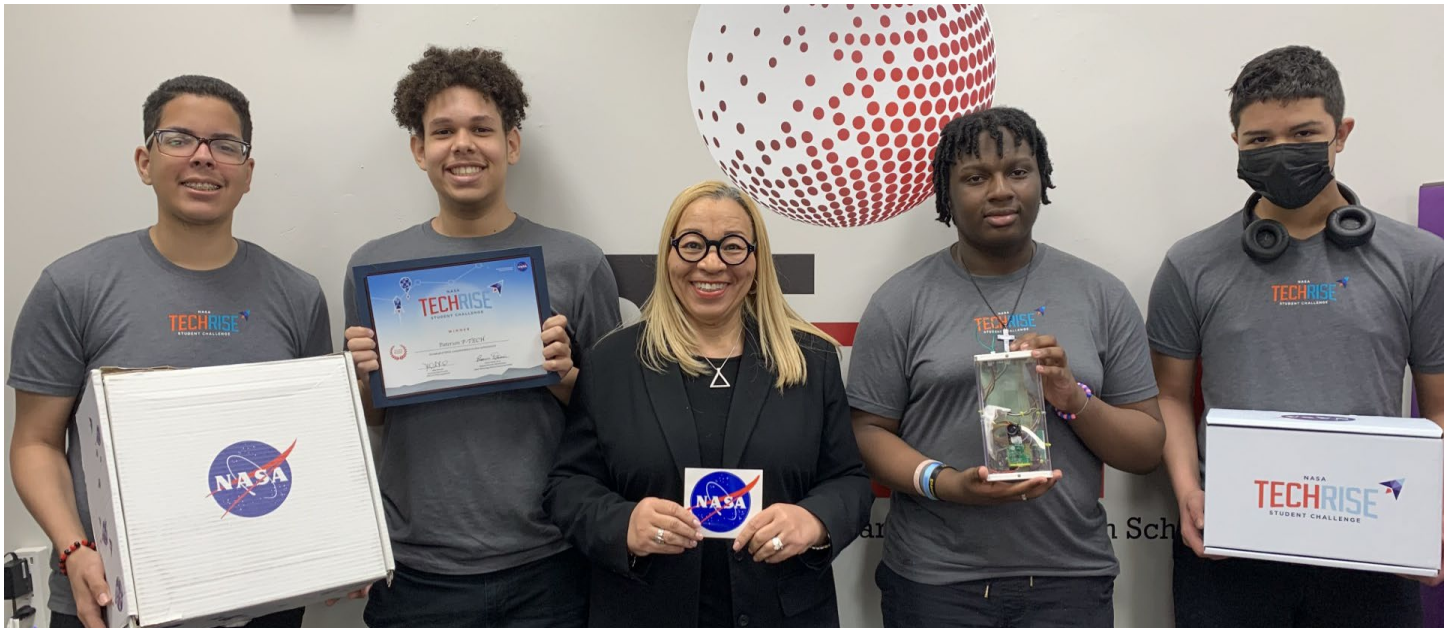
The District's Deputy Director of Accelerated Innovative Programs Rita Route has been the lead in continuing and growing the partnership with the university. She has been actively recruiting students for the opportunity, helping them complete the necessary paperwork to enroll and receive their stipend.

For some students the program has provided more than it gives. A John F. Kennedy High School student was able to use her earnings to pay for her American Citizenship.



NASA CHOOSES PATERSON P-TECH STUDENTS TO RISE ABOVE THE CLOUDS

In August, Paterson P-TECH students reached above and beyond with a lift from NASA. The challenge is a partnership between NASA and Worldview, a suborbital aerospace company.



As one of only 30 schools nationwide, Paterson students, with the guidance of P-TECH's Planetarium Manager Carlos Miranda, were selected to take part in NASA's Tech Rise Student Challenge this year and received \$1,500 to build a science experiment that was sent into the upper-atmosphere aboard a high altitude balloon. The balloon is scheduled to return in early September for data review and analysis.

Paterson P-TECH's experiment, named Tough Stuff, will measure temperature and radiation of the upper atmosphere in 3 different controlled spaces within a box, while also capturing video footage through a retrofitted dashcam. The controlled spaces will use different types of materials to determine if they are effective in maintaining temperature and blocking out harmful radiation. The experiment was reviewed by a wide array of NASA representatives and visitors at a showcase held in May.

