ACPS Quarterly District Newsletter

THE SCOOP

Winter 2025
Volume IX
March Edition



Women's History Month

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Dr. La'Quetta S. Small
Superintendent of Schools

It is now March and we have already concluded the second marking period. It is still winter, but spring is coming. Our staff has worked diligently and collaboratively to provide a safe, conducive and enriched learning environment.

As we strive for excellence in our school district, we will continue to empower our students to become problem solvers and critical thinkers. We recognize the core of our school district is based on relationships between our parents, students, staff, community and the board of education. Let's continue to utilize our collective strength to provide the best education for all students who attend Atlantic City Public Schools.

You are valued and we appreciate your support and involvement. Please know that our dedicated staff will continue to make a positive difference in the life of each student entrusted to us. Thank you! AC PRIDE! AC STRONG!

IMPORTANT DATES

Third Marking Period Report Cards
4/11/25

Professional Day
(No School for students)
3/14/25

Eid-al-Fitr
(No School)
3/31/25

Parent-Teacher Conferences
(1/2 day for students)
4/14/25, 4/15/25 & 4/16/25

Spring Recess Begins
(1/2 day for Staff and Students)
4/17/25

Spring Recess
(No School)
4/18/25 - 4/25/25

Return to School
(Winter Recess ends)
4/26/2025

Professional Day
(1/2 day for students)
5/1/25

Memorial Day
(No School)
5/26/25

Professional Day
(1/2 day for students)
6/12/25

Fourth Marking Period Report Cards
6/23/25

Atlantic City High School Employee Named Counselor of the County

ATLANTIC CITY – The Atlantic City Public Schools community is celebrating a significant achievement as Atlantic City High School Guidance Counselor, Chaia Jennings, has been named Counselor of the County for the 2024–2025 school year by the Cape Atlantic School Counselor Association.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. La'Quetta S. Small commended her for the accomplishment. "We are extremely proud that you are recognized as Counselor of the County," Dr. Small told Jennings. "You have demonstrated excellence in your role as a school counselor, and we appreciate your commitment and tireless dedication to our school district."



Chaia Jennings

DISTRICT MISSION

Atlantic City Public Schools and members of the community believe in the development of the whole child. Together we are committed to providing a nurturing, safe and stimulating environment for all students to continuously learn and grow.

DISTRICT VISION

All students will be actively engaged and supported as they learn and grow on the journey to become independent, lifelong learners equipped for the 21st Century.



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Dr. La'Quetta S. Small, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. LaKecia Hyman, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
Celeste Ricketts, School Business Administrator
Michael Bird, Director of Special Projects & Assessments
Christopher Ford, Director of Athletics
Donald Harris, Director of Secondary Education
Tracy-Marie Moody, Director of Student Services & Special Education
Atiba Rose, Sr., Director of Operations
Diane Saunders, Director of Human Resources
Shelley Williams, Director of Elementary Education

Uniform Policy

Acceptable Uniforms
PreK - 8th Grades

Navy Blue Short or Long Sleeve Polo
Tan Pants or Skirt



White Short or Long Sleeve Polo
Navy Pants or Skirt



Solid-colored blue or white sweaters only.
No hoodies are allowed.
Girls must wear blue or white tights only.

For more information please visit the district's homepage.
www.acboe.org

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB)

The Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student. A safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe and disciplined environment. For more information, visit www.acboe.org.

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Collective Commitments:

- **We will provide a challenging and developmentally appropriate curriculum which addresses individual student needs, focuses on academic growth and is based on current research and best practices.**
- **We will align our assessments to targeted goals that are monitored through data analysis of student growth, interventions and enrichment.**
- **We will provide a supportive, collaborative environment that celebrates and nurtures student success.**
- **We will work collaboratively to ensure that rigorous standards-based instruction, intervention and enrichment is available to all students.**
- **We will commit to involving and communicating with all stakeholders in fostering a partnership to share resources and provide services.**

ATLANTIC CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS



Shay Steele
President



Walter Johnson
Vice President



Ronald Bailey



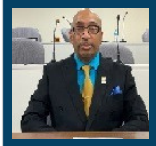
Hollisha Bridgers



Subrata Chowdhury



Geoffrey Dorsey



Torres Mayfield



Kashawn McKinley



MD (Muhammad) A. Siddik



Tracy Riley
Board Solicitor

Elementary School News

Uptown School Complex Held Sweetheart Dance

Uptown School Complex Held a Sweetheart Dance on February 20, 2025.





