

— THE DISTRICT — CHRONICLER

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

March 2025

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS

March is Women's History Month—a time to honor the incredible women in our lives and celebrate their achievements. In this edition, we highlight the countless contributions women have made to our communities, history, and society. We also recognize and celebrate the many remarkable women whose leadership and dedication continue to inspire us all.

Celebrating
WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH



CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AT BERKELEY COLLEGE

On Friday, March 7th, Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell joined a dynamic panel at the 13th Annual Berkeley College Women's History Month Celebration. The event, held at the Woodland Park campus, brought together leaders from education, business, and public service to share their journeys of resilience, leadership, and collaboration. Dr. Newell was among a distinguished group of women who spoke about overcoming challenges and achieving success through perseverance and hard work. This year's theme, *Moving Forward Together – Positively*, highlighted the importance of unity, progress, and optimism.

PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT

Congratulations to our Superintendent, Dr. Laurie W. Newell, and all the distinguished women who were honored at the Passaic County Board of County Commissioners' Women's History Month celebration on Tuesday, March 25th! Dr. Newell's dedication to Paterson Public Schools continues to inspire.



"How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roles!" – Maya Angelou

INAUGURAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AT JFK HIGH SCHOOL

On Thursday, March 27th, John F. Kennedy High School held its first Women's History Month event, honoring a group of remarkable individuals for their achievements and contributions. Among the honorees were Principal JoAnne Riviello, Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Assistant Superintendents Dr. Cicely Warren and Ms. Melissa España, Commissioners Della McCall and Valerie Freeman, JFK student and 2025 Girls Wrestling Champion Paul Solaris, as well as other student athletes and elected officials.



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

The Strategic Planning Forums, 2025-2026 School Calendar, and More

MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL FORUM: PAST AND UPCOMING SESSIONS

On March 11th, Paterson Public Schools hosted a virtual forum where Assistant Superintendent Joanna Tsimpedes presented the Middle School Model to attendees, providing valuable insights and guidance. The presentation, along with responses to frequently asked questions, has been uploaded to our website for those who were unable to attend.

For those who missed it, an in-person session will be held on Thursday, April 3rd, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM at Dr. Hani Awadallah School, 515 Marshall Street in Paterson, NJ. Parents and community members are encouraged to attend and learn further about the transition to the middle school model.

2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR ANNOUNCED

Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell has announced the approval of the [2025-2026 School Calendar](#). The calendar is now available, with translations in Spanish, Bengali, Arabic, and Turkish coming soon. Once completed, all versions will be posted on the district's website.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As part of the district's strategic planning efforts, Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell has announced two Strategic Planning Forums to engage the Paterson community in shaping the future of our schools. The first forum was held in person on Wednesday, March 26, at Central Office, and the next forum will take place on Thursday, April 10. We encourage parents, staff, and community members to join this important conversation.

Your insights, perspectives, and ideas are vital as we work together to develop a comprehensive strategic plan that will guide the district's direction for years to come.

Key Discussion Topics:

- Understanding the purpose and importance of a strategic plan
- Evaluating strengths and opportunities for growth in our vision, mission, and values
- Reviewing the district's HYA audit findings and their connection to our 5 Levers for Academic Achievement

Join us and be a part of this crucial planning process!

FOSTERING LEADERSHIP AND GROWTH



This month's Leadership Meetings, led by Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney Henderson, brought together Principals and Vice Principals to engage in meaningful discussions on key topics, including science assessment preparation, managing school leadership teams, and building an effective annual school plan (ASP).

These meetings serve as a platform for school leaders to share best practices, exchange insights, and collaborate on strategies that enhance student achievement and school success. Through these discussions, our district continues to strengthen leadership in order to drive positive outcomes for our schools.

EMPOWERING STUDENT LEADERS: INAUGURAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT MEETING

On March 11th, our Student Government Association held its first meeting, led by Assistant Superintendent Melissa España. This inaugural event brought together passionate students eager to discuss and advocate for issues impacting our school community. Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell, along with Commissioners Gonzalez and Nieves, attended the event, offering valuable insights and support.

This important meeting marks the beginning of a collaborative effort to ensure that every student's voice is heard and valued.



