



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

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STUDENTS LEARN AND CONNECT AT COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR



Paterson Public Schools high school students gathered inside the gymnasium at John F. Kennedy High School on October 29th for the College and Career Fair, an exceedingly successful event that helped connect students with educational and professional pathways.

Dozens of colleges and universities were represented at the event as students were able to meet with recruiters and ask detailed questions. New Jersey institutions, such as the College of New Jersey and Seton Hall University, tabled alongside larger, out-of-state universities, such as the University of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania State University. The breadth of options on display showed students that there are different kinds of colleges available to them and they can find one that is tailored to their personal and educational needs. Additionally, professionals from various trade schools, organizations, and military branches were in attendance. Their presence gave the students even more post-graduation choices to consider.

During the event, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell addressed the attendees and gave kudos to the event's organizers for bringing together all of the colleges and organizations. Their efforts and coordination provided Paterson Public Schools students an unforgettable experience. The fair was hosted by the Department of Guidance and Counseling, with support from John F. Kennedy High School's PTO, School Based Youth Services, and Career and Technical Education programs.

Supporting Professional Growth in Paterson Public Schools

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

In this week's Superintendent's Corner, I wanted to highlight professional growth from the perspective of staff and students in Paterson Public Schools.

Last week, myself, along with administrators and members of the Board of Education, attended the four-day New Jersey School Boards Association Workshop in Atlantic City, NJ. At this workshop, we joined education leaders from across the state to exchange ideas, explore innovative practices, and strengthen strategies that support student success. It was a pleasure to see so many colleagues and to have the opportunity to meet educators with different perspectives.

As laid out in the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, we want to cultivate a culture that nurtures a high-performing workforce, and meaningful professional growth opportunities tailored to staff members' roles and responsibilities play a critical part in this process. Professional development helps ensure that our district continues to grow, collaborate, and deliver the very best for Paterson's students.



Making Future Plans at the College and Career Fair

Development and growth are traits that we also instill in our students as we prepare for them educational and professional opportunities after graduating. Exposure to these opportunities were on full display this past Wednesday as the Department of Guidance and Counseling hosted their College and Career Fair at John F. Kennedy High School. This fair was inspiring for those students who attended, and it showed them that there are an abundance of opportunities within their reach if they continue to challenge themselves and get the most out of their abilities.

A key cog in the advancement of Paterson Public Schools lies in the growth of our staff and students. With our commitment to increasing overall staff participation in professional development annually, and developing events that bring institutions of higher learning and professional organizations to our schools, I am confident that our staff and students will continue to positively progress as these opportunities are presented to them.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laurie W. Newell
Superintendent of Schools



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell speaks to a John F. Kennedy High School student journalist at Wednesday's College and Career Fair.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP PAYS VISITS TO MULTIPLE SCHOOLS



With the school year in full swing, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Board of Education President Eddie Gonzalez, and Assistant Business Administrator Lance Gaines checked in with multiple schools this past week to visit with school leadership and show their support. District leadership had the pleasure of visiting with Principal Domenico Carriero from Charles J. Riley School/School No. 9 (pictured left), Principal Gisela Adorno from School No. 8 (pictured right), and Principal Bridget Naveira from Dr. Hanı Awadallah School (not pictured).

PPS STUDENTS' ARTWORK SELECTED FOR NEW OFFICIAL "I VOTED" STICKERS



Passaic County Superintendent of Elections Shona L. Mack-Pollock and the Passaic County Board of County Commissioners held a recognition ceremony on October 28th to honor four Paterson Public Schools students whose artwork was selected for Passaic County's new official "I Voted" stickers. Congratulations to these four talented young learners. Zainab J., Sophia P., Kayla S., and Khadijah M.

HISPANIC CULTURE PROUDLY CELEBRATED AT SCHOOL NO. 21



Students who performed at School No. 21's Hispanic Heritage Celebration on October 24th, sent a packed gymnasium into a frenzy on multiple occasions with show-stopping dance and musical numbers, skits, and presentations. Under the direction of School No. 21's Hispanic Heritage Committee and Principal Edgard Nieves, families, staff, and students were treated to a thorough recognition of Hispanic cultures, from Peruvian dance, to cooking empanadas, to a tribute to Hispanic athletes.

PATERSON P-TECH SENIORS WELCOME REPRESENTATIVES FROM FDU



On October 16th, Paterson P-Tech seniors welcomed representatives from Fairleigh Dickinson University for an in-depth college planning session.

The discussion went beyond general admissions information, as the representatives from FDU focused on the university's strong network of student support services. Paterson P-Tech seniors gained valuable insights into FDU's programs, such as the Educational Opportunity Fund and the Latino Promise Program, helping them better understand the academic and financial resources that are available to support their transition to college life.

EASTSIDE JROTC CADET DESIGNS NEW CHALLENGE COIN

Eastside High School's JROTC recently had its Battalion challenge coin redesigned by one of their own in Cadet Captain Bristani Tavarez.

The JROTC challenge coin symbolizes unit pride, dedication, and achievement within a program. It is a tangible reminder of a member's commitment, shared experiences, and values. The coins are awarded by the Senior Army Instructor and Chair of the Mighty Ghost Battalion in recognition of special achievement, military tradition, unity and camaraderie.



DR. FRANK NAPIER, JR. SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY HOLDS FAMILY CRAFT NIGHT

More than 100 students and families gathered at Dr. Frank Napier, Jr. School of Science & Technology this past week for the school's Family Craft Night.

The theme of the craft night was breast cancer awareness in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The evening served as a fun and educational experience for students and families.



CHARLES J. RILEY/SCHOOL NO. 9 STUDENTS HONOR PRINCIPAL

Students from Mrs. Gonzales' class at Charles J. Riley School/School No. 9 stopped by Principal Carriero's office to share a sweet treat and some heartfelt words for National Principals Month.



SCHOOL NO. 27 HOLDS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WALK

School No. 27 joined the fight against breast cancer with its school-wide Breast Cancer Awareness Walk. Donations that were received went to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.



MARÍA MAGDA O'KEEFE SCHOOL STUDENTS BOND OVER READING



Students at María Magda O'Keefe School bonded over reading on Tuesday morning as elementary school students read books to middle school students. Students received a Halloween bookmark and enjoyed a beautiful morning reading and learning together.

PARENT REMINDERS

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](#).



STAY INFORMED ON FOOD MENUS AT PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Paterson Public Schools is dedicated to providing students with nutritious, delicious, and well-balanced meals that fuel their learning and growth. The Department of Food Services takes pride in offering a variety of options to meet the diverse needs of our school community.

Stay informed on the meals that are being served on a daily basis by viewing each school's menu on our [website](#).



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.

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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