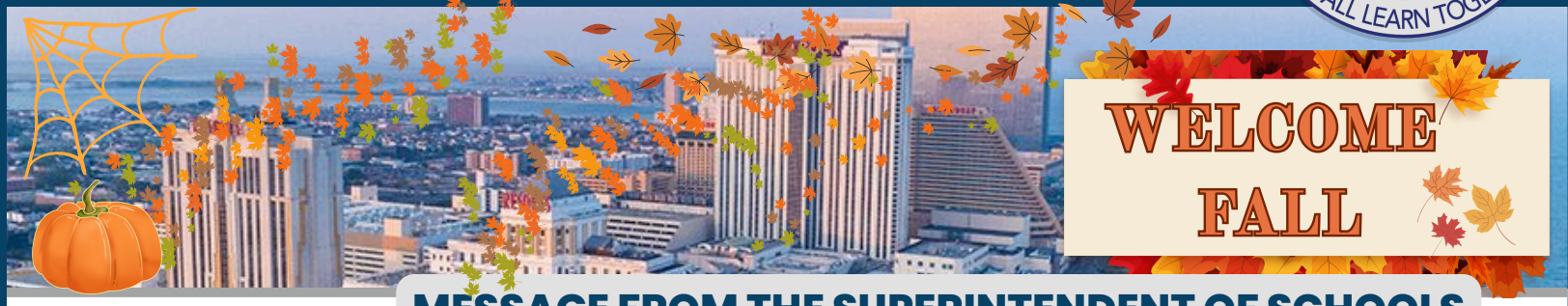
ACPS Quarterly District Newsletter

Fall 2025
Volume XI

THE SCOOP

November Edition



IMPORTANT DATES

First Marking Period Report Cards
12/4/25

Thanksgiving Recess Begins (Early Dismissal for Staff and Students)
11/26/25

Thanksgiving Recess (No School)
11/27/25 - 11/28/25

Conferences (Early Dismissal for Students)
12/9/25, 12/10/25 & 12/11/25

Winter Recess Begins (Early Dismissal for Staff and Students)
12/23/25

Winter Recess (No School)
12/24/25 - 1/2/25

Return to School
1/5/26

Professional Day (Early Dismissal for Students)
1/29/26

Presidents' Day (No School)
2/16/26

Professional Day (Early Dismissal for Students)
2/19/26

Second Marking Period Report Cards
2/20/26

(Note: Early Dismissal Times)

Atlantic City High School
12:15 p.m.

Elementary Schools
12:45 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Dr. La'Quetta S. Small
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Atlantic City Public Schools Community:

As we move further into the fall season and continue the second marking period, I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the dedication, collaboration, and care shown across our district. Our staff continues to work diligently to provide safe, supportive, and enriching learning environments where every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Our commitment to excellence remains at the forefront of our work. We are focused on empowering students to become critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, and engaged learners who are prepared for future success.

We know that the strength of Atlantic City Public Schools lies in our relationships—with our families, students, staff, community partners, and Board of Education. Together, we create opportunities that inspire learning and ensure that every student who attends our schools receives the high-quality education they deserve.

Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement. Please know that our team remains dedicated to making a positive difference in the life of every student entrusted to us. AC PRIDE! AC STRONG!

ADMINISTRATORS CONTINUE TO CHART THE DISTRICT'S PATH FORWARD



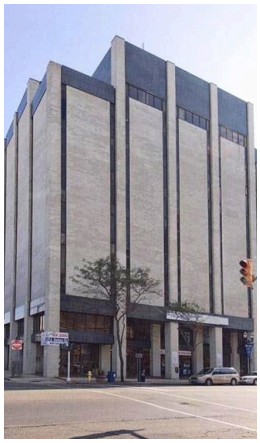
The Atlantic City Public School District held its annual Administrator's Institute from August 18–21, 2025, to chart the course for the 2025-2026 academic year.

