



# THE PULSE

*The Heartbeat of the District.*

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

OCTOBER 2025 | VOL. 8

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

### What's Important Now: 2025-2026 District Goals

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

We were happy to unveil the new five-year Strategic Plan that will chart the course for the future of Paterson Public Schools and our young learners' education. This plan was scrupulously designed to guide our district in achieving excellence for all students while ensuring equity, opportunity, and accountability.

Today, I want to dedicate this space to our equally as crucial goals for the 2025-2026 academic year. These goals reflect our continued focus on strategic planning, student-centered instruction, and data-informed decision making.

**Goal 1** is the completion and adoption of our new five-year Strategic Plan. During last week's meeting, I presented an overview of the plan and how it will impact the district's priorities and actions in the years ahead. The Strategic Plan is now complete, and we look forward to the next phase—implementing the plan's goals and aligning our work accordingly.

**Goal 2** focuses on the continuation of the Middle School Model. We're currently reviewing enrollment data and preparing to move into the next phase of implementation. As part of this work, we will continue engaging families and the community through parent meetings, community forums, and regular board presentations. The Middle School Model is a key step in creating supportive and enriching environments for our middle school students.

**Goal 3** is the development of a Districtwide Data Dashboard. We're going to begin piloting the dashboard in select high schools—specifically those where it can have the greatest immediate impact. The dashboard will track key indicators like staffing vacancies, assessment outcomes, enrollment, attendance, and more. It'll also support more transparent and consistent communication with our school community.

Our staff is working extremely hard every single day with these goals in mind and I look forward to working with the board, staff, families, and community partners as we continue to implement them.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Laurie W. Newell**  
Superintendent of Schools



## PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT THE NJSBA CONFERENCE!



This week, Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell, administrators, and members of the Paterson Board of Education attended the New Jersey School Boards Association Conference — joining education leaders from across the state to exchange ideas, explore innovative practices, and strengthen strategies that support student success.

Professional development opportunities like this help ensure our district continues to grow, collaborate, and deliver the very best for Paterson's students.



## STITCHING CULTURE & COMMUNITY AT NEWCOMERS HIGH SCHOOL



To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Newcomers High School hosted a vibrant series of events that honored the rich cultures, histories, and contributions of Hispanic communities.

Students engaged in an interactive, Jeopardy-style game focused on influential Hispanic figures and cultural traditions, deepening their knowledge in a fun and collaborative way. Each student also designed a unique cloth square representing their heritage or a cultural theme, which was stitched together into a beautiful, school-wide Heritage Quilt symbolizing unity and diversity. The month-long celebration culminated in a powerful student-centered presentation featuring music, poetry, and personal stories, proudly attended by parents, faculty, and local community members.

## JATS HOSTS IMPACTFUL HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION



Joseph A. Taub Middle School came alive with rhythm, color, and pride as students, staff, and families gathered for the school's annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration on October 17th.

The evening began with a warm welcome from students, followed by an energetic Merengue performance of "Compadre Pedro Juan" and a show-stopping rendition of Selena's "Como La Flor". The performances continued with a graceful Bachata, student poetry readings, and presentations on influential Hispanic leaders who continue to inspire new generations. Families were also treated to a special art show featuring student artwork inspired by renowned Hispanic artists. Academic excellence was recognized as Hispanic students with the highest grade point averages from the previous school year were honored for their achievements.

The community spirit extended beyond the stage as Full Service Community School Coordinator Arlin Hernandez organized a multicultural dinner for families, transforming the evening into a true community gathering. Principal Dr. Jorge Ventura closed the celebration by thanking the teachers for their tireless dedication and the countless hours spent creating a celebration of identity, unity, and pride.

## HISPANIC HERITAGE DISPLAYED PROUDLY AT EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



Eastside High School hosted its annual Hispanic Heritage Month Show inside its auditorium on October 14th as the school community came together for a cheerful program packed with vibrant performances. Students and staff joined together on several numbers that left those in the audience feeling prideful and overcome with knowledge about Hispanic cultures.

## PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SENIORS RISE TOGETHER



Seniors from Newcomers High School and Paterson P-Tech High School gathered early on Friday, October 17th to celebrate their Senior Sunrise. As the sun came up, students watched together, shared laughs, and made lasting memories to start their final year.

Newcomers' senior class of 2026, the first four-year senior class in the school's history, gathered together to reflect on their high school journey and share their future aspirations. The event gave P-Tech's seniors a chance to connect, reflect, and enjoy each other's company outside of the classroom.

# PARENT REMINDERS

## AUDITION FOR ROSA L. PARKS SCHOOL OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts has announced audition dates for Paterson Public Schools students currently enrolled in 9th through 12th grades.

The first audition will take place on Saturday, October 25th from 8 AM to 12 PM, and the second audition date is set for Monday, October 27th from 3 PM to 5 PM. Both auditions will take place at Rosa L. Parks High School. [Visit the school's website for more information about the auditions.](#)



A graphic for auditions at Rosa L. Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts. It features the school's name in a purple arch at the top, a central crest with a purple and white design, and the name of the principal, Mrs. Kaela C. Quince-McMillan. Below this, it says "Auditions Now Open" in large black letters, followed by "For Students Currently Enrolled in Grades 9 -12 at Other PPS High Schools" in smaller black text. The background is white with faint purple and pink floral patterns.

## OCTOBER IS BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

October is Bullying Prevention Month and Paterson Public Schools' policy on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying is one of the district's top priorities.

If a student believes he or she has been subjected to harassment or a hostile environment, the student is encouraged to report this to the school principal, administrator, or the school's designated anti-bullying specialist. To learn more district policies regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying, [please visit our website.](#)



## HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Paterson Public Schools is now accepting applications for its High School Choice program!

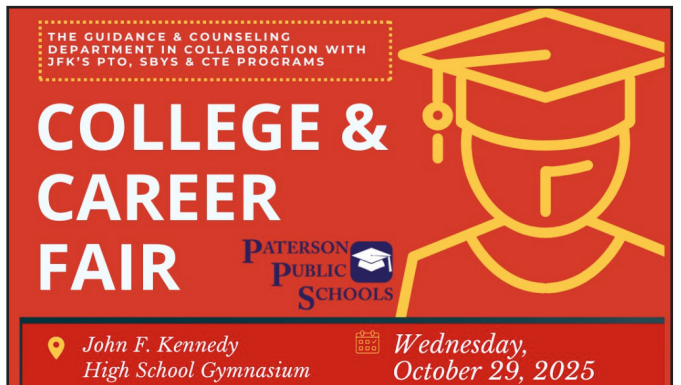
The High School Choice Program empowers incoming ninth-grade and newly enrolling students with the flexibility to select from a diverse array of high school pathways tailored to their individual interests and academic ambitions. To access this year's application and for more information about the High School Choice Program, [please visit our website.](#)



## SIGN YOUR STUDENT UP FOR NEXT WEEK'S COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR!

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, from 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.](#)



A graphic for the College & Career Fair. It features a red background with a large yellow outline of a graduation cap on the right side. On the left, the text "COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR" is written in large white letters. Below this, the Paterson Public Schools logo is visible. At the top, it says "THE GUIDANCE & COUNSELING DEPARTMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH JFK'S PTO, SBYS & CTE PROGRAMS". At the bottom, it provides the location "John F. Kennedy High School Gymnasium" and the date "Wednesday, October 29, 2025".

## 2025-2026 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Stay informed on district holidays, early dismissals, and more by visiting our website and viewing [the 2025-2026 District Calendar](#)

## 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](https://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](http://www.paterson.k12.nj.us)

**Questions?** Email us at [ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us](mailto:ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us)

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