Brighton Avenue School Held Pre-Kindergarten Fashion Show

Brighton Avenue School held its pre-kindergarten fashion show on January 17, 2025.







Elementary Winter Sports

Uptown & Richmond Capture Volleyball Championships





Elementary School News

Chelsea Heights School Winter Festival Concert

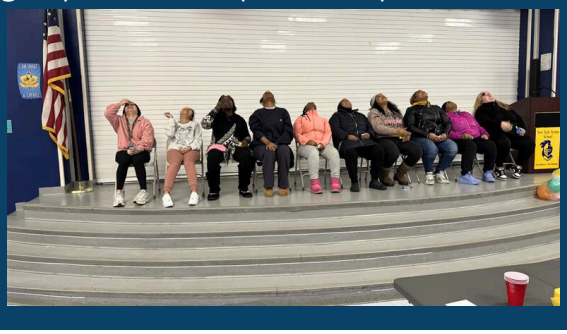
Chelsea Heights School's Winter Festival Concert warmed hearts on January 16, 2025.





New York Avenue School Promoted Positive Attendance

The New York Avenue School Parents Advisory Council meeting drew more than 100 people to the building as parents competed for prizes.

Texas Avenue School Held Black History Spelling Bee

After five exciting rounds, Nazifah Afra, a 4th grader emerged as the champion after correctly spelling the word: demonstration. Naimul Islam took 2nd place. Jeremy Mondragon and Aleena Anwar tied for 3rd place.







Sovereign Avenue School Hosted Early Childhood Social Emotional Learning Workshop

The Atlantic City Public Schools Early Childhood Department hosted a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Workshop at Sovereign Avenue School.

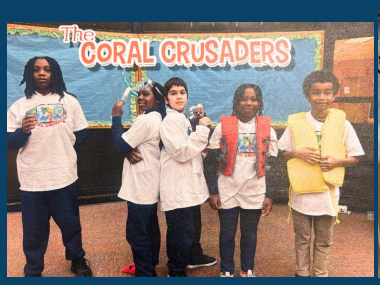


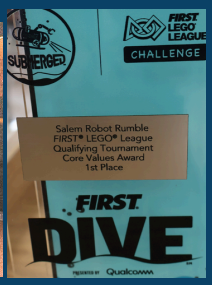


Elementary School News

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School Complex

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School Complex won the First Lego League Core Values Award and advanced to the regional round of the Challenge Series









Venice Park School Taught Dental Hygiene

Venice Park School taught students about oral hygiene on Give a Kid a Smile Day






Pennsylvania Avenue Held Winter Concert

Pennsylvania Avenue School Held a Successful Winter Wonderland Holiday Concert on Friday, December 13, 2024. The annual show is a cherished community tradition.

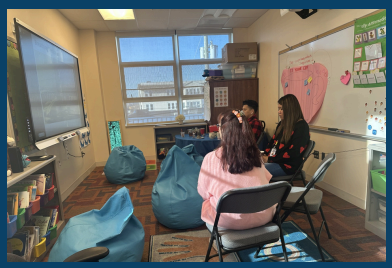




Richmond Avenue School Held "Fill Your Cup-Relax & Recharge" SEL Day

Richmond Avenue School SEL Event: "Fill Your Cup – Relax & Recharge" was held Friday, February 14, 2025. Valentines' day is all about love, but there's no better love than self-love.






Cheer: The Ultimate Showdown 2025

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex Won the Peformance Portion of the Competition, Tied with New York Avenue on Walk Out







DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SCHOOL COMPLEX



New York Avenue School Knights Moved the Crowd!






