ACPS Quarterly District Newsletter
SUMMER 2025
Volume X
July Edition

THE SCOOP



IMPORTANT DATES

Visual Performing Arts Final Show Schedule

Brighton Avenue School
Broadway Beat
July 30, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Chelsea Heights School
Rock and Roll Forever
July 30, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Dr. MLK Jr. School Complex
&
New York Avenue School
Piirates 2
July 30, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Pennsylvania Avenue School
&
Uptown School Complex
101 Dalmations Kids
July 30, 2025
9:30 a.m.

Richmond Avenue School
Welcome to the Jungle
July 30, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Sovereign Avenue School
Goldie Locks
and the three Bears (K-2)
Character Matters (3-7)
July 30, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Texas Avenue School
Goal
July 30, 2025
11:00 a.m.

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Atlantic City High School
Freshman Orientation
August 27, 2025
1:00 p.m.

Kindergarten Orientation
(Check Your Local School)
August 28, 2025
10:30 a.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Dr. La'Quetta S. Small
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Atlantic City Public Schools Community,

We've been working diligently across the district — from making upgrades to our facilities and launching new programs to celebrating student milestones.

Your hard work has not gone unnoticed.

Our students continue to shine, our educators remain dedicated, and our schools are thriving. The summer edition of our newsletter is a chance to reflect on those successes, share important updates, and celebrate all we've accomplished together.

I hope you enjoy a safe, restful summer and take pride in being part of the Atlantic City Public Schools family. We're already looking ahead to the new school year with excitement and purpose.

To Atlantic City High School graduates and 8th grade students who are Stepping Up, congratulations! You have worked tirelessly to reach this milestone, and this is only one of many accomplishments that you will achieve as you pursue your academic goals. Please understand that life will be filled with roadblocks, detours, missing signs, stop signs and sometimes no signs. You must be prepared for all traffic diversions in your life and press on and strive for excellence despite your circumstances.

Cheers to a summer filled with success and fulfillment for everyone!!!

AC Pride! AC Strong!

WELCOME NEW BUSINESS ADMINSTRATOR TINA TRUEBA

ATLANTIC CITY - The Atlantic City Public School District proudly welcomes Tina Trueba as its new Business Administrator, bringing a wealth of experience in both education and the corporate sector to the role.

Trueba most recently served as the Executive County Business Official for the New Jersey Department of Education, where she oversaw fiscal and operational functions for 30 school districts in Ocean County. Her responsibilities included managing budgets, transportation systems, audits, and capital projects—work that sharpened her expertise in ensuring strong financial stewardship across complex organizations.

Before joining the DOE, Trueba served as the School Business Administrator and Board Secretary for the Ocean Township Board of Education. Her foundation in school finance was built on more than 20 years of experience in Fortune 100 companies, where she held leadership roles in accounting, finance, human resources, IT, and capital resource management.
Her corporate and educational backgrounds converge in a belief that fiscal responsibility is central to educational excellence.



Tina Trueba
Business Administrator

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
Tina Trueba, 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
Gabrielle Caldwell, Interim Director of Elementary Education
Shelley Williams, Director of Elementary Education

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

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.

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 Commitment:

- 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



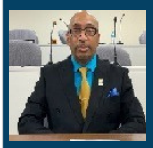
Hollisha Bridgers



Subrata Chowdhury



Geoffrey Dorsey



Torres Mayfield



Kashawn McKinley



MD (Muhammad) A. Siddik



Tracy Riley
Board Solicitor

District News

HAPPY Retirement

KURT AUSTIN - MANAGER FCILITIES
MONICA BELL - TEACHER BSI
TINA BOYER-HEDELT - SCHOOL SECRETARY
MARY BRADLEY - SCHOOL SECRETARY
GEORGIA CHARLES - TEACHER SPECIAL ED
BEATRICE CORVITTO - GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
LORY COURSEY - TEACHER GRADE 7 ELA
MICHAEL DOWNING - GROUNDSKEEPER
WILLIAM ERDMAN - TEACHER IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION
KENNETH FLOOD - PRINCIPAL
CATHERINE GIACOMO - TEACHER BSI
MICHELE GREEN - TEACHER READING RECOVERY
ALPHONSO HARRELL - TEACHER KINDERGARTEN
MELANIE HILL-WHITE - TEACHER GRADE 1
WILLIE JENKINS - MAINTENANCE WORKER
JANINE KRIZAUSKAS - TEACHER HEALTH PHYSICAL EDUCATION
HILDA LLERENA - TEACHER SPANISH
FRANK MANZO - TEACHER SCIENCE
MURIEL MCFADDEN - TEACHER SPECIAL ED
MICHAEL MCHALE - MAINTENANCE WORKER
JOSE MEDINA - CUSTODIAN
PAMELA MELVILLE - TEACHER SPECIAL ED
MARVIN MILLER - CUSTODIAN
PATRICIA MORROS-WALDRON - TEACHER BSI
SANDRA MOTLEY - TEACHER KINDERGARTEN
KAREN MOSEE-WITTOCK - TEACHER KINDERGARTEN
LYNETTE MYLAND - TEACHER GRADE 2
TINA NEMSDALE - TEACHER SPECIAL ED
ROBERT NEWMAN - TEACHER SPECIAL ED
SUSAN PENNOCK - TEACHER BSI
JANICE PLUMBO - TEACHER ENGLISH
MICHELLE PREVARD - SR. COMPUTER OPERATOR
ROBERT RAUZZINO - TEACHER GRADE 6
CELESTE RICKETTS - BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
LUZ RODRIGUEZ - PARAPROFESSIONAL PRE-K
KELLEY J. SCHAFFER - TEACHER KINDERGARTEN
JOSEPH SMITH - TEACHER SOCIAL STUDIES
ETHAN TINKLER - TEACHER SPECIAL ED
MICHELE TOURIGIAN - TEACHER GRADE 4
REUBEN WHITE - TEACHER GRADE 7-8 SCIENCE
WILLIAM WINELAND - TEACHER SPECIAL ED
ALONDRA WOODARD - TEACHER GRADE 1
LIQUN YU - TEACHER ESL

THANK YOU!



Title I Summer School Program

July 7-July 31, 2025
Monday-Thursday

Pre-K-7 (8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
8th Grade Pre-High School Program
and
ACHS (7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)

SUMMER CAMP









Email your questions, concerns, and acknowledgements to WebMaster@acboe.org

District News

New York Avenue School Gets New Windows, Bathroom Renovation





ATLANTIC CITY - New York Avenue School is being revitalized. Windows are being replaced. New flooring will be installed in the administrative offices and student bathrooms will be remodeled on the first, second and third floors. “I love the changes,” said New York Avenue School Principal Kendall Williams. The school will also receive new audio and visual equipment in the cafetorium to enhance the delivery of Visual, Performing Arts programs. The major project, he said, will be a new heating and cooling system. “I think these changes are going to make the building more inviting, not just for students, but also for staff,” Williams said. “We are heading in the right direction.

Texas Avenue School Makeover Includes Fresh Paint, New Lockers






ATLANTIC CITY - Texas Avenue School is getting a makeover. The school is being painted with red accents to match the school’s colors. Aging lockers on the third floor are being replaced. The playground area is scheduled to have turf installed. There will be furniture upgrades and eventually even a new kitchen. Principal Lina Gil said she expects the improvements to boost morale. "These projects have a significant impact on staff and students by enhancing the physical environment and sense of pride in the school community," Gil said.