[Watch a shortened video of the NASA Tech Rise Student Challenge launch!](#)



Tough Stuff

SCHOOL: PATERSON P-TECH
LOCATION: PATERSON, NJ
FLIGHT PROVIDER: WORLD VIEW
GRADES: HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT EXPERIMENT DESCRIPTION

We are going to measure temperature & radiation in 3 different controlled spaces. The controlled spaces in the experiment box will use different types of materials to determine if they are effective in maintaining temperature and blocking out harmful radiation. We expect the outer atmosphere to be numbingly cold, furthermore we believe that the kevlar will minimize the cold compared to spandex. Our inspiration for taking part in this challenge is our interest in space and engineering.

SAYING Y.E.S. TO EQUITY

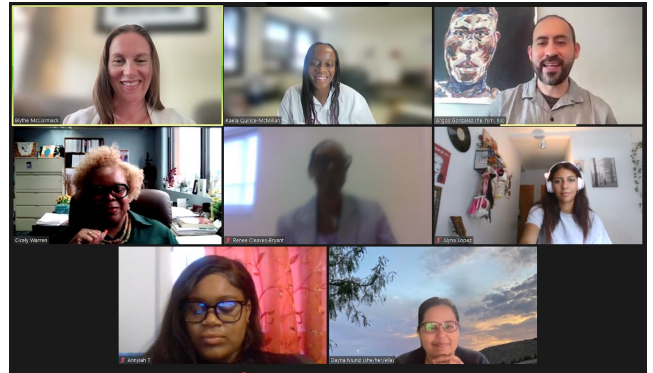
Paterson Public Schools had the opportunity to share its experience with the Youth Equity Stewardship/Mindful Schools joint program with the University of Pennsylvania's Summer Leadership Institute. The university's Coalition for Educational Equity program, part of its Graduate School of Education, hosted the institute online. Attendees include school district leaders from Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren represented the District and presented with the program's advisors and student ambassadors.

Renee Cleaves-Bryant, School No. 16 Teacher and YES Advisor <rcleaves@paterson.k12.nj.us>
Kaela Quince- McMillan, PPS Vice Principal and YES Advisor <kquince@paterson.k12.nj.us>
Argos Gonzalez, Mindfulness Consultant <argos.gonzalez@gmail.com>
Annyiah Terry, John F. Kennedy HS Class of 2024
Alyna Lopez, John F. Kennedy HS Class of 2025

This presentation shared how YES was implemented in Paterson Public Schools by incorporating mindfulness, student led professional development for teachers and peer focused equity projects.

For the past few years, the District has partnered with the [Youth Equity Stewardship \(YES\)](#) program to foster more equitable connections between students and faculty, as well as in our school communities in general. This past year, another District partner, Mindful Schools, helped conduct the YES program to include mindfulness.



Playing In The Park

In August, the Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts (RLP HS) Jazz Ensemble were invited to perform at the Jazz In The Park celebration. The student performers were hosted by the Paterson Community Affairs Division, in partnership with the Eastside Neighborhood Association 2.0.

This was the second year RLP HS was invited to the event to perform jazz selections for the community.



PATERSONIAN HELPS SHAPE STATE STANDARDS



Vice Principal Burnie Bristow of the Edward W. Kilpatrick School has been appointed to the New Jersey Department of Education's College & Career Readiness Committee for Information Standards. This committee will develop new information literacy standards which now require school districts to incorporate instruction on information literacy as part of the district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

"I'm eager to help ensure that New Jersey students develop strong information literacy skills, which are essential for academic success and career readiness," he said.

Dr. Bristow is a native Patersonian with degrees from several renowned universities, Harvard and Montclair State being amongst them. He has been with the District since 1996, starting at Eastside High School as a Library Media Specialist.