Cheer: The Ultimate Showdown 2025

Pennsylvania Avenue School Bulldogs Took Second Place for Performance







Richmond Avenue School Stingrays Donned Western Hats







Cheer: The Ultimate Showdown 2025

Sovereign Avenue School Dolphins Did Not Disappoint







Chelsea Heights School Cheetahs Combined Style With Class






Cheer: The Ultimate Showdown 2025

Uptown School Complex Hornets Held it Down







Atlantic City High School Cheerleaders Gave Exhibition Performance and then Served as Spotters for the Elementary School Competitors











Atlantic City High School Football Players Announced Future Plans for Post-Secondary Careers



Zephaniah Bradley-Brown, Khajuan Roseborough Will Attend West Chester University



WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY GOLDEN RAMS



Walid Rhodes to Attend Montclair State University



MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY MSU

Jeremiah Williams to Attend Rowan University



District News

Khajuan "Peaky" Roseborough Joins the 1,000-Point Club for Basketball



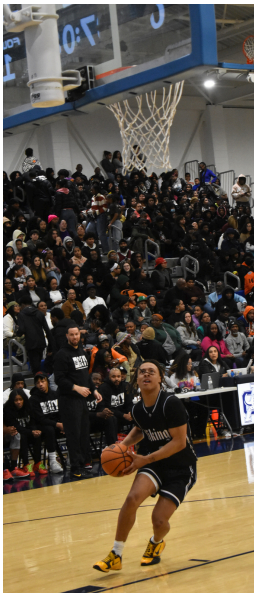


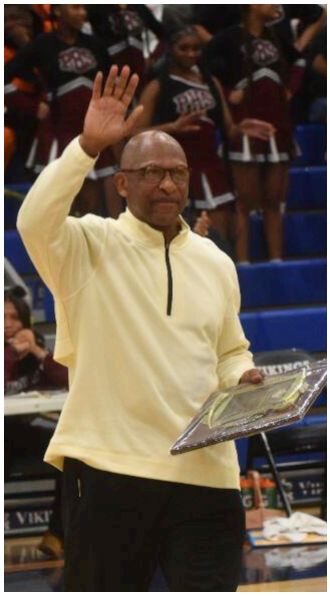






Battle By the Bay Celebrates 30th Anniversary








President Carter Sent Letter of Encouragement to Class of 1978

The staff at Atlantic City High School recently took a moment of reflection to remember a special letter written by Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States, to the class of 1978. Carter, who died on December 29, 2024, signed the first Presidential Proclamation acknowledging Women's History Week.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BEFORE THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1978
One-Hundredth Commencement Excercises: 8 June 1978

Tonight marks a very special occasion. This class which is graduating is the 100th graduating class of Atlantic City High School. It is a time to reflect on the great tradition of education that has been established at this school. It is a time to recognize the men and women who have played such a great part in building what Atlantic City High School is today: an institution of learning that is second to none.

To the Principal of Atlantic City High School, William A. Faunce, we offer our congratulations for a job well done. To the Atlantic City Board of Education and Dr. Jack Eisenstein we offer our thanks for their guidance and wisdom and to Assistant Principals Charles Wagner, George Dennis, and Carolyn Patterson we offer them our compliments for keeping the school well organized. Most of all we congratulate and thank the teaching staff of Atlantic City High School for doing a great job. For giving of themselves and imparting to these students with their knowledge and humanity.

To the students I ask that you do not close your eyes to a world of needs, but to go on and confront every challenge that you meet. The challenge of tomorrow stands before you today.

On this centennial celebration of Atlantic City High School we say thank you to the present and previous faculties and administrative staffs of Atlantic City High School. You have made these students products of your devotion.

Jimmy Carter




Staff Spotlight

Employees of the Month Acknowledged



Mildred Russell

January

Thank you!



Gabriela Figueroa

February

Administration Building Mardi Gras Brunch





Staff Spotlight

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teacher of the Year & Educational Services Professional of the year 2024- 2025

ATLANTIC CITY HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Name: Kimberly Rowe
College/University: Rutgers University
Years in Education: 25
Favorite Book: Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Favorite Quote: Fair isn't everybody getting the same thing....Fair is everybody getting what they need in order to the successful.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Name: Paula Dever
College/University: Stockton University
Years in Education: 20
Favorite Book: The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
Favorite Quote: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teacher of the Year & Educational Services Professional of the year 2024- 2025

BRIGHTON AVENUE SCHOOL

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Name: Liesje Cooker
College/University: University of Delaware
Years in Education: 15
Favorite Book: The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls
Favorite Quote: Comfort Zones are where Dreams go to Die.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Name: Matthew Burroughs
College/University: Drexel University
Years in Education: 13
Favorite Book: The Obstacle is The Way by Ryan Holiday
Favorite Quote: "Stay far from timid. Only make moves when your heart's in it And live the phrase, "Sky's The Limit" - Notorious B.I.G

