

FOCUS 21

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

AT PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Building strong connections and actively seeking input from students and parents impacts program success and student well-being

YOUTH VOICE & CHOICE

Students are given meaningful opportunities to be involved in decisions that affect them, from activity selection to program structure and evaluation.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parental involvement is paramount to program success, influencing student experience, program effectiveness, and community impact.

HOW ARE WE PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THIS?

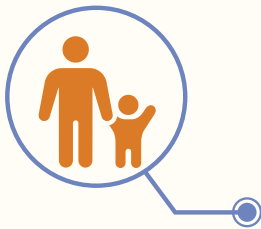
- ✓ Student council meetings twice per month
- ✓ Representation at Advisory Board meetings
- ✓ Activity selection through surveys (see Page 3).
- ✓ Project-Based Learning with topic choice



- ✓ Monthly STEAM activities & workshops
- ✓ Game nights & showcases
- ✓ ESL Classes for parents at PS 2
- ✓ Family engagement events (see Page 2).

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Parents and guardians are invited to family engagement events throughout the duration of the FOCUS 21 program to strengthen ties with the school community and student learning. As of the 2024-2025 school year, families were invited to Parent Orientation, Lights on Afterschool, Turkey Trot/Gratitude Event, Cycle Culminating Event, Adult ESL classes, and more. The most popular event was Parent Orientation, which saw the attendance of 37 parents from School 2 and 40 parents from School 16.



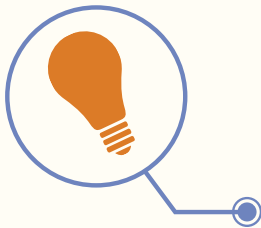
Parent Orientation

School 2

37

School 16

40



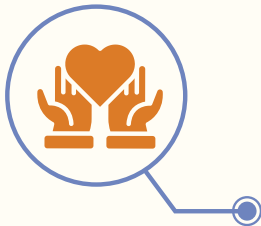
Lights on Afterschool

School 2

57

School 16

14



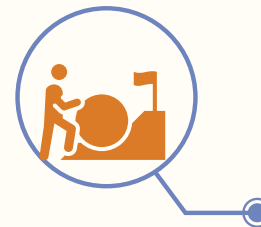
Turkey Trot / Gratitude Event

School 2

42

School 16

6



Cycle Culminating Event

School 2

61

School 16

10



Adult ESL Classes

School 2

5

School 16

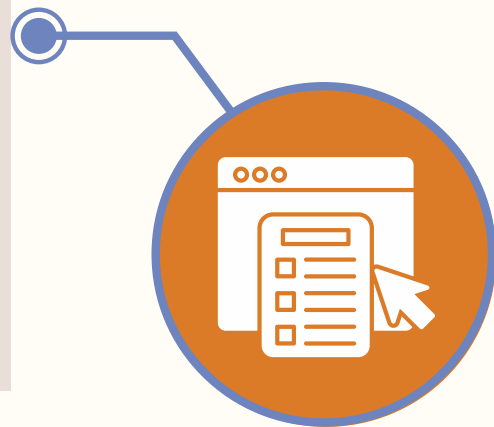
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STUDENT VOICE

Students have the opportunity to evaluate the activities they participated in through the student survey conducted by Paterson Public School's external evaluator. As of June 2025, 174 FOCUS 21 afterschool program participants responded to the survey.

The survey included the following questions:

- How would you rate the activities you took part in this year?
- Which activities did you find to be the most enjoyable and engaging, and what made them so?
- Which activities did you find the least appealing, and what were your reasons?



These questions aim to gather insightful feedback to enhance the quality and impact of the afterschool program. Student responses are valuable in shaping future initiatives, ensuring that activities remain engaging, educational, and supportive of students' interests and needs.



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