



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

FEBRUARY 26, 2026 | VOL. 25

PPS CELEBRATES CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH



EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL CTE STAFF

Left to right: (Kneeling) Cosmo Amato - Culinary, Chris Simmermon - Culinary, Santiago Munoz Valez - Auto Shop, Vidal Rodriguez - Marketing.

(Standing) Herlan Avella - Business, Sylvia Ligon - Marketing, Pascal Beric - Culinary Arts, Mahboubeh "Mah" Sabbaghi - Culinary Arts, Tranace Littlejohn - Cosmetology, Ayanna DeFreese - Pathway Associate Supervisor, Nekia Colcloughly - Cosmetology, Jimena Gutierrez - Cosmetology, Emily Ortiz - Cosmetology, Edward Arabia-Meyer - Auto Shop, CSM Ricardo Garcia - JROTC, Susan Little - Law and Public Safety, Justin Rogoff - Pathway Associate Supervisor, Maj. Luis Barraza - JROTC

Not Pictured: Trenace Ruffin - Cosmetology, CSM Wilson Ormaza - JROTC, Yesenia Acosta - Culinary, Corey Rich - Law and Public Safety



JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL CTE STAFF

Left to right: Katharine Meza - Business, Ian Leith - Construction, John Sebastian - Construction, Edwin Hernandez - Pathway Associate Supervisor, Emilio Mariano - Construction, Jose Vasquez - Business, David Jenisch - Carpentry, Nicole Capouet - Business, Ryan Martin - Business, Diane Pires - Business, Thomas Springsteen - Communications, Yvette Williams - Business, Carlos Rios - Communications, Amy Rios - Education & Training

ROSA L. PARKS SCHOOL OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS CTE STAFF

Not Pictured: Bettina Peets - Teacher Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts, Thomas Zemon - Drama

February marks the official observance of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, a dedicated time to recognize the profound impact of Paterson Public Schools' CTE initiatives in equipping students for post-secondary success and professional excellence. Paterson Public Schools' CTE programs provide hands-on learning experiences that connect academic knowledge and real-world skills in high-demand fields.

The district honors the achievements of its students, educators, and industry partners who work together to ensure that students graduate career-ready, confident, and equipped for the future. It recognizes its dedicated Pathway Supervisors, who oversee and strengthen each program, and its CTE teachers, who bring industry expertise into the classroom every day and prepare Paterson's students to succeed in their chosen fields. We are proud of the innovative opportunities our schools provide to ensure every student is prepared for post-secondary success.

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

As we move through 2025-2026 academic year, I want to reaffirm the district's unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of every person who enters our buildings. Our students remain at the center of every decision we make, and we believe that learning is best supported in environments where children feel supported, secure, and valued.



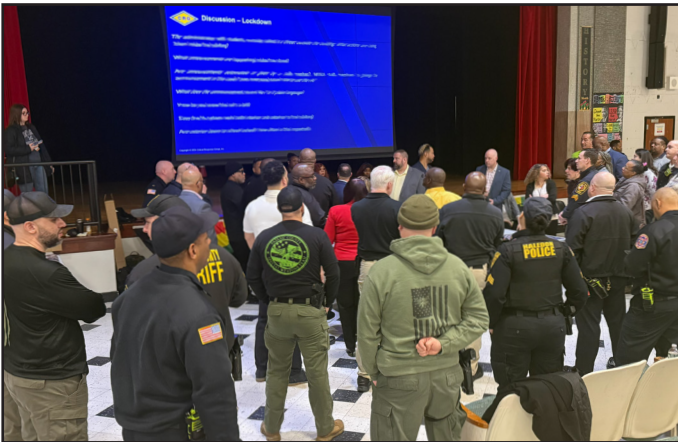
Earlier this month, the district hosted a multi-agency tabletop exercise at John F. Kennedy High School focused on coordination and preparedness. The session brought together district administration, school leadership, local law enforcement, EMS, Fire, and public safety partners to strengthen coordinated emergency response in a school setting. Facilitated by Critical Response Group, the exercise supported our continued efforts to ensure clear, consistent, and coordinated practices across the district.

I am also pleased to share highlights from data presented by Director of School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Dalton Price at the last Board of Education meeting. As of February 11, the district is on pace to see a decrease in reported incidents in the School Safety Data System compared to the 2024-2025 school year. This progress reflects the collective efforts of our students and staff, as well as our emphasis on positive school culture. We remain focused on prevention, early intervention, and maintaining supportive learning environments across all schools.

