



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

OCTOBER 2025 | VOL. 6

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



“Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow”

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

This past Wednesday, at the Board of Education workshop meeting, I had the pleasure of introducing Paterson Public Schools’ new five-year strategic plan. The plan, titled “Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow”, is the culmination of many years of thoughtful collaboration and input from our board members, educators, families, students, and community partners.

This plan, which will serve as a guide for our district’s priorities and initiatives from 2025 through 2030, is centered around four clear goals that are aimed at raising the level of expectation for student achievement. Here are the four goals outlined in “Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow”:

Goal 1: Advance Instructional Excellence by Cultivating a High-Performing Workforce
Attract, retain, and support qualified staff through streamlined processes and professional growth opportunities.

Goal 2: Empower Data-Driven Decisions
Embed data literacy into district culture to strengthen transparency and inform instruction.

Goal 3: Ensure Operational Excellence
Strengthen leadership practices, improve efficiency, and maintain financial stability.

Goal 4: Strengthen Community Partnerships
Expand engagement with families and organizations to create inclusive learning environments.

The four goals came to fruition after pulling data from focus groups, community forums, internal stakeholder surveys, parent and community surveys, and Board of Education retreats. These meticulous methods of outreach shaped the four goals that will help set student growth and success as the district’s expectation.

I’d like to thank the Board of Education, as well as the community, for their continued support and input in this process. I’m confident that this five-year strategic plan will help us build on our strengths and address the challenges ahead with purpose and unity.

Thank you for reading and have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Dr. Laurie W. Newell
Superintendent of Schools

PPS STUDENTS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES AFTER HISTORIC CONTACT WITH SPACE



Following their successful live communication with Kimiya Yui, an astronaut aboard the International Space Station (ISS), 12 Paterson Public Schools students were presented certificates of participation for their Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact that took place on Monday, October 6th, at the Paterson P-Tech High School Planetarium.

The certificates recognized the students' dedication and enthusiasm during the historic ARISS contact. The students asked Mr. Yui detailed questions about his experiences aboard the ISS and what his life is like in outer space. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Melissa España, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cicely Warren, Assistant Superintendent Nahed Badawy, Paterson P-Tech High School Principal Dr. Charla Holder, Paterson P-Tech High School Planetarium Manager Dr. Carlos Miranda, and staff members were on hand to witness this once-in-a-lifetime memory for the following students:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Roslyn H. | 11th Grade | ..... | Eastside High School |
| Adonis P. | 6th Grade | ..... | Young Men's Leadership Academy |
| Zion S. | 7th Grade | ..... | Young Men's Leadership Academy |
| Kaveon W. | 7th Grade | ..... | Young Men's Leadership Academy |
| Jaylen W. | 6th Grade | ..... | New Roberto Clemene School |
| Adam M. | 4th Grade | ..... | Charles J. Riley/School 9 |
| Mateo F. | 2nd Grade | ..... | School 8 |
| Mabelle M. | 8th Grade | ..... | Alexander Hamilton Academy |
| Christine G. | 6th Grade | ..... | Alexander Hamilton Academy |
| Loriann E. | 7th grade. | ..... | Alexander Hamilton Academy |
| Deriel C. | 7th Grade | ..... | Alexander Hamilton Academy |
| Sione V. | 11th Grade | ..... | Paterson P-Tech High School |

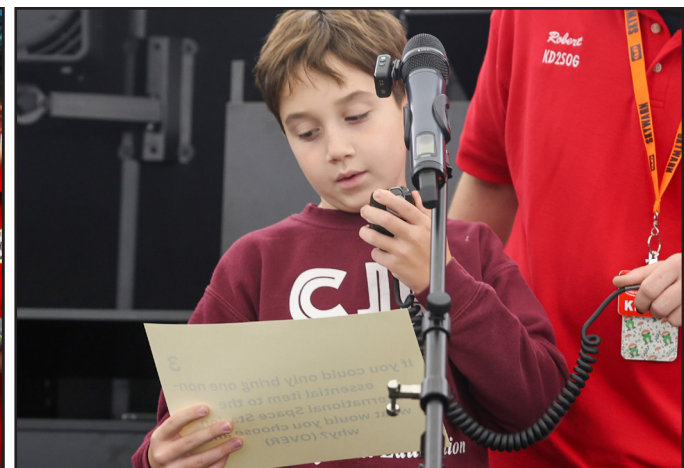
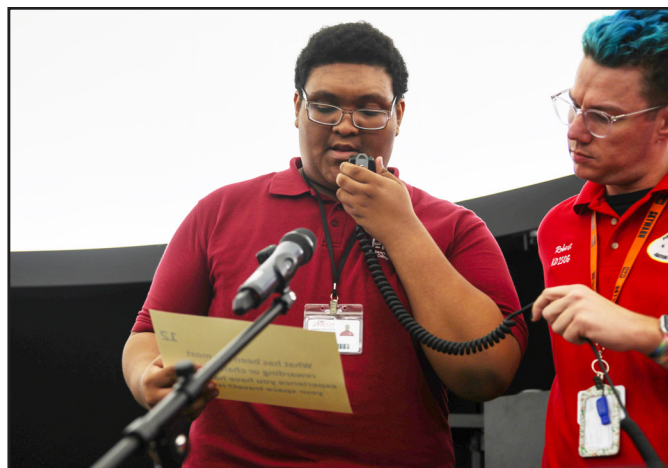
A GALACTIC EXPERIENCE FOR DISTRICT STUDENTS



