



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

JUNE 4, 2026 | VOL. 38

EASTSIDE TAKES FIRST PLACE AT PCCC COOKING CHAMPIONSHIP

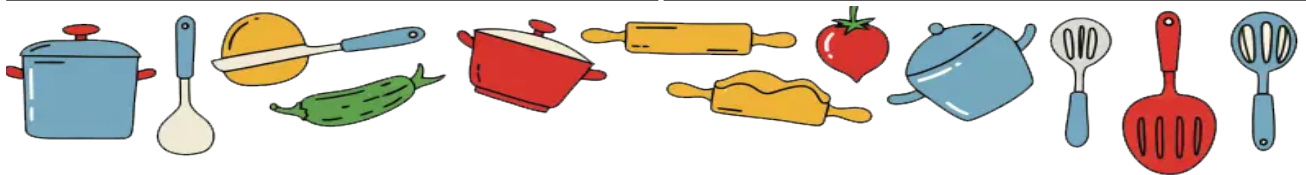
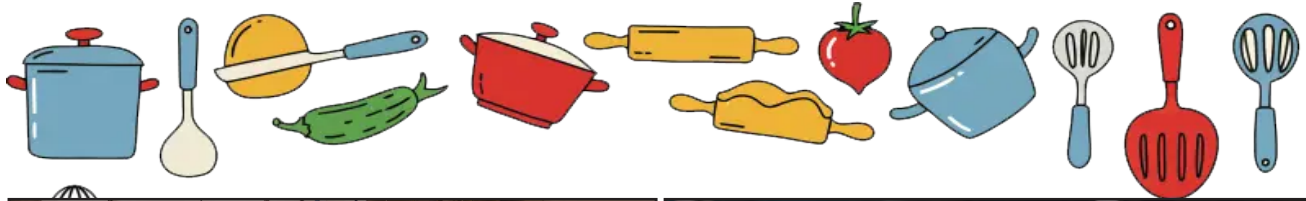


The Eastside High School Culinary Arts Program secured first place at the inaugural “Dented Pot” Cooking Championship held on Thursday, May 28 at Passaic County Community College. Facing off against Orange High School, Eastside’s student-chefs earned the top prize in a rigorous and timed competition.

The event featured a Market Basket-style format where students developed original dishes from a mystery selection of ingredients. A panel of graduating seniors from the PCCC Culinary Arts Program judged the teams across multiple industry standards, including safety and sanitation, visual presentation, recipe balance, and desserts.

“This victory highlights the high level of talent, discipline, and professionalism fostered within our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “We are incredibly proud of our Eastside students and staff for their hard work and dedication. This championship reflects the strength of our curriculum and the bright futures ahead for these student-chefs.”

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



Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

I want to extend my warmest congratulations to the 198 graduating seniors who earned the prestigious New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy. This distinction reflects their immense dedication, hard work, and academic excellence.

In today's interconnected world, multilingual skills and cultural awareness are invaluable assets. By mastering multiple languages, these students are better prepared for college, careers, and opportunities to connect across cultures and communities. They are truly our future global leaders.

I am also proud to recognize our exceptional class of 2026 valedictorians and salutatorians. Representing the absolute pinnacle of academic excellence, these top-ranking scholars have demonstrated outstanding academic performance, resilience, leadership, and commitment throughout their high school journey. They stand as a powerful testament to the limitless potential within our district and serve as an inspiration to our entire school community.

We are incredibly proud of all of these students and we look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in the future.

As graduation season approaches, we look forward to celebrating the Class of 2026 during our high school graduation ceremonies on June 26. Additional details regarding ceremony locations, times, and related graduation updates will be shared with families and staff in the coming weeks. We encourage our school community to join us in honoring our graduates and this important milestone in their educational journey.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



DISTRICT CELEBRATES 198 SENIORS EARNING NJ SEAL OF BILITERACY

Paterson Public Schools is proud to announce that 198 graduating seniors have earned the prestigious New Jersey Seal of Biliteracy, a distinction awarded by the New Jersey Department of Education to students who demonstrate proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.

The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes students for their academic achievement, multilingual skills, and cultural awareness while preparing them for college, careers, and global engagement. To earn the Seal, students must meet specific criteria in both English and a partner language.