A SUCCESS STORY: DISTRICT HIRES FIRST STARS ACADEMY & T.I.E.S. PROGRAM GRADUATE

We are proud to announce a significant milestone: Tyrone, a graduate of the STARS Academy and the T.I.E.S. Program (Transition for Independence and Employment Success) has been hired by the district. Tyrone, a 2024 T.I.E.S. Program graduate, began his professional career with Paterson Public Schools in the summer of 2024 through a paid internship with the Paterson Workforce program at Central Office.

Tyrone's consistent work ethic and keen attention to detail earned him this opportunity. Throughout the T.I.E.S. program, he demonstrated a commitment to excellence and strong sense of responsibility. During his Work-Based Learning internship at Central Office, Tyrone made a lasting impression, memorizing names and greeting everyone with kindness and respect. His ability to connect with people on such a personal level is a testament to his character and professionalism.



After completing his internship, Tyrone was offered a full-time position with the district, having successfully demonstrated his skills and dedication. He completed the same rigorous hiring process as any other district employee, including interviews, reference checks, and background screenings. Tyrone's hard work and determination paid off when the district's Human Resources staff offered him the position and officially onboarded him.

In his full-time role, under the Department of Special Education, Tyrone handles a variety of tasks throughout Central Office, including mail delivery, loading dock assistance, paper distribution, and filing. His versatility and willingness to contribute make him a valuable team member. Tyrone's story underscores the transformative power of Paterson Public Schools' programs like STARS Academy and T.I.E.S., which equip students with vital real-world skills. The impact of Tyrone's success extends beyond just him. He has been raised by his grandmother, Ms. Thompson, who has been an integral part of his journey. Ms. Thompson has expressed her deep gratitude for the opportunities Tyrone has had through Paterson Public Schools. She notes how his increased independence has made a positive difference not only in his life, but also in hers.

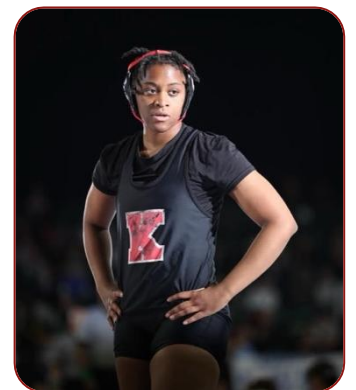
We congratulate Tyrone on his achievement and look forward to his continued success!

PATERSON'S FIRST STATE WRESTLING CHAMPION: SOLARIS PAUL'S HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT

Paterson Public Schools proudly congratulates and celebrates JFK High School senior Solaris Paul for becoming the first student from a Paterson city school to win a New Jersey State Wrestling Championship. Solaris made history in the 165-pound division, claiming the 2025 NJSIAA state title with a 7-1 victory in the finals. Her unwavering commitment to the sport serves as an inspiration to future athletes in Paterson. Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell and the Board of Education recognized Solaris with a special video dedication at a recent Board of Education meeting in March. Check out Solaris' [video](#)!

On Monday, March 24th, 2025, the New Jersey General Assembly recognized Solaris Paul for her recent accomplishments during a special ceremony before the Assembly's voting session. The event took place at the New Jersey State House in Trenton, NJ.

For more information, read the [press release](#).



JFK HS CELEBRATES CHEERLEADING AND BASKETBALL SUCCESS!

Congratulations to our John F. Kennedy High School community for their outstanding achievements this season! Our Competition Cheerleading Team, featuring students from Kennedy, STEAM, P-Tech, and Rosa Parks, secured the title of 2025 NJ Cheerleading Dance State Champions. Meanwhile, the John F. Kennedy Lady Knights Basketball Team, also composed of talented students from Kennedy, STEAM, P-Tech, and Rosa Parks, earned an impressive 2nd place finish in the Passaic County Coaches Tournament. These accomplishments showcase the exceptional talent, teamwork, and dedication of our students across our partner schools.



