



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

JANUARY 29, 2026 | VOL. 21

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

I hope that you and your loved ones are safe following the winter storm that recently passed through our area. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our facilities team, who braved the elements and worked tirelessly to ensure that all of our schools were cleared and ready for the safe return of staff and students. I would also like to thank our district staff for their coordinated efforts in keeping our school communities informed in a timely and efficient manner.

While the inclement weather brought significant challenges, the unity of our district was on full display, through the dedication of those who prepared our buildings and cooperation of the families we serve.



Building a Stronger Future through Family Collaboration

As you may have read last week, Paterson Public Schools will continue implementing its [Middle School Cohort model](#) at the start of the 2026-2027 school year. Phase 3 of this work marks an important step forward in our ongoing efforts to ensure all students receive an equitable, high-quality education.

As students re-register to ensure appropriate placement in neighborhood schools, clear communication with families during this critical process will remain a top priority. Families will receive individualized support as needed and we will invite families to upcoming Community Forums to learn more and ask questions. Dates will be shared soon. While we recognize that change can be difficult, Paterson Public Schools remains committed to supporting students and families every step of the way.

Guided by our shared purpose of "Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow", our district continues to focus on creating learning environments that prepare every student to thrive in an ever-evolving world. Phase 3 of the Middle School Cohort model is directly aligned with this vision and moves us forward towards establishing school communities that meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of Paterson's students.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow



Paterson Public Schools to Continue Middle School Model for 2026–2027 School Year



Paterson Public Schools will continue the implementation of its Middle School Cohort model as part of Phase 3 of the district's long-term school year transition plan, beginning in the 2026–2027 school year.

The continuation follows a comprehensive review of elementary and middle school programs and aligns with the district's Long-Range Facilities Plan, which is designed to ensure equitable access to high-quality educational opportunities across all neighborhoods while improving operational sustainability.

To read the press release, please visit our [website](#).

DR. NEWELL VISITS SCHOOL NO. 5



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell stopped by School No. 5 on January 22 where teachers and students were working hard and looking to finish the second marking period on a great note. Dr. Newell had the pleasure to meet with Principal Richard Sanducci, visit several classrooms, and speak to students about projects they were completing.

FIREFIGHTING, ROBOTICS PROFESSIONALS VISIT EASTSIDE JROTC



Eastside High School's JROTC program recently had the honor of welcoming two esteemed guests, Paterson firefighter Frank Lozada and professional drone and robotics engineer Mr. Gilman Choudhury. Both spoke to the cadets about their professional journeys and life experiences.

A United States military veteran and currently the president of the Paterson Firefighter Association, Mr. Lozada spoke proudly about being one of the first cadets to join the JROTC program when it was introduced at Eastside High School. During his visit, he expressed how impressed he was by the cadets' respect, discipline, and professionalism in the classroom. He also reflected on how much the program has grown over the years and emphasized the many benefits of joining the military, including strong career opportunities, educational support, and long-term benefits that can positively shape a person's future.

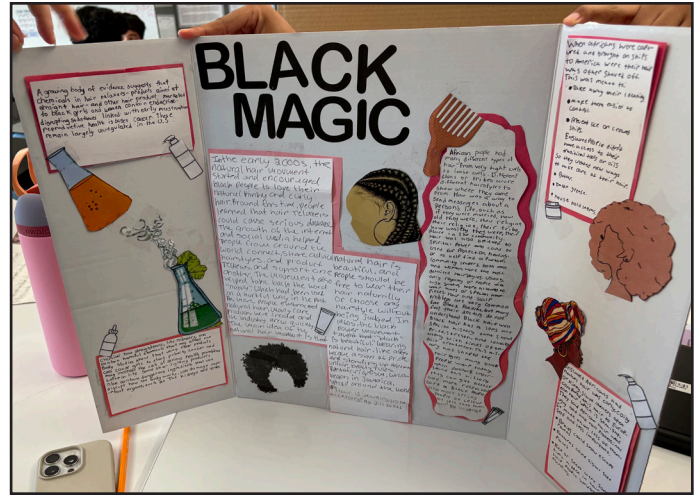
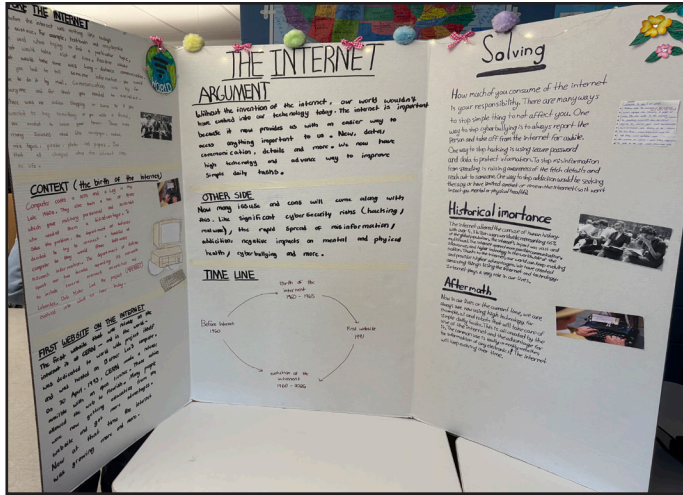
Mr. Choudhury explained how drones function and shared the basics of safe, responsible drone operation. Additionally, he explained that flying drones requires a special FAA license. He reassured the cadets that, as members of the JROTC program, they already possess these qualities and are more than qualified to pursue careers in this field. Major Luis Barraza, Command Sergeant Major Ricardo Garcia, and Command Sergeant Major Wilson Ormazza thanked both guests for presenting to the JROTC Battalion and presented both with a Battalion Challenge Coin.