“Earning the New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy is an outstanding accomplishment that reflects our students’ hard work, dedication, and perseverance,” said Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “In Paterson Public Schools, we proudly celebrate the many languages and cultures represented throughout our district. We congratulate these students on this well-deserved recognition and commend them for their commitment to multilingual achievement.”

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



INSPIRING TOMORROW'S LEADERS: NRC HOSTS CAREER FAIR!

New Roberto Clemente School (NRC) students recently stepped outside the classroom to explore a world of future possibilities at their very first Career Fair. The school's gym and patio transformed into an interactive hub of career exploration, utilizing an organized, grade-by-grade rotation to ensure every student had a focused, high-engagement experience.

This incredibly successful initiative was spearheaded by NRC student assistance coordinator Ms. Genesis Tejada, who worked in collaboration with school counselors Ms. Martinez and Ms. Feliz to bring the community directly to their students.

Hands-On Highlights

Students didn't just listen — they experienced careers firsthand! High-engagement moments included:

- Paterson Emergency Response Team demonstrating a high-tech bomb squad drone and introducing everyone to K-9 Adonis for a lesson in tactical safety.
- Paterson Police and Fire Departments giving students an up-close look inside a real fire truck and discussing the daily life of community first responders.

Exploring Every Pathway

Students also connected directly with local professionals across a variety of fields, gathering resources and giveaways at every stop:

- Law and Justice - deep-dives into the legal system with the Sheriff's Department and New Jersey Courts' Department of Probation.
- Healthcare and Community - medical pathways shared by doctors from St. Joseph's Hospital, with critical counseling insights from Circle of Care and the Center for Family Services.
- Finance, Arts, and Education - real-world money literacy tips from Visions Credit Union, creative media inspiration from Nat & Photographer, and local college training options from Passaic County Community College.

By bridging the gap between education and real-world execution, this event sparked vital passions for NRC students.



JATS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN STATEWIDE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Student leaders from Joseph A. Taub School proudly represented TAUB at the 2026 Fuel Your Future School Health NJ Youth Leadership Conference, held at the Fairview Lake YMCA campus in Newton, New Jersey. Members of the Joseph A. Taub Teen Connection Project joined hundreds of student leaders from across the state for a full day dedicated to leadership development, stewardship, wellness, and community engagement.

Throughout the conference, students participated in interactive seminars designed to empower young people to become positive forces for change within their schools and communities. The morning sessions focused on teen leadership and stewardship, encouraging students to explore how they can give back to their communities, inspire meaningful change, remain positive during challenging times, and build networks of support through “cheerleaders for change.” Students actively engaged in discussions and collaborative activities that emphasized resilience, teamwork, and the importance of student voice. A working lunch provided students with the opportunity to connect and collaborate with hundreds of youth leaders from across New Jersey, exchanging ideas and learning from peers who share a commitment to leadership and service.

“Our students represented TAUB with pride, positivity, and leadership throughout the entire conference,” said Vice Principal Gerardo Joven. “Experiences like these help students realize that their voices matter and that young people truly have the power to create positive change in their schools and communities.”

The afternoon portion of the conference featured a variety of experiential learning activities designed to promote teamwork, confidence, and personal growth. Students participated in choice activities that included hiking, boating experiences, pickleball, and a seminar led by Olympic archers.

“The conference taught me that even small actions can make a big difference in our community,” said student participant Sandy Lopez. “It inspired me to become more involved and help others at school and beyond.”

Students representing Joseph A. Taub School included: Angielina Velasquez, Aryana Lopez-Gorth, Destiny Gutierrez, Jailenne Espinal, Jordanny Munoz, Kingsley Thompson, Krystel Vizcarra, Nazifa Nawall, Sandy Lopez, and Suaieda Tayebah.

“At Joseph A. Taub School, we believe passionate lives change lives,” said Dr. Jorge Ventura. “This conference gave our students the opportunity to grow as leaders, inspire others, and see that even at a young age, they can make a lasting impact on the world around them.”

Joseph A. Taub School continues to provide students with opportunities that foster leadership, character development, and community involvement while reinforcing the school’s core belief that “Passionate Lives Change Lives.”



EASTSIDE STUDENT-ATHLETES ANNOUNCE COLLEGE DECISIONS

Six exceptional Eastside High School student-athletes officially announced their college decisions during a celebratory ceremony on Wednesday, June 3. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell, cabinet members, Eastside Principal Dorothy Dougé, school staff, and proud families all gathered to honor the students' remarkable academic and athletic achievements.