We will continue to review and strengthen our practices to ensure our schools remain welcoming, supportive places for teaching and learning. Thank you for your continued trust as we work together to support the success of every student.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



MONTHLY PRINCIPALS MEETING TACKLES NEW FRONTIERS IN INSTRUCTION



Paterson Public Schools' principals gathered for their monthly meeting at Central Office on February 20 to discuss innovative ideas and practices that could potentially help reimagine the classroom experience. Supervisor of Instructional Technology Dr. Hafiz Saleem presented an overview of Brisk AI, a free AI-powered Google Chrome extension designed for educators to save time by automating tasks directly within Google Chrome, Docs, Slides, and Classroom.

Principals also heard from Dr. Lara Paparo and Dr. Betty Chandy from the University of Pennsylvania, who presented outcomes pertaining to their Pioneering AI in School Systems (PASS) program. These presentations equipped our principals with practical strategies to enhance instructional efficiency and redefine the possibilities of the modern classroom.

C.O.P.E. PROGRAM CONTINUES WORK WITH SCHOOL 10 AND NRC



Students from School 10 and New Roberto Clemente School recently completed its second of four monthly workshops with Montclair State University's Community Organizing for Prevention and Empowerment (C.O.P.E.) Program. The workshops are designed to equip students with knowledge, critical thinking skills, and healthy decision-making strategies.

Student Assistance Coordinators from School 10 and New Roberto Clemente fostered the partnership between the schools and the C.O.P.E Program. C.O.P.E. has facilitated and will continue to host a series of workshops designed to address critical areas of student and community wellness:

January: The Potential of the Brain – an exploration of cognitive development

February: Legal Doesn't Always Mean Safe – an examination of the health and social implications of legalized substances.

April: If You Are Vaped In – a session focused on the risks and prevention of electronic nicotine delivery systems

May: Stress and Coping Skills – practical strategies for enhancing mental resilience

UPDATED 2025-2026 DISTRICT CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE



PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

JULY 2025 (Days=19 Staff)

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

- 4 Independence Day – District Closed
- 7 Summer School Begins
- 11 District Closed – Summer Hours
- 18 District Closed – Summer Hours
- 25 District Closed – Summer Hours

AUGUST 2025 (Days=18 Staff)

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

- 1 District Closed – Summer Hours
- 8 District Closed – Summer Hours
- 15 District Closed – Summer Hours
- 19-21 Superintendent's Institute
- 26-28 New Teacher Orientation
- 29 1:00pm Dismissal (District)

SEPTEMBER 2025 (Days=21 Staff/19 Students)

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

- 1 Labor Day – District Closed
- 2-3 Full Day Staff PD/No Students
- 4 Opening Day for Students
- 4-5 1:00pm Student Dismissal/Staff PD
- 16 Back-to-School Night 6-8pm (PreK-8)
- 18 Back-to-School Night 6-8pm (Grades 9-12)
- Back-to-School Night 6-8pm (JAT, NRC, DHA)

OCTOBER 2025 (Days=21 Staff & Students)

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

- 2 Yom Kippur – District Closed
- 10 Progress Reports (Grades PreK-12)
- 13 Italian Heritage Day/
Indigenous People Day – District Closed
- 17 1:00pm Student Dismissal/Staff PD

NOVEMBER 2025 (Days=15 Staff/14 Students)

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

- 4 Full Day Staff PD/No Students
- 6-7 NJEA Convention – Schools Closed
- 7 District Closed
- 11 Veterans' Day – District Closed
- 14 1st Marking Period Ends
- 26 1:00pm Student/1:20pm Staff Dismissal
- 27-28 Thanksgiving – District Closed

DECEMBER 2025 (Days=17 Staff & Students)

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

- 2 Report Card Parent Conferences
5:30-7:30pm (JAT, NRC, DHA, Grades 9-12)
- 4 Report Card Parent Conferences
5:30-7:30pm (Grades PreK-8)
- 12 1:00pm Student Dismissal/Staff PD
- 19 Progress Reports (Grades PreK-12)
- 23 1:00pm Student/1:20pm Staff Dismissal
- 24-31 Winter Recess – District Closed

JANUARY 2026 (Days=19 Staff & Students)

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

- 1-2 Winter Recess – District Closed
- 16 1:00pm Student Dismissal/Staff PD
- 19 MLK, Jr. Birthday – District Closed
- 30 2nd Marking Period Ends

FEBRUARY 2026 (Days=18 Staff & Students)

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

- 6 1:00pm Student Dismissal/Staff PD
- 10 Report Card Parent Conferences
4:30-6:30pm (JAT, NRC, DHA, Grades 9-12)
- 12 Report Card Parent Conferences
4:30-6:30pm (Grades PreK-8)
- 13 1:00pm Student/1:20pm Staff Dismissal
- 16-17 Winter Break – District Closed

MARCH 2026 (Days=21 Staff & Students)