From left to right: Paterson P-Tech High School Planetarium Manager Dr. Carlos Miranda, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Melissa España, Paterson P-Tech High School Principal Dr. Charla Holder, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cicely Warren, and Assistant Superintendent Nahed Badawy witnessed this historic event for Paterson Public Schools.



The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club (pictured right) provided the invaluable infrastructure for the 12 Paterson Public Schools students to communicate with astronaut Kimiya Yui aboard the International Space Station.

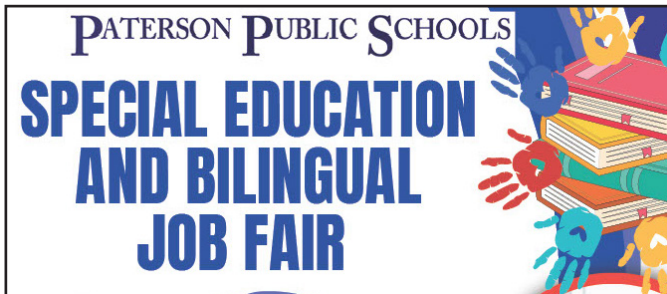


The 12 students selected for the momentous occasion represented various schools and grade levels across the district. As part of the selection process, students submitted two original questions they would ask an astronaut aboard the ISS.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND BILINGUAL JOB FAIR SET FOR OCTOBER 22

The Paterson Public Schools' Department of Human Resources will host a Special Education and Bilingual Job Fair on Wednesday, October 22nd, from 4 PM to 7 PM in the first floor cafe of Central Office.

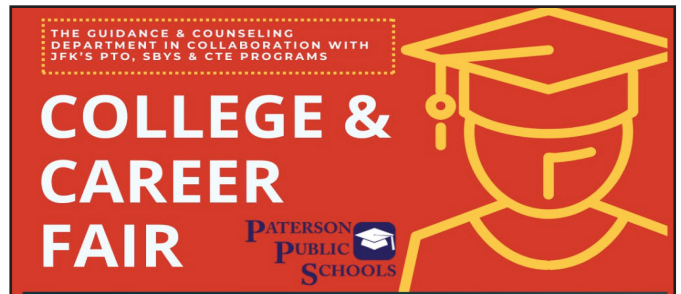
The Special Education and Bilingual Job Fair, which will look for certified bilingual teachers, special education teachers, and CST professionals, is an important initiative targeted at finding the most qualified educators for PPS' young learners. [For more information, please visit our website.](#)



COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR TO OFFER GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Paterson Public Schools students have an exclusive chance to learn about post-graduation opportunities at the upcoming College and Career Fair that will be held in the gymnasium at John F. Kennedy High School on Wednesday, October 29th, 9:15 AM to 1:30 PM.

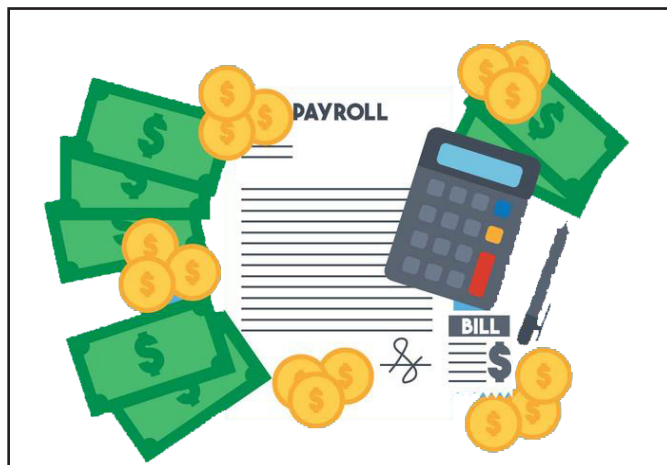
Representatives from colleges and universities, military branches, and community organizations will be on hand to provide information and answer any questions that students may have about their organizations. Registration for the fair is free. [Those interested in registering can visit our website.](#)



PAYROLL VERIFICATION IS HERE!

Paterson Public Schools will be conducting payroll verification as required by New Jersey Administrative Code. Payroll verification requires each school district employee to report to a central location(s), produce picture identification, and sign for release of his or her paycheck or direct deposit voucher.