READ ACROSS AMERICA

SUPERINTENDENT DR. NEWELL CELEBRATES READ ACROSS AMERICA AT YMCA

In commemoration of Read Across America Week, Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell participated in a special event at the local YMCA, where she spent time reading to the children and celebrating the joy of reading. The YMCA of Paterson (Preschool) hosted its annual Read Across America event throughout the week of March 3rd. Dr. Janice Samuel-Powell, Director and Principal of the YMCA, invited Dr. Newell to join the festivities by reading to the children. On the morning of Wednesday, March 5th, Dr. Newell visited the YMCA and read *The Reflection in Me* by Marc Colagiovanni. This heartwarming book reminds young readers that the things they do naturally—dance, play, try their best, and more—are wonderfully enough and that they are perfect just the way they are.



SCHOOL 10 BRINGS STORIES TO LIFE FOR READACROSS AMERICA

During the week of March 3rd, School 10 celebrated Read Across America Week, a nationwide event that promotes the joy of reading. Students participated in fun literacy activities, themed dress-up days, and special guest readings. The goal was to inspire a love for books and encourage lifelong reading habits. Join us as you view some of our pictures showcasing imagination and adventure—because reading takes you places! These events were spearheaded by School Counselors Mrs. Tejada Morrison, Mrs. Brackett and Ms. Palomino in collaboration with our Full-Service Community Schools partners.



READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK BRINGS FUN TO SCHOOL 5

School 5 celebrated Read Across America Week from March 3rd to March 7th with a spirited lineup of events. Students, teachers, and staff dressed up each day, from wearing stripes and hats for *Cat in the Hat Day* to showing off mismatched outfits on *Wacky Wednesday*.

Two contests added to the excitement: Bookmark Contest (Grades 3-5) and Hat Decorating Contest (Grades K-2).

Homeroom teachers selected class winners, and a final winner per grade level received a special prize. Students also enjoyed a

screening of *Horton Hears a Who!* in the gym. Adding to the fun, the *Cat in the Hat* made a special visit, delighting students with a surprise appearance. Special guests from JFK High School and William Paterson University visited to read to classrooms, making the week extra special. Thank you to everyone who participated in making Read Across America Week a success at School 5!

CELEBRATING READ ACROSS AMERICA AT NORMAN S. WEIR SCHOOL

Norman S. Weir School celebrated Read Across America with a special event that brought students, faculty, and administrators together in the spirit of storytelling and learning. As part of the celebration, the school welcomed Paterson's Director of Recreation and Senator Benjie E. Wimberly as a special guest. He visited multiple classrooms, reading to students and encouraging them to embrace reading as a lifelong skill.

Under the leadership of Principal Grace Giglio, the event created an engaging and inspiring atmosphere where students eagerly participated in discussions about the power of books and literacy. The visit reinforced the school's commitment to fostering a love of reading and provided students with a memorable experience that highlighted the importance of education and perseverance.

JFK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN READ ACROSS AMERICA

Our Education and Training Pathway students at John F. Kennedy High School recently participated in School 5's Read Across America event. It was a wonderful experience for our students as they had the opportunity to read to younger elementary students, fostering a love of reading and making a positive impact on their lives.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the event and expressed how meaningful it was to connect with the younger students through books and stories. It was a heartwarming experience that truly exemplified the spirit of community and learning.

A special thank you goes out to the School 5 administrative team for their collaboration, our Education and Training Pathway teachers for their continued support, and to everyone who played a role in making this event such a success. Thank you for all your efforts in helping our students grow and engage in such impactful experiences.

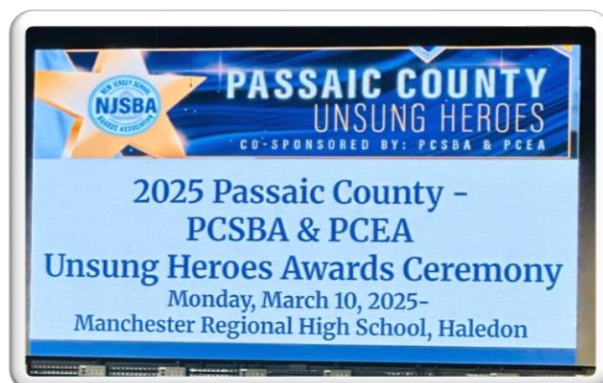


PASSAIC COUNTY UNSUNG HEROES AWARDS CEREMONY

This year's Passaic County Unsung Heroes were recognized in a special ceremony on Monday, March 10th at Manchester Regional High School in Haledon. The Passaic County Unsung Heroes are students who have made a lasting impact through their unique and outstanding contributions to their schools and communities. Their efforts, often overlooked by traditional student recognition programs, are essential to helping our schools and communities thrive. This year, thirty-three students from high schools across Passaic County were selected for this prestigious recognition.