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



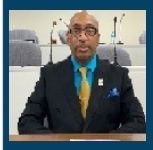
Hollisha Bridgers



Subrata Chowdhury



Geoffrey Dorsey



Torres Mayfield



Kashawn McKinley



MD (Muhammad) A. Siddik



Tracy Riley
Board Solicitor

District News

Employee of the Month Celebration: October 17, 2025



Congratulations Christine Nodler























District News

New Jersey Avenue School Site Slated for New Administration Building

NEW JERSEY AVENUE SCHOOL 1925 - 2025

One quarter of the way through the 21st century, the New Jersey Avenue School site is poised to play a new role in the Atlantic City Public Schools District. Located at the corner of New Jersey and Arctic avenues, the building first opened in the 1920s and served the community for more than 80 years. It closed in 2012 with the opening of Pennsylvania Avenue School, and later that year, Hurricane Sandy left the vacant structure severely damaged.

Now the site is preparing for a transformation. The Board of Education voted to demolish the aging building to make way for a state-of-the-art administration headquarters.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. La'Quetta S. Small, who began her career teaching at New Jersey Avenue School in 2003, called the project part of an "ongoing commitment to modernize facilities and strengthen infrastructure." Board President Shay Steele added that the district was fulfilling a mission long requested by the community.

The New Jersey Avenue School has a much older legacy. The first building on the site opened in 1881, at a time when Atlantic City and the nation were debating segregation in education. Historian Lois Puckham wrote that the building was divided with separate doors, classrooms, teachers, and play yards for white and African American children. Though small, it became one of the city's earliest centers of learning.

As the population grew, community leaders debated whether African American students would be better served in separate schools or integrated classrooms. In 1919, Board Member Dr. P.L. Hawkins argued for an all-Black school, but ultimately the district decided to open the new 1920s building to everyone.

Constructed between 1925 and 1927 at a cost of nearly $680,000, the Colonial Revival structure featured 23 classrooms, a gymnasium and auditorium that could merge into one large hall, and even a branch of the public library. Designed by prominent Atlantic City architect Howard Ackerman Stout, the school was hailed as the "last word in modern construction" at the time.

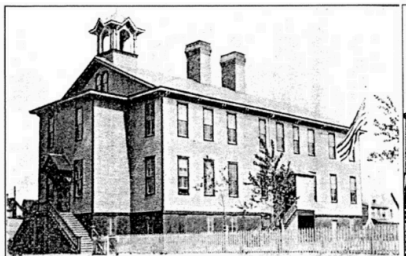


For decades, New Jersey Avenue School was more than classroom space. It hosted conventions, cultural programs, and countless community gatherings while educating generations of children. Although the historic building will soon be gone, its legacy of service will continue as the district redevelops the site to house its new administration building—ensuring it remains a cornerstone of Atlantic City's educational future.

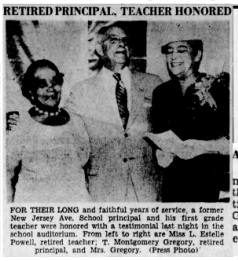
By Mark Tyler, District Communications Specialist
September 24, 2025

New Jersey Avenue School Fast Facts

- Location: Corner of New Jersey & Arctic avenues, Atlantic City
- Original Site Purchased: 1880
- First School Opened: 1881, four-room building, cost $3,295
- New Building Constructed: 1925–1927
- Architect: Howard Ackerman Stout, Colonial Revival design
- Principal: T. Montgomery Gregory
- School Song: "To You We Sing New Jersey" words and music written by Anna Land Butler, 1929
- Original Song: "The Spirit of New Jersey" words and music written by Joseph Jacobs, 1927
- School Colors: Purple and White
- School Mascot: Bulldog
- Capacity: 23 classrooms, 900+ students
- Unique Features: Auditorium & gymnasium merged into one hall; public library branch inside
- $ Construction Cost (1927): $679,641.07
- Community Role: Hub for education, conventions, cultural & civic events
- Closed: 2012 (replaced by Pennsylvania Avenue School)
- Damaged: Hurricane Sandy flooding, 2012
- Future Use: Demolition for new ACPS administration building







RETIRED PRINCIPAL, TEACHER HONORED

FOR THEIR LONG and faithful years of service, a former New Jersey Ave. School principal and his first grade teacher were honored with a testimonial last night in the school auditorium. From left to right are Miss L. Estelle Powell, retired teacher; T. Montgomery Gregory, retired principal, and Mrs. Gregory. (Press Photo)



!! Northside Residents !!