Verification, which started on October 8th, will be done by Units and authorized personnel will conduct payroll verification at all Paterson Public Schools. [For more information, please visit our website.](#)



PPS INVITES STAFF TO PARTICIPATE IN FREE FAMILY FLU CLINIC

Paterson Public Schools' Department of Early Childhood Education, in partnership with the Full-Service Community Center, invites district staff and families to participate in the district's Free Family Flu Clinic for children and adults.

The clinics will take place on Saturday, October 11th, and Saturday, November 22nd, from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Full-Service Community Center at 512 Market Street in Paterson.



DR. NEWELL READS TO YOUNG LEARNERS AT YMCA PRESCHOOL



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell made a special visit to a group of young and eager learners at YMCA Preschool on Tuesday, October 7th.

Invited by YMCA Preschool Director Dr. Janice Samuel-Powell, Dr. Newell participated in a read-along and art activity with the students, who were celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and learning about pedestrian safety. The three and four-year old students thoroughly enjoyed listening to their special guest read books aloud to them about the day's subjects.

SCHOOL 10 HONORS CUSTODIANS ON SCHOOL CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION DAY!



On October 2nd, School 10 celebrated and thanked their incredible custodians, who are the unsung heroes of their school.

Their hard work keeps School 10 safe, clean, and welcoming every single day. From early mornings to late evenings, they go above and beyond to ensure that School 10's students and staff have a positive environment to learn and grow.

Thank you and happy School Custodian Appreciation Day to Chief Miguel, Maria and Stephanie.

P-TECH JUNIORS AND SENIORS EXPLORE COLLEGE LIFE AT NJIT



The Paterson P-Tech High School Guidance Department, led by Ms. Vernita Bostick and Ms. Tameika Wisdom, recently took juniors and seniors on an insightful college tour and information session at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT).

During the visit, students learned about the university's wide range of majors, tuition and financial aid options, and the college application process. Students also had the opportunity to tour several campus buildings, experience a glimpse of college life, and engage in meaningful conversations with NJIT staff.

This valuable trip provided students with an inspiring look into their future possibilities and a deeper understanding of the pathways available to them in higher education.

VICTOR CRUZ VISITS SCHOOL 21 TO CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

New York Giants legend, Super Bowl champion, and School 21 alum Victor Cruz visited his proud alma mater on Monday, October 6th, to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and engage with School 21 students and staff.

Cruz spoke to School 21's young learners about Hispanic heritage and what it means to him, the importance of attending school each day, and always putting forth tremendous effort in their education. Guided by School 21 Principal Edgard Nieves, Cruz met with a select group of students in the school's SWAG room, had a high five session with kindergarten through fourth graders, and toured the building that helped shape him into becoming an accomplished professional.

The event was supported by members of the New York Giants organization, saw participation from Director of Recreation and Senator Benjie E. Wimberly, and was attended by students, staff, and city dignitaries.



PPS IN THE NEWS

Paterson students talk to astronaut on space station
Paterson Press | October 7, 2025

Paterson students talk to astronaut on space station
Yahoo News | October 7, 2025

Paterson Students Connect Live with Astronaut Aboard the International Space Station
TAPinto Paterson | October 7, 2025

Paterson Public Schools Unveils 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Focused on Student Achievement, Community Engagement
TAPinto Paterson | October 9, 2025

PPS ATHLETICS IN THE NEWS

Eastside Volleyball Sweeps College Achieve for Second Win of Season
October 3, 2025

Eastside Boys Soccer Offense Powers 4-1 Win Over Passaic Charter
October 5, 2025

Eastside's Girls Soccer Rolls Past Passaic Charter with 4-1 Win
October 5, 2025

Eastside's Girls Soccer Team Edges Kennedy 5-4 in Overtime Thriller
October 7, 2025

Kennedy's Boys Soccer Team Dominates Eastside in 6-0 Victory
October 7, 2025

Eastside's Girls Volleyball Tops Empowerment Academy 2-1
October 8, 2025

Eastside Tops Manchester Regional 2-1 in Volleyball
October 9, 2025

Eastside Dominates Kennedy in Tennis Showdown
October 9, 2025

COMING UP NEXT WEEK

October 13. Italian Heritage Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day - District Closed
October 17. 1 PM Student Dismissal / Staff PD

[Full 2025-2026 School Calendar Here](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, November 5th, at 90 Delaware Ave. Those wishing to provide public comments must do so in person and are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 PM.

The **Board of Education Regular Meeting** will take place virtually on Wednesday, November 12th. Those wishing to provide public comments are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is 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 Newsletter is a publication of the Department of Communications.

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

Submit stories and photos by using our **Newsletter Submissions** form.

This form can be found on our Communications page at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

Questions? Email us at ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us

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