Staff Spotlight

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teacher of the Year & Educational Services Professional of the year 2024- 2025

CHELSEA HEIGHTS SCHOOL

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Name: Jill Simon
College/University: Boston University
Years in Education: 15
Favorite Book: Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
Favorite Quote: "If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you." - Fred Devito

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Name: Mayra Cruz
College/University: Georgian Court College
Years in Education: 30
Favorite Book: I love Historical Fiction
Favorite Quote: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." - Dr. Suess

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teacher of the Year & Educational Services Professional of the year 2024- 2025

DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR SCHOOL COMPLEX

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Name: Alta Howell
College/University: Grand Canyon University
Years in Education: 12
Favorite Book: Wonder by R.J. Palacio
Favorite Quote: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." - Bill Widener

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Name: Jennifer Hagel
College/University: Seton Hall University
Years in Education: 25
Favorite Book: Freak the Mighty - Rodman Philbrick
Favorite Quote: "You are your best thing." - Toni Morrison, from Beloved

Staff Spotlight

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teacher of the Year & Educational Services Professional of the year 2024- 2025

NEW YORK AVENUE SCHOOL

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Name: Noe Sanchez
College/University: Stockton University
Years in Education: 13
Favorite Book: One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez
Favorite Quote: "The most wonderful thing about life is that you can always begin again. No matter what ups and downs you are handed in life today, you can always begin again tomorrow." – Paulo Coelho

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Name: Ericka Chapman
College/University: Montclair State University & Rowan University
Years in Education: 32
Favorite Book: A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon
Favorite Quote: "Team work makes the dream work." - John C. Maxwell

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teacher of the Year & Educational Services Professional of the year 2024- 2025

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE SCHOOL

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Name: Alphonso Harrell
College/University: Rowan University, Cheyney University and Grand Canyon University
Years in Education: 30
Favorite Book: Marine Corps Principles, Leadership and Organization
Favorite Quote: "Believe in Thyself." - Christian D. Larson

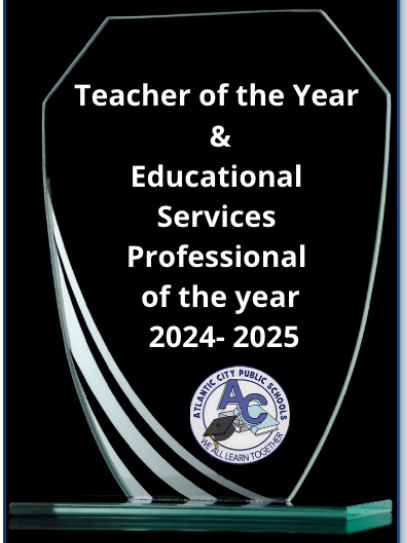
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Name: Jenell Lopez
College/University: Grand Canyon University & Stockton University
Years in Education: 12
Favorite Book: 100 Ways to Happy by Adams Media
Favorite Quote: "Your greatest obstacle is not the world around you, but the doubt within you." - Unknown

Staff Spotlight

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



RICHMOND AVENUE SCHOOL

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Name: Junior Mejia
College/University: The University of Tampa
Years in Education: 16
Favorite Book: Moneyball by Michael Lewis
Favorite Quote: "Each person must live their life as a model for others." - Rosa Parks

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Name: Lauren DeMarco
College/University: Wilmington University
Years in Education: 9
Favorite Book: Charlotte's Web
Favorite Quote: "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." - Oscar Wilde

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SOVEREIGN AVENUE SCHOOL

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Name: Adhan Perez
College/University: Rowan University
Years in Education: 27
Favorite Book: The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
Favorite Quote: "Most people fail not because they aim high and miss, but because they aim low and hit!" - Les Brown

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Name: Janet Torres
College/University: University of Puerto Rico
Years in Education: 24
Favorite Book: I just love reading.
Favorite Quote: " I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Staff Spotlight

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teacher of the Year & Educational Services Professional of the year 2024- 2025

TEXAS AVENUE SCHOOL

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Name: Kailey Prendergast
College/University: The College of New Jersey
Years in Education: 6
Favorite Book: The Paris Apartment by Lucy Foley
Favorite Quote: "All lights turned off, can be turned on." - Noah Kahan

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Name: Kaitlyn Hiltner
College/University: La Salle University
Years in Education: 14
Favorite Book: Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Favorite Quote: "Be curious, not judgemental." - Walt Whitman