On Thurs., July 6th, and On July 14, 2 to 7 P. M. At Bader Field Airport

SEE THE AIRPLANE

TO BE USED IN THE

Coast to Coast Flight

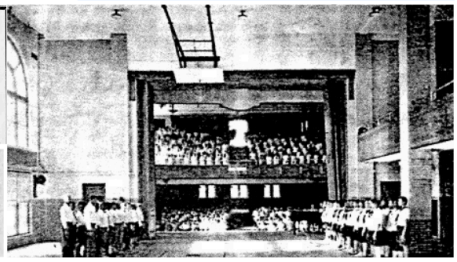
To Be Made This Month Solely Through the Efforts of THE COLORED RACE

Fly WITH YOUR RACE PILOTS $1.00 AND UP

Community and Lighthouse Taxicabs will leave the Y. M. C. A., New Jersey Ave. School, West Side School and Union Temple

Annual Revue

The pupils of the New Jersey avenue school are preparing to give their annual revue under the direction of Principal T. Montgomery Gregory and his teachers in the auditorium of the school, Friday evening, March 21.



New Administration Building Renderings





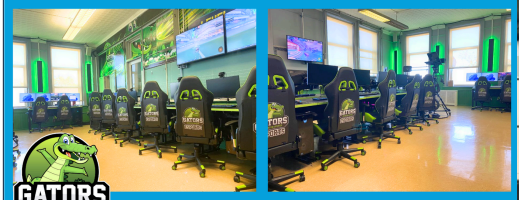
District News

The Atlantic City Public Schools Launched the First District-wide Esports program in the nation on October 17, 2025!







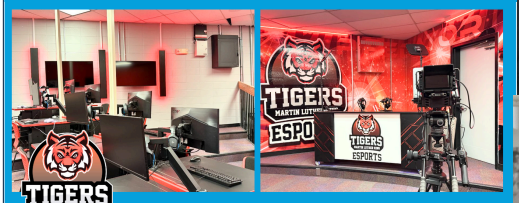


BRIGHTON AVENUE SCHOOL - GATORS





CHELSEA HEIGHTS SCHOOL - CHEETAHS



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SCHOOL - TIGERS





NEW YORK AVENUE SCHOOL - KNIGHTS

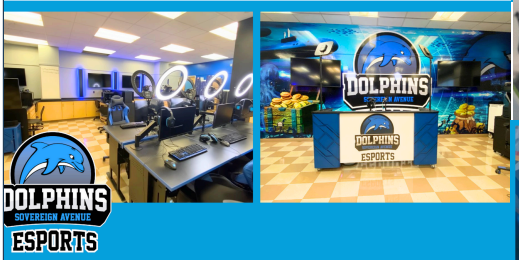


NEW YORK AVENUE SCHOOL - KNIGHTS





RICHMOND AVENUE SCHOOL - STING RAYS



SOVEREIGN AVENUE SCHOOL - DOLPHINS





UPTOWN SCHOOL COMPLEX - HORNETS





TEXAS AVENUE SCHOOL - STAR CATS







FALL CONVOCATION











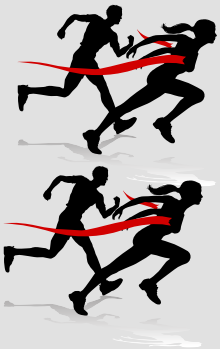


ELEMENTARY FALL SPORTS

New York Avenue School, Richmond Avenue School, Uptown School Complex, Texas Avenue School Won Cross-Country Championships in a Show of Resilience, Strength and Endurance





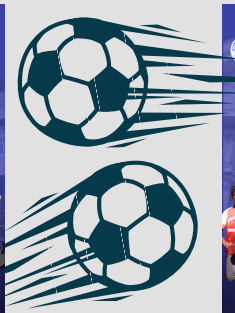





Richmond Avenue School, Sovereign Avenue School, Texas Avenue School Crowned Soccer Champions