PATERSON P-TECH'S PORTABLE PLANETARIUM LANDS AT CHARLES J. RILEY/SCHOOL NO. 9



Charles J. Riley/School No. 9 students were recently thrilled to explore the Paterson P-Tech portable planetarium inside their school. The hands-on experience allowed 2nd and 3rd grade students to analyze the night sky, learn about the sun, travel to the moon, and visit planets, all without leaving Paterson.

JATS 8TH GRADE HISTORY STUDENTS PRESENT FOR NATIONAL HISTORY DAY



This year, 8th grade history students at Joseph A. Taub School participated in National History Day. Led by Mr. James McMullan and Mr. Caleb Finesurrey, National History Day is a project-based competition in which students select a history-related topic, conduct extensive research, and present their findings through an exhibit, paper, documentary, or performance.

An internal classroom competition was held on January 23. During the event, each student or group formally presented their project to their classmates and teachers. Students were confident about explaining their project, answered any questions posed to them by the judges, and provided evidence that supported their arguments.

The top project from each of the classes will compete in the North Jersey Regional Competition, where they will represent the school and demonstrate their creativity, research skills, and enthusiasm for history.



AHA STUDENTS RECEIVE NEW COATS COURTESY OF OPERATION WARM

Alexander Hamilton Academy students are equipped for the cold as non-profit Operation Warm generously donated more than 200 coats to the school's young learners. Ms. Sherri Rothstein spearheaded the efforts to organize this special donation.



EASTSIDE STUDENT-ATHLETE PRESENTED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Eastside High School girls basketball student-athlete Alexis Chambers was presented the academic achievement award at the MLK Showcase on January 19. Alexis has a 3.7 GPA, is the president of the class of 2027, and is a member of the National Honor Society.



PPS IN THE NEWS

Paterson P-Tech Teacher Carlos Miranda Wins Teaching America250 Award for Innovative Civic Project
January 27, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

Paterson Public Schools to Continue Middle School Model for 2026-2027 School Year
January 23, 2026

STAFF REMINDER

DISTRICT WELCOMES SCHOOLSRING AS NEW JOB APPLICATION PLATFORM

Human Resources is pleased to announce the official launch of SchoolSpring as the district's new online job application platform. Through this new platform, district administration will post and manage job applications for all teaching and staffing positions, providing for a more streamlined experience for both applicants and hiring managers.

If you have any questions, please contact Human Resources at humanresources@paterson.k12.nj.us



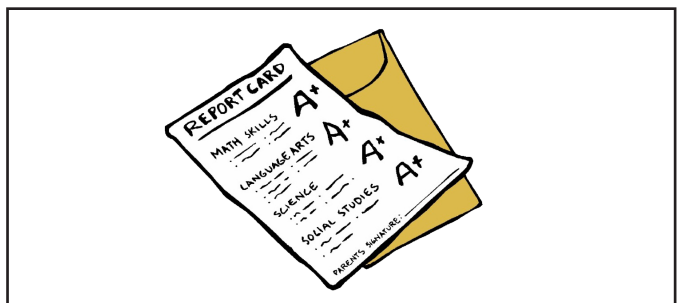
PARENT REMINDER

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR REPORT CARD PARENT CONFERENCES

Families are highly encouraged to attend Report Card Parent Conferences to meet with teachers and ask questions about their young learner's academic performance. Report Card Parent Conferences will take place on the following dates:

February 10th, 4:30-6:30 PM: High Schools (Grades 9-12), Joseph A. Taub School, Dr. Hani Awadallah School, New Roberto Clemente School

February 12th, 4:30-6:30 PM: Grades PreK-8



MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

January 30. 2nd Marking Period Ends

[Full 2025-2026 School Calendar Here](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, February 4th, 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, February 11th. 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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