District News

The Blossoming of Brighton Avenue: Community, Growth, and Cucumbers

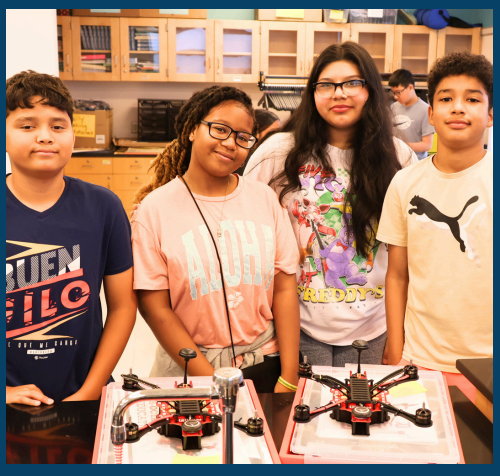






ATLANTIC CITY - Students and staff in the Brighton Avenue School summer program have turned the school's front-yard garden into a living classroom, learning patience, teamwork, and healthy habits. "We all pitch in and help," said Principal Jason Grimes. Parents, who donated soil and time, still return to lend a hand. The first harvest? Cucumbers — turned into salad by the kids themselves! "This is truly a community effort," Grimes said.

Richmond Avenue Students Take Flight with STEM Drone Program







ATLANTIC CITY - Students at Richmond Avenue School took learning to new heights this summer through a hands-on STEM drone program. From building drones with Rub iQ kits to practicing on flight simulators, students explored mechanics, teamwork, and real-world applications like roof inspections and light shows. "It helped me understand how useful drones are in life," said Laikesha Romelus. "These are the most complex drones we've ever used," said STEM instructor Nabi Chowdhury. Students learned to use hand tools during the construction process. They also learned the value of improvisation. With support from teachers and a few creative problem-solving moments, these young innovators proved that summer learning can truly take flight!

District News

New York Avenue School and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex: A Summer of Unity and Creativity





ATLANTIC CITY - New York Avenue School welcomed students and staff from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex for a joint summer program that focused on collaboration and the arts. The highlight was preparing for Pirates 2, a musical production that showcased student talent and teamwork. A special visit from the Happy Trails Petting Zoo brought joy and hands-on learning to younger students. Teachers praised the partnership, necessitated by renovations at MLK, by noting the benefits of shared resources and new experiences. The summer session emphasized creativity and unity—values that will continue to shape students long after the final curtain call.

Pennsylvania Avenue School & Uptown School Complex: Visual Performing Arts Collaboration Leads to Summer School Success





ATLANTIC CITY - Pennsylvania Avenue School and Uptown School Complex joined forces to deliver a dynamic summer school experience. With Uptown undergoing major facility upgrades, programs temporarily relocated—opening the door to meaningful collaboration. Together, the schools launched a joint Visual and Performing Arts program, featuring daily rehearsals and a combined production of 101 Dalmatians Kids. Students also explored STEM as a passion, not just a subject. Extended School Year (ESY) services continued for students with IEPs, ensuring consistency. The partnership showcases the district's commitment to innovation, collaboration, and student success—even while buildings are under construction. Matthew Lewis, Gordon Emma and Dr. Nycole Lyles-Belton, all of Pennsylvania Avenue School, worked with John Howard, Jr., of Uptown School Complex to direct the show.

District News

Sovereign Avenue School 7th Grader Directs Summer VPA Production







ATLANTIC CITY - Sovereign Avenue School seventh grader Ryan Uddoullah took center stage behind the scenes this summer, directing kindergarten through second-grade students in Goldie Locks and the Three Bears as part of the school's Visual and Performing Arts program. With support from VPA Director Zacha Andujar, Uddoullah guided his young cast with creativity, patience, and leadership. "They cooperate with each other, and they have a lot of energy," he said. Andujar praised his dedication and growth. Older students also performed Character Matters, a comical take on fairy tales. With leaders like Uddoullah, the future of the arts at Sovereign Avenue School looks bright.

Chelsea Heights School Summer VPA Program Brings 1950's to Life







ATLANTIC CITY - Chelsea Heights School students bring the 1950s to life in their summer Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) production of Rock and Roll Forever. Directed by VPA teacher Mayra Cruz, the program introduced students to classic rock-and-roll music while teaching theater fundamentals, teamwork, and public speaking. "It helps them step out of their comfort box," Cruz said. Principal James Knox praised the program's impact, noting, "It anchors students to who they are personally and enhances them academically." The final performance was designed to be a celebration of student growth, talent, and creativity—hallmarks of the district's commitment to the arts. "A lot of famous people got their start on school stages," Knox said.