The student-athletes took some time to reflect on their dedication, personal journeys, and the bright futures ahead of them.

Alexis Chambers (Girls Basketball) - Livingstone College: "Today is very important to me because it really means that I'm pursuing my dreams. My experience at Eastside has been amazing. I made a lot of friends, I have a great community, and I have great coaches. I want to thank my family, coaches, friends, peers, and everyone in the community who has helped me."

Julian Torres (Boys Basketball) - Bergen Community College: "This milestone means a lot to me because I've worked very hard for it. It's a blessing to see it pay off and I'm excited to see what the future holds for me. I will be the first in my family to attend college and I plan on majoring in technology engineering. I want to thank my coaches and parents for believing in me."

Joel Garcia (Football) - Keystone College: "Being able to say that I completed high school while maintaining a steady presence as an athlete has helped me realize just how capable I am and how far I am able to push myself in all areas of life. I want to thank all of the coaches, my teammates and my family who have supported me on this journey."

Nehemiah Boreland (Football) - William Paterson University: "Announcing my college decision today means a lot. I'm going to college, play football, and major in physical education. This is the first time something like this has happened in my family and I'm ready to enjoy the moment. God gave me a chance to be something special in life and now I have to go get it."

David Gonzalez (Football) - Albright College: "I will be the first in my family to attend college. It's a blessing to know that my mother can say her baby is off to college in a few months. I'm taking everything day-by-day, trying to become a better person. I intend to major in either business administration or sports medicine."

Tyrik Maddo (Football) - Kean University: "A day like today means that I have fulfilled one of my goals. I've played football in high school and now I will play in college. I have gone through a lot of ups and downs with injuries but I have worked hard. My major will be nursing, which will help me become financially stable and take care of my family."



A FITTING HONOR: JOANNE RIVIELLO WAY UNVEILED AT JFK HIGH SCHOOL



John F. Kennedy High School Principal JoAnne Riviello received a fitting honor last week when a section of the street in front of JFK was renamed JoAnne Riviello Way, honoring her remarkable 50-year career as an educator in Paterson Public Schools.

The new street sign was unveiled at a ceremony attended by Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney Henderson, cabinet members, and community dignitaries. The festivities were a reflection of Ms. Riviello's lasting service, unwavering dedication, and profound impact on generations of students and families.



SCHOOL 28 STUDENTS CELEBRATE AAPI HERITAGE MONTH

School 28 students and staff proudly came together in the month of May to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. Led by Principal Nancy Castro, classrooms across the school engaged in interactive lessons and student-led presentations designed to foster a deep sense of belonging and inclusivity.

To watch a recap video of School 28's AAPI activities, [click here.](#)



JFK FRESHMAN EARNS PASSAIC COUNTY POLICE ACADEMY CERTIFICATE

The John F. Kennedy High School community celebrates freshman Jeffrey Martinez, who recently completed 14 weeks of training at the Passaic County Police Academy. Jeffrey was awarded a certificate of completion by the Passaic County Police Department and recognized as Recruit Martinez. This accomplishment highlights his dedication, perseverance, and commitment to personal growth. JFK is proud of Jeffrey for this outstanding achievement.



JUNE SELF-CARE CALENDAR

Hello June 2026!

“Rest is not a pause in the journey – it is part of the path.”

June arrives as both a celebration and a transition. As another school year comes to a close, this month offers us the opportunity to reflect on all we’ve carried, accomplished, and overcome together. From classrooms to offices, hallways to cafeterias, every role has helped shape the year in meaningful ways.

After months of giving our energy, patience and care to others, June reminds us that we, too, deserve restoration. It’s a season of longer days, warmer air, and gentle reminders to slow down and reconnect with ourselves outside the pace of the school year. Whether your summer holds adventure, quiet moments of rest, time with loved ones, or simply space to breathe a little deeper, allow yourself to embrace it without guilt. Renewal is not something we earn only after exhaustion – it is something we deserve along the way.




































Mantra for June:

I release the weight of the year and welcome rest, renewal and peace.

As the season shifts, may June bring moments of peace, gratitude, laughter, and well-earned self-care.

You have made it through another year and that in itself is something to honor.