Among them, eight students from Paterson Public Schools were honored:

- Bahsir Gillespie – Eastside High School
- Justin Veineer – John F. Kennedy High School
- Tyzamiere Swain – International High School
- Norham Issa – STEAM High School
- Jay'den Jones – Rosa Parks High School
- Kyla Edwards – P-Tech High School
- Darbelis Garcia – Alonzo "Tambua" Moody Academy
- Joshua Tanco – STARS/TIES



Congratulations to all of you! Thank you for bringing pride to Paterson and for making a difference in your schools and communities.

JFK STUDENTS SHINE AT INNERFAITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER ART & ESSAY CONTEST

On Thursday, March 6th, John F. Kennedy High School Foundations of Art students Kyle Webster (12th grade) and Ridad Chowdhury (11th grade) attended the InnerFaith Performing Arts Center Art & Essay Contest Awards reception at the Paterson Museum. Both students received certificates as well as a cash prize.

As the first-place winner for his portrait drawing of Ralph Ellison, Kyle received \$75 and as the tied third place winner for his portrait drawing of Barack Obama, Ridad received \$20. Both families of the students and their art teacher were extremely proud of how diligently they worked to complete their drawings within a 2-week deadline to have their work also displayed for the Black History Month Celebrations in the JFK Media Center. All works submitted for this 21st annual Art & Essay contest become part of the permanent collection of the InnerFaith Performing Arts Center.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 COUNSELOR OF PASSAIC COUNTY

It is with great pride and excitement that we share some wonderful news! The New Jersey School Counselor Association has selected our very own Mrs. Ramona Guzman-Carrington as the recipient of the "Counselor of the County" Award for the 2024-2025 school year! This recognition highlights her dedication to supporting students and guiding them toward success. Mrs. Guzman-Carrington has been a school counselor since 2003 here in Paterson. Her dedication, passion, and commitment to our students have led to outstanding results, making a significant impact on our school community. Her willingness to go above and beyond for our students has not gone unnoticed, and this recognition is truly well-deserved. Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Guzman-Carrington on this incredible achievement. Thank you, Mrs. Guzman-Carrington, for all that you do to support and uplift our students with a smile.

For more information, please see the press release below.



NEW JERSEY
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

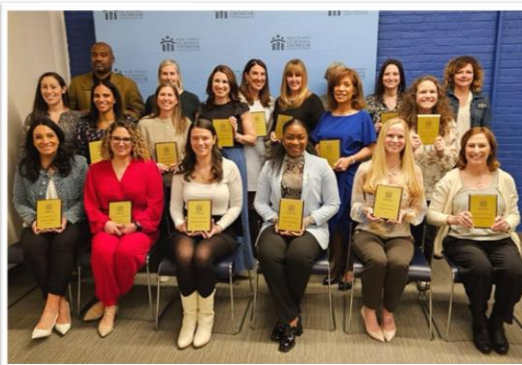
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NJSCA Announces 2025 "COUNSELOR OF THE COUNTY" AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Ewing, NJ. –On Friday, March 20, 2025 NJSCA honored school counselors from the different counties within the State of New Jersey at the annual "Counselor of the County" Awards Program. School counselors are nominated by their colleagues and are selected by their own county's School Counselor Associations for this award.

The award honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates – and often lifesavers – for the nation's students. Ramona Guzman-Carrington a school counselor from Eastside High School, was selected as the 2025 Counselor of the County for Passaic County.

Candidates are selected for the Counselor of the County Award at their county-level school counselor associations. They are selected because of their ability to deliver an effective school counseling program which focuses on academic development, career counseling, and personal/social support. They further distinguish themselves by proving to be leaders of systemic change, advocates for students, and collaborative professionals who seek the success of the "whole" student in school and in life. For more specific information on this association, visit: www.njsca.org.