District News

New Jersey Avenue School Prepped for Demolition





ATLANTIC CITY - One of the most significant projects underway this summer is the demolition of the former New Jersey Avenue School, which has been closed for more than a decade. The building originally shut its doors in 2012 when Pennsylvania Avenue School opened. Later that same year, the vacant structure was severely damaged by flooding during Hurricane Sandy, leaving it unusable. Now, the site is getting a new lease on life, Superintendent of Schools Dr. La'Quetta S. Small said. The school district is preparing to demolish the building, erected in 1925. The site will be used for the district's new administration building.

Major Upgrades Underway at Uptown School Complex







ATLANTIC CITY - Uptown School Complex is undergoing a major transformation this summer, with a series of capital improvement projects aimed at revitalizing the building and enhancing the learning environment.

Upgrades include the installation of a new roof, significant HVAC and boiler system improvements, and the replacement of interior doors—all designed to ensure safety, energy efficiency, and long-term sustainability.

"These capital improvements at Uptown School Complex reflect our district's ongoing commitment to providing safe spaces where students can learn and thrive," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. La'Quetta S. Small.

Due to construction, Uptown's summer school program has temporarily relocated to Pennsylvania Avenue School. The move has opened new doors for greater cooperation between the two schools. "I'm incredibly proud of the collaboration between our school leaders, teachers, and families to ensure that summer learning continues without disruption and that's what educational excellence is all about," Dr. Small said.

District News

Congratulations!

Atlantic County Top Student Recognition Awards Banquet
June 5, 2025





Atlantic County Teacher and Educational Services Professionals Banquet
May 27, 2025





CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

2025



Jo'Nirah Farmer	La'Shay Bright	Zoyan Alam	Joendy Viola-Pimentel	Sumiya Shahid	Selena Nguyen	Shahriyar Amaan	Tejada Usma
Chelsea Heights School	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex	New York Avenue School	Pennsylvania Avenue School	Richmond Avenue School	Sovereign Avenue School	Texas Avenue School	Uptown School Complex

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP STUDENTS

District Events



Autism Awareness Fun Day

The Gentlemen of the Shore, Inc. hosted the 12th Annual Austism Awareness *Fun Day* for ACPS students













VPS Blows Bubbles for Austism Awareness







ATLANTIC CITY - At the Venice Park School, children gathered outdoors to blow bubbles—an activity that supports sensory needs and brings smiles to many faces. "Our children have a lot of sensory needs," said Speech-Language Specialist Courtney Polistina. Jillian Harritopulos, Venice Park School's Teacher of the Year, added that early education is key to fostering empathy. "Encouraging typical students to be accepting and understanding helps," she said. April is Autism Awareness Month, and schools throughout the district hosted activities that promoted understanding and acceptance.

District News

ATLANTIC CITY HIGH SCHOOL'S TOP 10 SENIORS





#1 Faizah Faroque
Yale University

Photos Credit:
Randee Rosenfeld



#2 Ishtiak Hassain
Princeton University



#3 Tanzia Choudhury
Boston University



#4 Ishrak Hasan
New York University



#5 Tasnova Tayeba
John Hopkins University



#6 Amera Mozammel
Rutgers University



#7 John Tran
Rutgers University



#8 Alexis Gormley
Stanford University



#9 Isabella Gravely
Rutgers University



#10 Nadera Mannan
Rutgers University



Atlantic City High School Graduate Returns from Harvard University Poised to Help Others