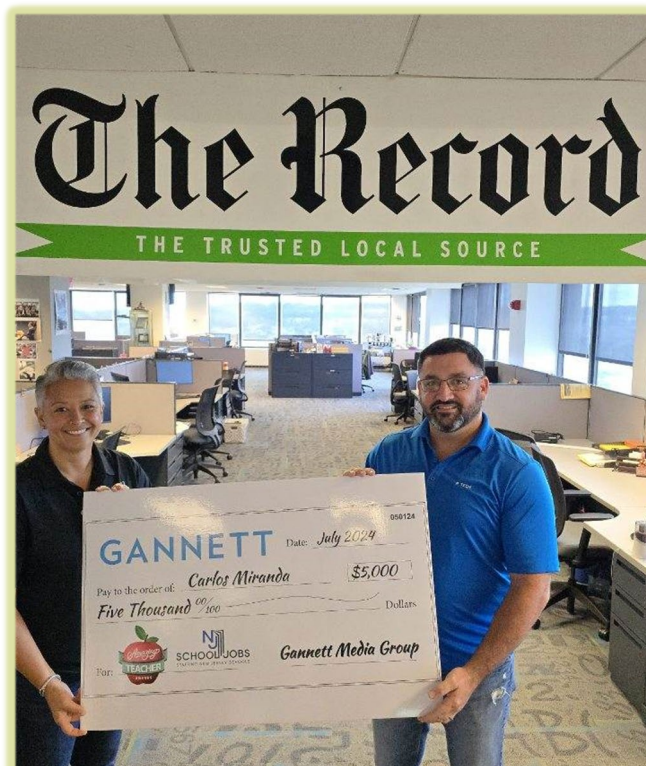
[News Coverage](#)

Gannett's North Jersey Amazing Teacher Award Goes to P-Tech Planetarium Manager

Paterson P-TECH High School's Planetarium Manager Carlos Miranda was selected for Gannett's North Jersey Amazing Teacher Award. Mr. Miranda teaches Science to students and encourages all to visit the planetarium dome at P-TECH to learn space science.

Mr. Miranda has been involved in several notable activities, each aimed at furthering student interest in astronomy and related sciences. Earlier in the 2023-2024 school year, he introduced the District to a portable planetarium which he uses when visiting schools to teach our students about space and different types of atmospheres. In the Spring he took part of NASA's CAIT project to study the solar eclipse that was stretching across the U.S., bringing back high-powered observation equipment for use at P-TECH. This past summer, his students took part in a high-altitude balloon launch as part of the NASA sponsored Tech Rise Challenge.

"I think the immersive nature of being in a planetarium really involves the learner," Miranda said. "They're surrounded with visualizations that you don't get traditionally in a classroom, so it provides this spatial type of atmosphere, where I can now see what the teacher is talking about."



[News Coverage](#)

John F. Kennedy SOCCER Player gets signed

In a moment that marks the culmination of years of hard work and dedication, Pedro Lanchipa officially signed his letter of intent to join the Fairleigh Dickinson University / Drew University athletics program. Lanchipa was a standout student-athlete on John F. Kennedy's Knights soccer team who attended International High School. He received a full academic and athletic scholarship and will begin training camp for the Men's Soccer team next week. The signing ceremony, held at the JFK Auditorium, drew a crowd of family, friends, and school staff who came together to celebrate the athlete's impressive achievement.

Lanchipa has been a major driving force on the field for JFK, earning accolades such as First Team All-League and Passaic County Champion. His commitment to both his sport and academics has made him a standout student-athlete, and his decision to continue his career at FDU / Drew University has been highly anticipated.

During the ceremony, Lanchipa expressed gratitude to his coaches Alfredo Serrano, Jordan Serrano, Larry Serrano, Richard Solis and Paul Giglio as well as his family, friends, and Athletic Department at Kennedy for his unwavering support throughout his athletic journey.



Principal Medley, That's *WHO*



Marc Allen Medley has been included in Marquis Who's Who. Individuals profiled are selected on the basis of current reference value. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in a field are all taken into account during the selection process.

Mr. Medley has been the principal at Young Men's Leadership Academy since 2019 and has been with the District for 24 years. Besides providing his leadership to his school, Mr. Medley has been very active in his community and beyond, being involved with the United Negro College Fund and Passaic County Habitat for Humanity, William Paterson College Alumni Association, and he has served in many capacities at Saint Luke Baptist Church in Paterson. He also has hosted a Saturday morning radio talk show, "The Reading Circle with Marc Medley," on WP88.7 FM and gobrave.org, which he has hosted since 2001.

Marquis Who's Who is a publication that lists short biographies, described by the publisher as an endeavor "to profile the leaders of American society; those men and women who are influencing their nation's development". The publication has been in publication since 1898. *Marquis Who's Who* can be found in the reference section of local libraries, at corporate libraries, and are also used for research by universities.