SCHOOL 16 PARTICIPATES IN NBC4 AND TELEMUNDO 47 WEATHER KIDS PROGRAM

Students at School 16 had an exciting opportunity to participate in the NBC4 Weather Kids program, an initiative by NBC 4 New York and Telemundo 47. This program is designed to educate students in grades 4, 5, and 6 about weather terminology and severe weather safety, providing real-world lessons from expert meteorologists. The visit was an unforgettable experience for our young learners. *Check out the video clips ([NBC4](#) and [T47](#))!*

2025 BLACK HISTORY ART AND ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

The Annual Awards Ceremony for the 2025 Black History Arts and Essay Contest winners took place on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at the Paterson Museum. The event was proudly sponsored by InnerFaith Performing Arts Center, the Paterson Museum, and the Office of the Honorable Councilwoman Ruby Cotton. This year's contest was judged by a distinguished panel, including Honorable Ruby Cotton, First Lady Farhanna Sayegh, Commissioner Lemon, Commissioner Shepperson, Tia Holloway, and Educator Robyn Spencer.

Elementary School Winners | Art

- 1st Place: Emerly Munoz, Dr. MLK, Jr Educational Complex, Teacher: Dwayne Beckford
- 2nd Place: Diana Garcia, Paterson Public School 13, Liaison: Dr. Blue
- 3rd Place: Mariel Laguard, Paterson Public School 13, Liaison: Dr. Blue

Elementary School Winners | Essay

- 1st Place: Yolenny Polanco, Paterson Public School 13, Liaison: Dr Blue
- 2nd Place: Semaj Feathersen, Paterson Public School 13, Liaison: Dr Blue
- 3rd Place: Sarahi Vazquez Garcia, Paterson Public School 13, Liaison: Dr Blue

High School Winners | Art

- 1st Place: Kyle Webster, John F Kennedy Educational Complex, Teacher: So Yoon Lym
- 2nd Place: Alexa Montesino, STEM Academy, Teacher: Dr. J. Stein
- 3rd Place: Ridad Chowdhury, John F Kennedy Educational Complex, Teacher: So Yoon Lym
- 3rd Place: Milena Reynosa Colon, International HS, Teacher: C. Fabor-Muhammad
- Honorable Mention: Janiah Brown, International HS, Teacher: C. Fabor-Muhammad

High School Winners | Essay

- 1st Place: Alexis Chambers, Panther Academy, Teacher: Mrs Panzant
- 2nd Place: Adrian Cruz Ayala, Panther Academy, Teacher: Mrs Panzant
- 3rd Place: Jeremiah Black, Panther Academy, Teacher: Mrs Panzant
- Honorable Mention: Maurica Jones, Panther Academy, Teacher: Mrs Panzant

A FUN-FILLED PTO MOVIE NIGHT AT SCHOOL 12



School 12 recently hosted a fantastic PTO Movie Night, bringing together students, families, and staff for an evening of laughter, connection, and community spirit. It was wonderful to see everyone engaged and enjoying the event.



WOLF PACK SPECIAL OLYMPICS BASKETBALL TEAM WINS FIRST PLACE

We are beyond excited to share the incredible achievement of Dr. Hani Awadallah's Special Olympics Basketball Team! In their very first year of competition, they came out on top and won first place at the Special Olympics Basketball Tournament, which featured teams from across New Jersey! Each athlete gave their absolute best, demonstrating outstanding dedication, teamwork, and heart. Their team's success reflects the commitment and hard work they put in every day.

A truly special moment during the event was when Dr. Hani Awadallah was presented with the First Place Trophy, celebrating the team's well-earned victory. We also want to recognize our amazing coaches, Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Scott, whose guidance and support were instrumental in helping the team achieve this milestone.



Congratulations to our outstanding athletes: Jayden Sepulveda, Lamont Holmes, Kh'meah Holmes, Juan Infante, Londyn Hemming, Jeremiah Fisher, Jer'miah Knight, Edward Huyhua, Adrian Reyes, Lysias Ruiz, Mohammad Hussein, and Yusuf Hussein. These athletes played their hearts out and displayed incredible sportsmanship, making our school and community proud. We can't wait to see what they accomplish next! Here's to an unforgettable first year and many more victories to come!

REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE AT JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

An exceptional learning experience recently took place at John F. Kennedy High School, highlighting our ongoing commitment to providing students with real-world experiences and valuable community connections. Ms. Balci and her Supplemental ESL 2 students have worked diligently on a community leader project that focused on the City of Paterson's Mayor Andre Sayegh. As part of the project, the students researched the mayor and his work within the community, gaining insight into local leadership and civic engagement.

To bring this experience full circle, Ms. Balci arranged for Mayor Sayegh to visit the classroom and engage with the students in a question-and-answer session. This provided the students with a unique opportunity to interact with the very person they had spent weeks studying, making the project even more meaningful and memorable. We are truly grateful to Ms. Balci for her dedication to providing such enriching experiences for her students, as well as to all those who contributed to making this opportunity possible. Moments like these truly bring our mission to life.



PATERSON STUDENTS ATTEND YOUNG WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN STEM

A select group of 7th- and 8th-grade girls from Alexander Hamilton Academy (AHA), School 13, and School 6 along with select 9th and 10th graders from STEAM High School had the incredible opportunity to attend the 2025 Young Women's Conference in STEM Careers at Princeton University, thanks to the efforts of AHA's Vice Principal Jennifer Cassini, who organized this enriching experience. Hosted by the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, the conference introduced students to the exciting world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through engaging talks, hands-on activities, and interactive learning experiences.

The highlight of the event was the keynote address by Professor Ines Montañó, Associate Professor of Applied Physics and Materials Science at Northern Arizona University, who shared her inspiring journey and insights into the world of STEM. This experience empowered our students to explore new possibilities and encouraged them to pursue their passions. We are incredibly proud of our young scholars for their enthusiasm and curiosity!



NATIONAL SEL DAY AT SCHOOL 10



On Monday, March 3rd, School 10 celebrated National SEL Day, a global grassroots campaign promoting social-emotional learning (SEL) to support children's academic recovery, mental health, and well-being. Students participated in a variety of engaging activities designed to foster social-emotional learning, teamwork, and school spirit, reinforcing our motto, *Together We Will Succeed*. This effort was spearheaded by Vice Principal Mrs. Edwards in collaboration with Full-Service Community Schools, Parent Coordinator Ms. Shalimar Williams, Social Worker Ms. Hardy, SAC Counselor Mrs. Tejada Morrison, and Guidance Counselors, Mrs. Brackett and Ms. Palomino.



Click [here](#) to watch video.

ROSA PARKS DECA CHAPTER CELEBRATES SUCCESS AT NJ STATE CONFERENCE

For the 2nd year in a row, the Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts DECA Chapter has produced regional competition winners and this year, the chapter produced a 1st place winner at the NJ DECA State Conference that was held in Atlantic City at the Harrah's Resort, March 4-6, 2025. There were over 5,000 students from around the state of New Jersey in attendance. Back in January, both Chris Perez and Karen Huitzil won first and second place respectively, in the Retail Sales Marketing competitive category at the Northern Regional Conference of NJ DECA on the campus of Ramapo College.

Sophomore Chris Perez won 1st place in Retail Sales Marketing at the NJ DECA State Conference and is now slated to represent both Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts and the city of Paterson, NJ at the DECA ICDC (International Career and Development Conference) in Orlando, Florida on April 25-29, 2025. In addition, Karen Huitzil, a senior at Rosa Parks, and recipient of a \$1,500 NJ DECA scholarship is also eligible and slated to attend DECA ICDC, representing both Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts and the city of Paterson, NJ.

Concurrently, this is the second year that senior members of the DECA Chapter at Rosa Parks have won scholarships. Two winners last year and one winner this year! Dr. Reggie Hall Sr., the founder and advisor of the DECA Chapter at Rosa Parks continues to encourage the members to strive to be the best at combining the performing arts and the art of business into a cohesive paradigm that uniquely sets Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts apart from every other DECA high school chapter in the state of New Jersey. Principal Nicolette Thompson firmly encourages the members to be the best they can be and who they represent during their various competitions. Congratulations to Chris Perez and Karen Huitzil!



YOUNG MEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

YMLA students honored Black History Month with a powerful presentation featuring "I, Too" by Langston Hughes, a poem reflecting the experiences of laborers and service workers, and "Equinox" by John Coltrane, performed by the Jazz Ensemble. Music has always played a vital role in social movements, including the Labor Movement.