ATLANTIC CITY — Harvard University student and Atlantic City High School graduate Sophia Mammucari is on a mission to make top-tier college education more accessible for local students. Mammucari, who applied to 18 schools and was accepted to Harvard, credits her success to early preparation and understanding the college admissions process. “Prep school students often get information that others don’t,” she said. “I wanted to share that knowledge with students like me who may not have access to it.” Mammucari, whose mother is a teacher in the Atlantic City Public Schools, said she had an outstanding experience at Harvard. She also encourages Atlantic City students to consider elite universities. “Many students think they don’t belong at a school like Harvard, but the resources and support systems are incredible,” she explained. Mammucari noted that families earning under $200,000 annually pay no tuition at Harvard due to its $53 billion endowment. Mammucari has started an initiative called The Higher Advantage, that she uses to provide free resources, one-on-one consulting, and college application guidance to help students pursue higher education. While her consulting services operate on a sliding scale, she is committed to keeping them accessible: “I want to keep it mostly free,” she said.
Mammucari said she hopes to inspire local students to aim higher. “It really is possible to go to these schools and excel,” Mammucari said.

STAFF Spotlight

District Director of the Year
Donald Harris - *Director of Secondary Education*

District Teacher of the Year
Alta Howell - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. *School Complex*

District Educational Service Professional of the Year
Ericka Chapman - *New York Avenue School*

Hidden Gem Awards
Dr. Mitea Lakins- *Administration*
Jiovanna DeBella -*Administration*
Christine Nodler - *Administration*
Anna Maria Browne - *Brighton AvenueSchool*
Kimblerly Little - *Pennsylvania Avenue School*
Dr. Joseph Bochniak - *Uptown School Complex/ Pennsylvania Avenue School*

Teacher of the Year Building Level
Kimberly Rowe - *Atlantic City High School*
Liesje Cooker - *Brighton Avenue School*
Jill Simon - *Chelsea Heights School*
Alta Howell - *Dr. MLK Jr. School Complex*
Noe Sanchez - *New York Avenue School*
Alphonso Harrell - *Pennsylvania Avenue School*
Junior Mejia - *Richmond Avenue School*
Adhan Perez - *Sovereign Avenue School*
Kailey Prendergast - *Texas Avenue School*
Rena *Kha* - *Uptown School Complex*
Jillian Harritopulos - *Venice Park School*

District Principal of the Year
Nicole Israel - *Sovereign Avenue School*

Educational Service Professional of the Year Building Level
Paula Dever- *Atlantic City High School*
Matthew Burroughs - *Brighton Avenue School*
Mayra Cruz - *Chelsea Heights School*
Jennifer Hagel - *Dr. MLK Jr. School Complex*
Ericka Chapman - *New York Avenue School*
Jennell Lopez - *Pennsylvania Avenue School*
Lauren DeMarco - *Richmond Avenue School*
Janet Torres - *Sovereign Avenue School*
Kaitlyn Hiltner - *Texas Avenue School*
Gwendolyn Watson - *Uptown School Complex*
AshleyPaisley - *Venice Park School*

Exemplary Teacher of the Year
Cecelia DiFabio - Pennsylvania Avenue *School*

Exemplary Educational Service Professional Award
Theda Allen - *Atlantic City High School*

District Vice-Principal of the Year
Cherise Burroughs - *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex*

School Secretary of the Year
Marba Davis - *ACHS*
Special Education Staff Member the Year
Shaylese Mantley - *TAS*
Safety Officer of the Year
Lakeeta Timberlake - *MLK*
Elementary Staff Member of the Year
Lisa Mirth - *CHS*
Secondary Education Staff Member of the Year
Dr.Kenyetta Pierce -*RAS*
Human Resources Staff Member of the Year
Tanee Johnson-Hatch - *Administration*
Parent Resource Center Staff Member of the Year
Naseeem Patel - *SAS*
Central Registration Staff Member of the Year
Ivelisse Lopez -*Administration*
Title I-IV Staff Member of the Year
Sunae Usyk - *Administration*
Custodian of the Year
Maurice Marshall -*NYAS*
District Maintenance Staff Member of the Year
Geronimo *Muniz* - *USC*
Operations Department Staff Member of the Year
Yvonne *Jones* - *Administration*
Information Technology Staff Member of the Year
Tracy Slattery - *Administration*
Business Department Staff Member of the Year
Donna Heller - *Administration*

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

(Newsletter produced by Mark Tyler, District Communications Specialist)