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teacher of the Year & Educational Services Professional of the year 2024- 2025

UPTOWN SCHOOL COMPLEX

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Name: Rena Kha
College/University: Temple University
Years in Education: 18
Favorite Book: anything by Stephen Kinzer
Favorite Quote: "It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop." - Confucius

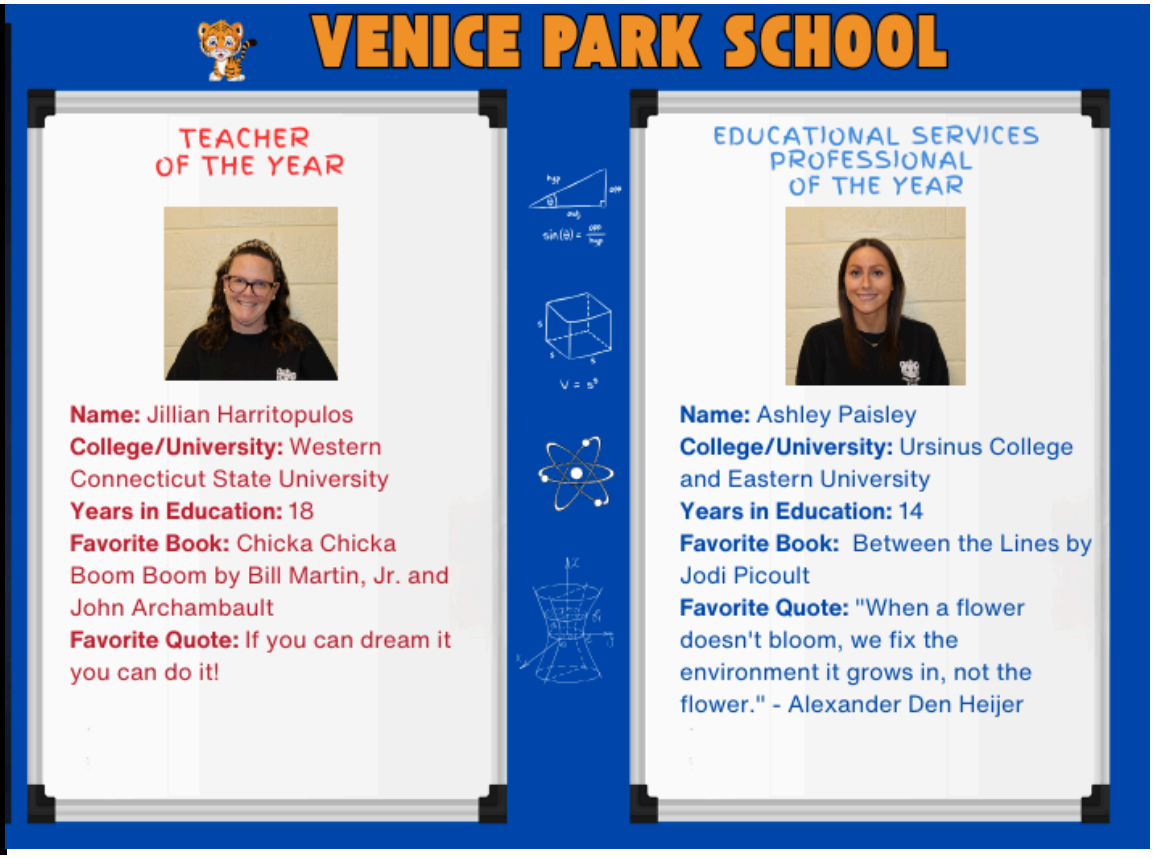
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Name: Gwendolyn Watson
College/University: Thomas Edison State University
Years in Education: 12
Favorite Book: No, David by David Shannon and Roots by Alex Haley
Favorite Quote: "Do Everything in Love." - 1 Corinthians 16:14

Staff Spotlight





Thomas Biggins Becomes Pennsylvania Avenue School's New Principal



Thomas Biggins graduated from Holy Spirit High School in 2007. He completed undergraduate studies at Rowan University and earned graduate degrees from George Washington University and Rowan University.

He has served in education for the past 11 years. His favorite book is Atomic Habits by James Clear.

His favorite quote is:

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou

Winter Wonderland Parade

























December 7, 2024