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

- 3 Progress Reports (Grades PreK-12)
- 4 1:00pm Student Dismissal/Staff PD
- 13 1:00pm Students & PEA Staff Dismissal
- 20 Eid Al Fitr (Obsv.) – District Closed

APRIL 2026 (Days=16 Staff & Students)

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

- 1 3rd Marking Period Ends
- 2 1:00pm Student/1:20pm Staff Dismissal
- 3 Good Friday – District Closed
- 6-10 Spring Break – District Closed
- 21 Report Card Parent Conferences
5:30-7:30pm (Grades PreK-8)
- 23 Report Card Parent Conferences
5:30-7:30pm (JAT, NRC, DHA, Grades 9-12)
- 24 1:00pm Student Dismissal/Staff PD

MAY 2026 (Days=20 Staff & Students)

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

- 8 Progress Reports (Grades PreK-12)
- 1:00pm Student Dismissal/Staff PD
- 22 1:00pm Students & PEA Staff Dismissal
- 25 Memorial Day – District Closed

JUNE 2026 (Days=16 Staff/15 Students)

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

- 5 1:00pm Student Dismissal/Staff PD
- 12 4th Marking Period Ends
- 19 Juneteenth – District Closed
- 26 *Last Day for Students
- 26 *High School Graduation Day
- 29 *Last Day for Staff (9am-12pm)

SUMMARY OF DAYS (10 Months)

	Staff	Students
September	21	19
October	21	21
November	15	14
December	17	17
January	19	19
February	18	18
March	21	21
April	16	16
May	20	20
June	16	15
TOTAL	184	180

*If there are no emergency and/or weather-related school closures, the last day of school for students will be June 22, 2026; last day for staff will be June 23, 2026.

In the event the district has an emergency and/or weather-related closure, specific make-up days have been designated as per the following:

- Make-Up Day #1 – June 23, 2026 (1/26/26)
- Make-Up Day #2 – June 24, 2026 (1/27/26)
- Make-Up Day #3 – June 25, 2026 (2/23/26)
- Make-Up Day #4 – June 26, 2026 (2/24/26)

EMERGENCY CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Information regarding emergency school closures during inclement weather may be obtained as per the following:

Internet – Visit www.paterson.k12.nj.us, or check the Paterson Public Schools Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter pages.

Radio Station – Tune into 1010 WINS

Television Stations

- Channel 2 – WCBS
- Channel 4 – WNBC
- Channel 5 – FOX 5 News
- Channel 7 – WABC
- Cable Channel 12 – News 12 New Jersey
- Channel 41 – Univision

DELAYED OPENING/EARLY DISMISSAL:

The district will implement a delayed opening schedule (school will begin at 9:45am) when either weather or other emergent conditions are imminent. A delayed opening will allow students and district staff to arrive at their school locations in a timely and safe manner. It will also provide the district with additional time to reconsider full closure based on developing weather conditions and the forecast.

During an early dismissal, students will be dismissed at 1:00pm, and staff will be dismissed per the Weather Emergency Procedures guidelines which are on the district's website.

2025-2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

	WORKSHOP	REGULAR
August	6	13
September	3	10
October	1	8
November	5	12
December	3	10
January	7 (Organization Meeting)	
February	4	11
March	4	11
April	1	15
May	6	13
June	3	10

LEGEND

34	District Closed
1	Schools Closed
2	Early Dismissal: 1:00pm Students & PEA Staff
4	Early Dismissal: 1:00pm Students/1:20pm Staff
10	1:00pm Dismissal for Students/Staff PD
3	Full Day PD for Staff/No Students
3	Administrators' Institute
3	New Teacher Orientation
1	*Staff Only in Attendance
1	Early Dismissal - District

*Subject to change | 2/25/26

Please take time to review the updated district calendar. The updated calendar is now available to view and download on the district [website](#).