October 2025
National Principals Month



Donald Harris, Atlantic City High School
Jason Grimes, Brighton Avenue School
James Knox, Chelsea Heights School
Jodi Burroughs, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr School Complex / Venice Park School
Kendall Williams, New York Avenue School
Thomas Biggins, Pennsylvania Avenue School
Shontai Nicholson, Richmond Avenue School
Nicole Israel, Sovereign Avenue School
Lina Gil, Texas Avenue School
Dr. Ananda Davis-Wright, Uptown School Complex

Thank You For All That You Do!

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Think Pink

Early Detection
Self-Testing
Regular Exams

Elementary School News

Uptown School Complex celebrated Back to School Night on Thursday, September 25, 2025

Uptown School Complex Supported Red Ribbon Week







Elementary School News

Chelsea Heights School Back-to-School Night

Chelsea Heights School celebrated Back to School Night on Thursday, September 25, 2025







New York Avenue Taught Fire Prevention

New York Avenue School celebrated Fire Prevention Week with the Atlantic City Public Schools Early Childhood Department on Tuesday, October 21, 2025







Texas Avenue School Celebrated Hispanic Heritage

Texas Avenue School celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by Focusing on various cultures including: Columbia, Chile, Nicaragua and Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) from Mexico







Sovereign Avenue School Embraced Dads Take Your Child to School Day

Fathers and Father-Figures flocked to Sovereign Avenue School on Thursday, September 19, 2025, marking the annual "Dads Take Your Child to School Day," which originated in New York state



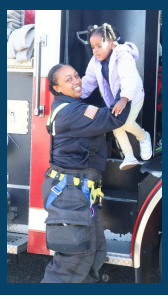


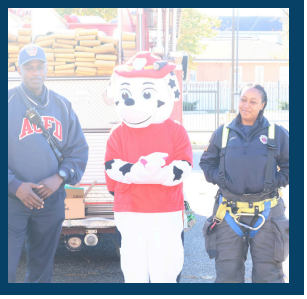


Elementary School News

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School Complex

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School Complex celebrated Fire Prevention Week with the Atlantic City Public Schools Early Childhood Department on Tuesday, October 21, 2025



Venice Park School Fire Prevention

On Friday, October 24, 2025, the Atlantic City Fire Department visited Venice Park School to support the Atlantic City Public Schools Early Childhood Department's Fire Prevention Week activities





Pennsylvania Avenue School Hosted Waffles With the Nurse

On Wednesday, October 22, 2025, the Atlantic City Public Schools Early Childhood Department hosted a workshop event at Pennsylvania Avenue School: Waffles with the Nurse

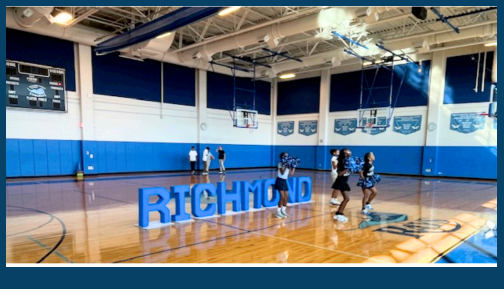




Richmond Avenue School I-Ready Pep Rally

Richmond Avenue School Held an I-Ready Pep Rally to Prepare Students for the academic year







Elementary School News

BRIGHTON AVENUE SCHOOL

Fall Fest

Although the rain drove festival-goers inside, the building was filled with smiles as many came in to support the school community and share available resources









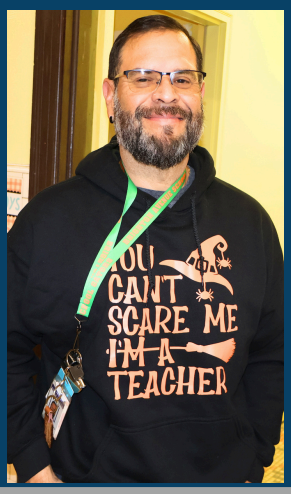


















Email your questions, concerns, and acknowledgements to WebMaster@acboe.org

Atlantic City High School News

A Day in the Life of a Viking: Atlantic City High School Urges 8th Graders to See For Themselves

ATLANTIC CITY — Atlantic City High School is rolling out the red carpet for eighth graders through its Viking for a Day program — an immersive experience that gives middle school students a firsthand look at high school life.