 <h1 style="display: inline;">JUNE 2026</h1>   <p style="text-align: center;">♥ summer self care calendar ♥</p>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	 1 Start your month with positive intentions	 2 Drink plenty of water today	 3 Take a walk outside & enjoy the sunshine	 4 Practice gratitude—write 3 things down	 5 Eat something fresh & nourishing	 6 Spend time near water (ocean, lake, pool, etc.)
 7 Don't forget your SPF! Protect your skin	 8 Declutter a small space for a clear mind	 9 Treat yourself guilt-free	 10 Read a few pages of a good book	 11 Take a break & do something just for you	 12 Hydrate & listen to your body	 13 Plan a fun summer adventure
 14 Have a lazy beach (or pool) day	 15 Make a summer playlist	 16 Enjoy fresh fruits & summer flavors	 17 Check in with your emotions	 18 Try deep breathing or meditation	 19 Capture beautiful moments	 20 Watch the sunset & slow down
 21 Disconnect from screens & be present	 22 Move your body in a way that feels good	 23 Remind yourself how amazing you are	 24 Do something creative	 25 Nourish your body & mind	 26 Give yourself kindness & patience	 27 Create a relaxing summer night
 28 Reflect on your favorite moments	 29 Let go of what you can't control	 30 Rest, recharge & be proud of yourself	 <p>This information is provided to you by: PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS Department of Student Support Services SAC and Social Emotional Learning 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson NJ 07503 Office: (973) 321-0694 lolson@paterson.k12.nj.us</p> 			

 <h1 style="display: inline;">JUNIO 2026</h1>   <p style="text-align: center;">♥ calendario de autocuidado de verano ♥</p>						
DOMINGO	LUNES	MARTES	MIÉRCOLES	JUEVES	VIERNES	SÁBADO
	 1 Empieza el mes con intenciones positivas	 2 Bebe suficiente agua hoy	 3 Da un paseo al aire libre y disfruta del sol	 4 Practica la gratitud—escribe 3 cosas buenas	 5 Come algo fresco y nutritivo	 6 Pasa tiempo cerca del agua (océano, lago, piscina, etc.)
 7 ¡No olvides tu protector solar! Protege tu piel	 8 Ordena un espacio pequeño para una mente más clara	 9 Date un capricho sin culpa	 10 Lee algunas páginas de un buen libro	 11 Tómate un descanso y haz algo solo para ti	 12 Hidrata tu cuerpo y escucha lo que necesita	 13 Planifica una aventura de verano divertida
 14 Disfruta de un día de playa (o piscina)	 15 Crea una lista de reproducción de canciones veraniegas	 16 Disfruta de frutas frescas y sabores de verano	 17 Conecta con tus emociones	 18 Prueba la respiración profunda o medita	 19 Captura momentos bonitos	 20 Mira el atardecer y desacelera
 21 Desconéctate de las pantallas y vive el presente	 22 Mueve tu cuerpo de una manera que te haga sentir bien	 23 Recuerda todo lo increíble que eres	 24 Haz algo creativo	 25 Nutre tu cuerpo y tu mente	 26 Date amabilidad y paciencia	 27 Crea una noche relajante de verano
 28 Reflexiona sobre tus momentos favoritos	 29 Suelta lo que no puedes controlar	 30 Descansa, recarga energías y sídate orgulloso(a) de ti	 <p>This information is provided to you by: PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS Department of Student Support Services SAC and Social Emotional Learning 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson NJ 07503 Office: (973) 321-0694 lolson@paterson.k12.nj.us</p> 			

NRC EARNS SECOND PLACE AT THE TOGETHER WE RISE SHOWCASE

The lights, the music, the energy, and the nail-biting suspense set the stage for an unforgettable evening at this year's Together We Rise Showcase. Widely regarded as an exciting and emotionally charged competition, the annual event brought together talented young performers from across the community, all eager to demonstrate their hard work, creativity, and passion.

Among the standout performers was New Roberto Clemente School, whose students delivered a breathtaking performance that earned them a well-deserved second-place finish. From the moment they stepped onto the stage, it was clear they had arrived ready to compete. Displaying remarkable precision, confidence, and heart, the young performers captivated both judges and audience members alike.

Their routine showcased not only technical skill but also the dedication and teamwork that had been cultivated through months of preparation. With every movement, the students demonstrated an undeniable stage presence that commanded attention and left the crowd cheering throughout the performance.