SCHOOL 10 ENHANCES STUDENT WELLNESS WITH NJ4S PARTNERSHIP

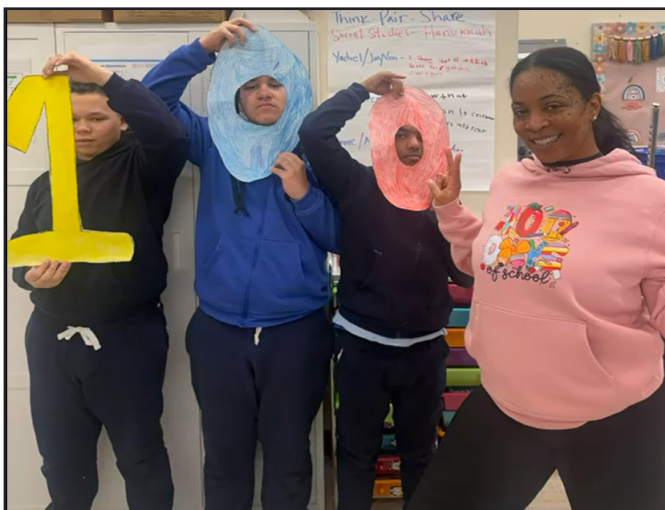


School 10 has partnered with NJ4S to deliver impactful, grade-level workshops that are developmentally tailored to meet students' unique social and emotional needs. NJ4S is a state-funded initiative providing free in-school mental health and wellness services. February's workshop saw K-5 students participate in emotional regulation workshops to strengthen their self-management and coping strategies. In addition to student workshops, NJ4S has also facilitated professional development sessions for School 10 staff. The PD sessions have enhanced the staff's collective ability to support student wellness.



PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATES 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

Schools across the district celebrated the 100th day of school in a variety of fun and creative ways. Norman S. Weir School had a 100-second dance party, Maria Magda O'Keefe School celebrated with writing, counting, and STEM activities, and students from Charles J. Riley School/School 9 fashioned "100-year old" looks.



HONORING HERITAGE AND UNITY AT EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Eastside High School's American Islamic Heritage Show that took place on January 30 was a celebration of faith, culture, creativity, and the contributions of Muslim Americans. The event focused on pride, learning, and unity, showcasing the diversity within the school community. The program left attendees inspired by the rich cultural tapestry that defines the Eastside High School community.



PAWS FOR WELLNESS LIFTS UP STUDENTS AT SCHOOL 10

School 10 is proud to introduce Paws for Wellness, an innovative initiative launched by its Student Assistance Coordinator and led by Officer Daniela and Officer Dave. Rooted in Social-Emotional Learning, this prevention-focused program encourages students to develop healthy coping mechanisms and foster positive social connections.



EASTSIDE STUDENTS LEAD AND EXCEL AT WINTER4KIDS

Eastside High School students Starling A., Lender P., Yaniel R., and Yulian T. demonstrated exceptional leadership by volunteering for a full day on February 22 with Winter4Kids, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding youth access to winter sports and outdoor education. The students facilitated mountain-based learning activities throughout the day and passed their passion for skiing onto others.



PARENT REMINDERS

RE-REGISTRATION FOR NSW AND SCHOOL 1 STUDENTS OPENS MARCH 2

Families of Norman S. Weir School and School 1 students must re-register their child for the 2026-2027 school year. Failure to re-register will result in your child being unenrolled from Paterson Public Schools. For more information regarding re-registration, please view the [informational flyer](#).

Re-Registration
ATTENTION PARENTS WITH CHILDREN ATTENDING:
Norman S. Weir & School 1

RE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO SECURE ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR AT YOUR CHILD'S HOME SCHOOL. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT RE-REGISTER WILL NOT BE ENROLLED FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR. NORMAN S. WEIR WILL BE REPURPOSED FOR FUTURE USE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISTRICT'S NEEDS.

DATES				
Monday March 2 1PM-6PM	Tuesday March 3 1PM-6PM	Wednesday March 4 1PM-6PM	Thursday March 5 1PM-6PM	Saturday March 7 9AM-1PM

MAKE-UP DATES

Monday March 9 8AM-12PM	Tuesday March 10 8AM-12PM	Wednesday March 11 8AM-12PM	Thursday March 12 8AM-12PM
-------------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------

LEARN MORE ABOUT NEW JERSEY'S SUMMER EBT PROGRAM

Updated information on New Jersey's Summer EBT program can now be found on the Food Services page on our [website](#). Summer EBT is a federal program to help families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer.

USDA Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Need a little help feeding your kids when school is out for summer?

Learn how the Summer EBT Program can help you!

Summer EBT is a federal program to help families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer. Families will receive \$120 for each eligible child to buy groceries during the summer. Children who receive Summer EBT benefits can still participate in other summer meal programs. Receiving benefits will not affect children or families' immigration status.

How does Summer EBT work?

In New Jersey, Summer EBT benefits will be loaded onto an EBT card and mailed to your home. If eligible, you can use the benefits to buy food like fruits, vegetables, meat, whole grains, and dairy at grocery stores, farmers markets, and other places that accept WIC or SNAP EBT benefits. Summer EBT is a convenient way for you to help your children thrive.

Recently moved? Or do one of these programs have an old address for you?

Update your address with your local school district to ensure that your Summer EBT card is sent to the correct address!

MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, March 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, March 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

Aida E. Rosario, MBA | Director of Communications
Peter Long | Supervisor of Special Projects and Communications
Aidan Solano | Graphics & Content Coordinator
Jeani Perez | Confidential Communications Assistant