"Viking for a Day is an opportunity," said Guidance Counselor Chaia Jennings. "We're not just telling them about Atlantic City High School. They get to see it, and we hope that they take away a little bit of Viking Pride."

Students are greeted by cheerleaders, watch a ROTC presentation, and participate in a Social Emotional Learning activity before touring the school with student ambassadors. They visit Career and Technical Education programs such as TV Production, Culinary Arts, and STEM, and explore the AtlantiCare Teen Center, SEL Lab, and Esports lab.

Jennings said the program helps correct misconceptions. "Parents sometimes inaccurately think we are not academically competitive," she said. "But we have some of the best honors and AP classes, and students who come here by choice."







School	Date
Chelsea Heights School	Tuesday, October 21, 2025
New York Avenue School	Monday, October 27, 2025
Texas Avenue School	Monday, November 10, 2025
Ventnor Middle School Tighe School Brigantine Community School	Monday, December 1, 2025
Dr. MLK, Jr. School Complex	Wednesday, December 17, 2025
Richmond Avenue School	Thursday, January 8, 2026
Sovereign Avenue School	Wednesday, January 14, 2026
Uptown School Complex	Wednesday, January 21, 2026
Pennsylvania Avenue School	Tuesday, January 27, 2026

At a Glance: Viking for a Day

Dates: October 21, 2025 – January 27, 2026

- **Hosted by: Atlantic City High School Guidance Department**
- **Activities: School tours, classroom visits, CTE demonstrations, ROTC and cheer performances, SEL sessions**
- **Who Can Attend: 8th graders from district and sending schools, plus individual shadow day participants**
-
- **Contact: Atlantic City High School Guidance Office**

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRAVEL SPORTS
MIDDLE SCHOOL

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

INTEREST MEETING & TRYOUTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025
4:30 P.M.

REGISTER NOW!

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Complex School
1700 Marmora Ave, Atlantic City, NJ 08401

PARENTS AND STUDENT-ATHLETES SHOULD ATTEND THE MEETING FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION, TRYOUT DATES, AND EXPECTIONS FOR THE PROGRAM.

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ELEMENTARY SPORTS

COMPETITIVE SWIM PROGRAM

BOYS & GIRLS

@ATLANTICCITYATHLETICS

MEETING DATE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025
3:15 PM - 4:45 PM
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SCHOOL COMPLEX
1700 MARMORA AVE, ATLANTIC CITY, NJ 08401

Register Now

MORE INFORMATION :
khornbaker@acboe.org
jlantz@acboe.org

ATLANTIC CITY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY YOUTH SERVICES DEPT.

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP

- MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.
- EARN VOLUNTEER HOURS.
- MEET NEW PEOPLE.

VOLUNTEER AT THE LIBRARY

The library invites teenagers ages 13-18 to join the Teen Advisory Group (TAG). TAG volunteers assist library staff, and provide input about the types of library programs and materials teens want and need. TAG volunteer experience helps strengthen job resumes, and college and scholarship applications.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING OR LEARNING MORE?
Scan the QR code and fill out the online interest form, visit the Main Library Youth Services desk or call (609) 345-2269, ext. 3050.

Atlantic City Free Public Library
A service of the City of Atlantic City
1 North Tennessee Ave. Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Volunteer Interest Online Form

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRAVEL SPORTS
MIDDLE SCHOOL

BOYS' BASKETBALL

INTEREST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025 I 5:00 P.M.

REGISTER NOW!

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Complex School
1700 Marmora Ave, Atlantic City, NJ 08401

PARENTS AND STUDENT-ATHLETES SHOULD ATTEND THE MEETING FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION, TRYOUT DATES, AND EXPECTIONS FOR THE PROGRAM.