Click [here](#) to view video!

YMLA STUDENTS EARN FULL SCHOLARSHIPS TO PRESTIGIOUS BOARDING SCHOOLS

YMLA is proud to celebrate the incredible achievements of two outstanding students, W.M. and L.R., who have earned acceptance into prestigious private boarding schools through their hard work and dedication. W.M. has been awarded a full scholarship valued at \$72,870 per year to St. Andrew's School in Middletown, Delaware, a renowned institution known for its strong academic programs and as a pipeline to Ivy League universities. He was one of only two YMLA students selected to participate in the SEEDS program this school year, demonstrating the remarkable academic preparation and leadership skills fostered at YMLA. His mother attributes much of his success to choosing YMLA for his education, a decision that has opened endless opportunities for his future. L.R., another SEEDS participant, has also been accepted to multiple prestigious private boarding schools, including Tilton School in New Hampshire and Virginia Episcopal School in Virginia, giving him exciting options for his next academic chapter.

Let's celebrate W.M. and L.R. as they embark on this exciting new journey!

STEAM HIGH SCHOOL'S PHLEBOTOMY/EKG STUDENTS PASS EXAMS AND LAND JOBS

After 12 weeks of intensive after-school training, STEAM High School's 2025 Phlebotomy/EKG students have successfully passed their coursework and certification exams! From November 11 to March 7, they dedicated their afternoons—Monday through Friday, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. - to mastering essential medical skills. Their hard work is already paying off! Two students have been hired by a medical facility in Clifton. The interviewing doctor praised them as the most professional candidates and even noted that they outshined applicants in their 20s and 30s.

This achievement would not have been possible without our incredible staff:

- Ms. Davis – Thank you for your unwavering support and guidance!
- Ms. Norma – Your kindness and dedication make a lasting impact on our students. They love you!
- Mr. Awad – We appreciate your supervision and efforts in securing interviews for our students.
- Mr. Gromb and team – Thank you for making this life-changing opportunity possible!

This program is truly shaping futures, and we could not be prouder! Congratulations to our students!

EASTSIDE NATIONAL SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS SHINE IN STATE AATSP POSTER CONTEST

The American Association of Teachers of Spanish & Portuguese (AATSP) promotes the study and teaching of the Spanish and Portuguese languages. Each year, the organization hosts a poster contest with a specific theme. This year, the poster contest organizers asked students to illustrate the 'Celebration of Our Roots and Cultures at the Heart of the Universe'.

Eastside National Spanish Honor Society students had the opportunity to compete with students from other school districts such as Hackensack, Glen Ridge, Randolph, Huntington, and others. Eastside High School earned 2nd and 3rd place in New Jersey in both the hand-drawn and digital poster categories. Congratulations to 11th graders Emily Chumbiriza and Bristani Tavarez who won 2nd and 3rd place respectively in the hand drawn category, as well as 12th grader Karen Almonte who won 2nd place in the digital category. Job well done!



SCHOOL 2: 8TH GRADE RING CEREMONY – A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

On Thursday, March 13th, our school proudly hosted the annual 8th Grade Ring Ceremony, a meaningful tradition that symbolizes our students' transition toward high school. This special evening celebrated their achievements, growth, and the bright futures ahead. The ceremony featured Commissioner Eddie Gonzalez, President of the Board of Education, as our esteemed guest speaker. In his inspiring address, Commissioner Gonzalez emphasized the importance of dedication, resilience, and embracing new challenges. He encouraged students to take pride in their accomplishments and continue striving for excellence as they move forward in their academic journey.



One of the most touching moments of the evening was the ring presentation, where each student’s parent or a special person in their life had the honor of placing the ring on their finger. This act symbolized not only their hard work and perseverance, but also the love and support that has guided them along the way. The ceremony was a beautiful celebration of our students, made even more memorable by the presence of families, teachers, and staff who have played an integral role in their success. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Commissioner Gonzalez, our faculty, and our families for making this event so special. Congratulations to our 8th graders! May your rings serve as a reminder of your achievements and the limitless possibilities that lie ahead.