Our district in the news

Media Coverage

- [Over 150 teacher positions remain vacant in Paterson, New Jersey \(CBS 2\)](#)
- [Paterson School District looks to fill over 150 teacher positions as new school year begins \(news12.com\)](#)
- [Paterson se Prepara para el Regreso a Clases \(Telemundo 47\)](#)
- [Paterson preparing for new school year \(NBC 4\)](#)
- ['My No. 1 priority': Paterson superintendent races against time to find teachers \(PIX 11\)](#)

Published

- [Gannett's North Jersey Amazing Teacher Award Goes to P-Tech Planetarium Manager \(Northjersey.com\)](#)
- [Paterson Schools Set to Launch Innovative Literacy Program for Kids \(TAPinto Paterson\)](#)
- [Paterson's Dr. Burnie Bristow Appointed to New Jersey's Information Literacy Standards Committee \(TAPinto Paterson\)](#)
- [Paterson has 152 teaching vacancies as school year looms \(Northjersey.com\)](#)
- [Paterson Public Schools Business Administrator Richard Matthews to Depart After Seven Years](#)

Press Releases

- [Superintendent Newell Announces Principal Reassignments](#)
- [Paterson Public Schools Mourns The Loss Of Congressman Bill Pascrell](#)
- [Paterson Public School's Educator Dr. Burnie Bristow Appointed](#)
- [Four Paterson Public Schools Ranked Top 20 In Passaic County](#)
- [Eastside High School 11th Grader Wins National Contest](#)
- [Paterson Students Shine A Spotlight On Teaching Careers](#)



**PPS PARENTS
WELCOME**



BACK TO SCHOOL



**Saturday, Sept. 28 - John F. Kennedy HS
(61-127 Preakness Ave.)**

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Register for Free transportation

**All Paterson Public School parents K-12
are welcome to join us
for fun, information,
giveaways, free food, bounce houses,
and activities**

Hosted By: PPS Family and Community Engagement & Partners

**Parents may register
with this QR Code:**



PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Department of Family and Community Engagement





OCTOBER 2024

SELF-CARE CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Listen to your favorite song to start the month	2 Compliment a coworker	3 Take time to enjoy your favorite breakfast	4 Take yourself out on a date	5 Be kind to yourself
6 Find a place to be still & enjoy the moment 	7 Set 2 goals for this week	8 Remember challenges you've overcome	9 Explore something new	10 List 3 personal strengths	11 Print a positive quote to hang in your office	12 Stretch and enjoy a nap
13 Call a friend or family member	14 Carve a pumpkin 	15 Walk outside and enjoy the crisp autumn air	16 No social media day	17 Remind yourself that you got this	18 Plan a fun activity for next month	19 Sit in a calm space for 3-5 minutes
20 Watch your favorite show	21 Wake up and give yourself a compliment	22 Order your favorite takeout 	23 Practice gratitude	24 Check in with your emotions	25 Help someone out 	26 Check in on someone you love
27 Pick apples with your favorite people 	28 Go to bed early	29 Try a new recipe	30 Remind yourself how strong you are	31 Enjoy a sweet treat 		

This information is provided to you by:



PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Department of Student Support Services
SAC and Social Emotional Learning
90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson NJ 07503
Office: (973) 321-0594 lolson@paterson.k12.nj.us

Important Dates

September 26	Back-To-School Night 6-8pm PreK-8
October 3	Rosh Hashanah – District Closed
October 11	Progress Reports (Grades PreK-12)
October 14	Italian Heritage Day/ Indigenous People Day – District Closed
October 18	1:00 Student Dismissal/Staff PD



Board of Education Meeting

The October 2nd Board of Education Workshop meeting will be held at 90 Delaware Avenue. Those who want to give public comments must do so in person. They should register for the meeting.

The October 9th Board of Education Regular meeting will be conducted remotely.

It will also be live streamed at pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents.

Language Interpretation

Online language interpretation is available for all pre-recorded Board meetings in Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, and Turkish. Simply choose the preferred language at pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents.

The District Chronicler is a publication of the PPS Department of Communications. We welcome your submissions on school and district-related news. Submit stories and photos to ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us.

Ms. Aida E. Rosario, Director of Communications
Mr. Daniel Juan, Coordinator of Communications Department
Mrs. Maria D. Rosado-Leon, Confidential Secretary to the Communications Department

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