While the second-place trophy was a proud achievement, perhaps the evening's most inspiring moment came after the competition concluded. In a powerful demonstration of the showcase's mission to uplift and support young talent, organizers announced that every student who participated would receive a dance school scholarship.

The announcement was met with excitement and emotion as students, families, and educators celebrated a reward that extended far beyond competition rankings. For many of these young performers, the scholarship represents more than recognition — it's an opportunity to continue developing their artistic talents and pursue dreams that may have once seemed out of reach.

The evening served as a reminder that success is measured not only by trophies and placements, but by the opportunities that are created for young people. As the curtain closed on another remarkable Together We Rise Showcase, New Roberto Clemente School left with more than a second-place finish. They left with pride, inspiration, and the promise of an even brighter future ahead. Every participant walked away a winner, carrying with them memories of an extraordinary night and a chance to continue their artistic journey for years to come.



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PPS IN THE NEWS

Paterson Public Schools Announces Class of 2026 Valedictorians and Salutatorians

TAPinto Paterson | May 29, 2026

PRESS RELEASES

Paterson Public Schools Celebrate 198 Seniors Earning New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy

June 3, 2026

Eastside High School Takes First Place at PCCC Cooking Championship

June 2, 2026



STUDENTS BRING SCHOOL 5 RAIN GARDEN TO LIFE

School 5 hosted a special Rain Garden Planting and Opening Ceremony on June 2nd that fostered learning, environmental stewardship, and community celebration. Throughout the morning, students took part in planting and learning experiences as they helped bring the rain garden to life. Once the planting concluded, School 5 student ambassadors shared remarks along with school staff as the community celebrated the exciting project and the partnerships that helped make it possible.

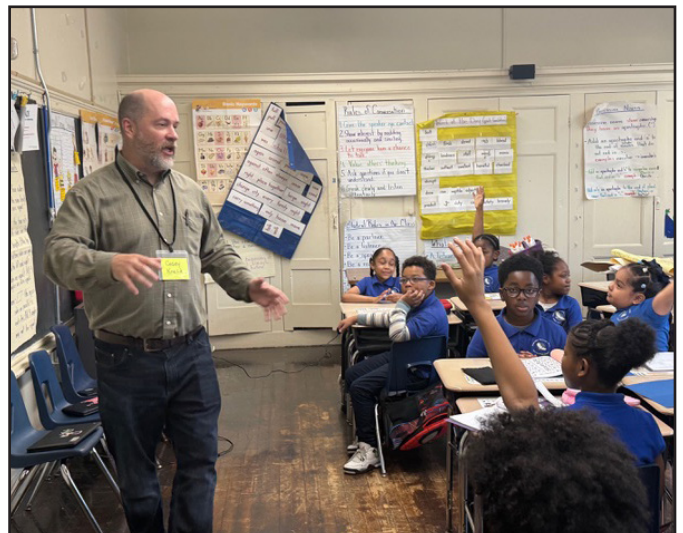
RAIN GARDEN PLANTING EVENT

On **June 2**, our school community will be planting a rain garden on school grounds to help protect our environment and create a healthier, more resilient Paterson.



SCHOOL 2 STUDENTS CELEBRATE CAREER DAY

An All-Star cast of volunteer speakers participated in the Student Success Career Day Program at School 2 on May 27th. The day was an amazing experience for both the students and the speakers. The Student Success Program has been delivering free, world-class Student Career Day Programs for 15 years to students mainly in Paterson. The program has presented to over 10,000 students during this timeframe.



MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

June 5	1 PM Student Dismissal/Staff PD
June 12	4th Marking Period Ends
June 19	Juneteenth - District Closed
June 26	Last Day for Students
June 26	High School Graduation Day
June 29	Last Day for Staff (9 AM - 12 PM)

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

A **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will take place virtually on Wednesday, June 10th. Those wishing to provide public comments are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 PM.

The **Board of Education Regular Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, June 17th at John F. Kennedy High School. 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.

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.

Paterson Board of Education: President Joel D. Ramirez, Vice President Della McCall, Commissioner Valerie Freeman, Commissioner Alex Mendez, Jr., Commissioner Hector L. Nieves, Jr., Commissioner Mohammed H. Rashid, Commissioner Kenneth Rosado, Commissioner Kenneth L. Simmons, Commissioner Corey L. Teague

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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 the Communications Hub at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

Questions? Email us at ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us

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