MARCH MADNESS COMES TO P-TECH HIGH SCHOOL

Paterson P-Tech High School celebrated March Madness in style with a schoolwide event that brought students, teachers, and staff together for a day of excitement and camaraderie. The gymnasium was filled with energy as the P-Tech community took part in various basketball-themed activities. The event featured skills drills where students showed off their basketball talents, a thrilling 3-point contest that had everyone on the edge of their seats, and, of course, the much-anticipated student vs teacher knockout game. With teachers and students going head-to-head, the knockout game was a highlight that had the whole crowd cheering!



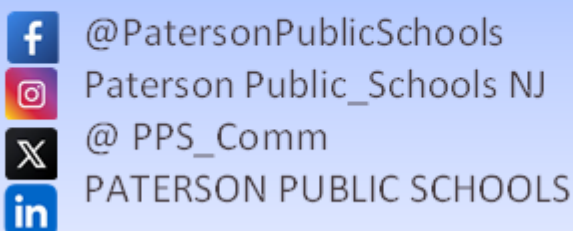
The day was a perfect mix of athleticism, school spirit, and fun, providing an opportunity for everyone to bond outside the classroom. Whether they were competing or supporting their peers, the event brought our school community closer together. Thank you to all who participated and helped make this event such a success – it’s clear that the P-Tech spirit is stronger than ever!

NEWCOMERS’ HS STUDENTS EXPLORE THE COSMOS IN THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE

Students from Newcomers High School recently embarked on a journey through the universe at the P-Tech Planetarium, where they experienced an immersive show presented in their native language. With the support of Newcomers High School staff providing additional translation, students were fully engaged in the wonders of space, making the experience both educational and meaningful. This visit highlights the innovative ways in which Newcomers High School is expanding learning opportunities for its students, ensuring that language is not a barrier to exploration and discovery. By integrating immersive experiences like planetarium visits into its curriculum, the school continues to provide its students with unique opportunities to broaden their horizons. The P-Tech Planetarium remains a valuable resource for the Paterson Public Schools community, offering free access to engaging, high-quality educational experiences that inspire curiosity and a love for science.



FOLLOW PPS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



PPS IN THE NEWS

Paterson P-TECH Students Celebrate Women's History Month with Stellar Projects and Outreach
March 9, 2025

Paterson Honors Student Creativity at 21st Annual Black History Month Art & Essay Contest
March 10, 2025

Paterson School District Tackles Chronic Absenteeism with New Strategies and Support Systems
March 13, 2025

Paterson's Solaris Paul Makes History as First City Resident to Win NJSIAA Women's Wrestling Championship
March 14, 2025

Paterson School District Transitions to Autism-Multiple Disabilities Program, Prioritizing Parental Involvement and Student Independence
March 14, 2025

26th Taub-Doby Cheerleading Competition Showcases Talent, Teamwork, and Dedication in Paterson
March 18, 2025

Paterson school officials deadlocked over new budget call emergency meeting
March 19, 2025

Paterson Board of Ed advances compromise budget that raises taxes 4% with no layoffs
March 20, 2025

Weather Kids Visits Paterson Public School 16
March 20, 2025

La Autoridad en el Tiempo visita escuela de Paterson con el programa "Los Niños del Tiempo"
March 20, 2025

Paterson Board of Education Approves \$848M Budget After One Member Changes Vote
March 21, 2025

Paterson schools use remote educators to manage teacher absences and vacancies. See photos
March 27, 2025

Paterson has a teacher shortage. Filling in? Remote educators in other places
March 27, 2025

IMPORTANT CALENDAR REMINDERS

April 4	1:00 Student Dismissal/Staff PD
April 8	3rd Marking Period Ends
April 14-18	Spring Break – District Closed
April 29	Report Card Parent Conferences 5:30-7:30pm (Grades PreK-8)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, April 2nd**, at **90 Delaware Avenue**. Those wishing to provide public comments must do so in person and are required to register for the meeting.

The **Board of Education Regular Meeting** will take place virtually on **Wednesday, April 9th**.

Both meetings are scheduled to begin at **6 PM**.

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

The District Chronicler is a publication of the Department of Communications.

We welcome your submissions on school and district-related news.

Submit stories and photos to **ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us**.

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