



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 | VOL. 4



¡Feliz Mes de la Herencia Hispana! Join Paterson Public Schools in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. From September 15th through October 15th, the district will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by exploring the history, culture, achievements, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities.

PPS BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER FOR PARENT KICK-OFF

On Saturday, the Department of Family and Community Engagement hosted its Parent Kick-Off Conference at two locations, Eastside High School and John F. Kennedy High School, providing families from across the district with valuable resources, information, and opportunities to connect with the district.

Families were able to participate and listen to parent workshops on Title I, Family and Community Engagement, Parent University, Attendance Matters, and more. The event also featured a variety of family-friendly activities, including grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, a bouncy house, and art painting.



Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

From September 15 through October 15, we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and honor the rich history, culture, accomplishments, and contributions of the Hispanic community.

This year's theme, "Together, We Are More: Unidos, Somos Mas," reminds us of the strength we find in our shared experiences, diverse perspective, and commitment to one another.

Throughout the month, our teachers will lead activities and projects that celebrate Hispanic heritage and explore the meaning of this year's theme. These experiences will give our students opportunities to learn about influential leaders, traditions, accomplishments, and stories that have helped shape our schools, our nation and our world.

Hispanic heritage is an important part of Paterson's story and the lives of many of our students and families. As we celebrate, I encourage our entire community to learn, listen, and discover something new while recognizing the many ways we are stronger together.

Wishing our Paterson Public Schools community a meaningful and inspiring Hispanic Heritage Month. To view a special Hispanic Heritage Month message, [click here](#).

Remembering September 11

Last week, I had the privilege of joining the Eastside High School community for its annual September 11 remembrance ceremony, hosted by Principal Dr. Florita Cotto, JROTC program leader Major Luis Barraza, and the school's JROTC cadets.

The solemn ceremony brought together district leaders, staff, and students to honor the lives that were lost 25 years ago and reflect on the courage, service, and unity that emerged in the aftermath of that tragic day. It was especially meaningful to witness our students carrying forward the tradition of remembrance and service.

The ceremony also included the promotion of five JROTC cadets, who will help lead Eastside's program this school year. Their leadership is a meaningful reminder that the values of service, responsibility, and commitment continue to be passed from one generation to the next.

I am grateful to our staff, students, and school communities for keeping the spirit of remembrance alive and for helping us honor this moment in our nation's history.

Sincerely,

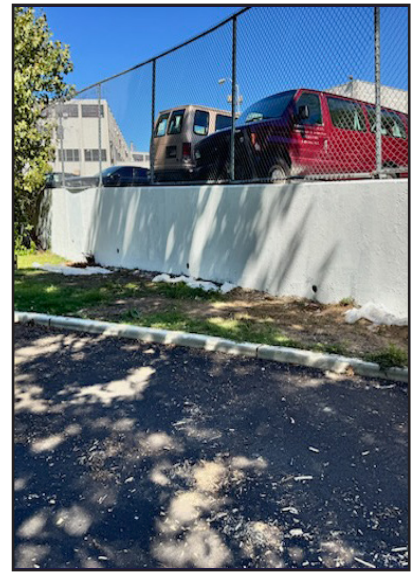
Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



JFK STUDENTS HONOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 THROUGH SERVICE

In recognition of the 25th anniversary of September 11th, students from John F. Kennedy High School partnered with the New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC) and its AmeriCorps members to participate in a meaningful community service project. Together, students and AmeriCorps members worked to beautify and improve areas of the community while honoring the spirit of service that has become an important part of remembering September 11th.

The project provided students with an opportunity to step outside of the classroom and work alongside community partners while demonstrating service, teamwork, civic responsibility, and community pride. With the support and guidance of NJCDC and AmeriCorps members, our students experienced firsthand how working together and giving back can make a positive difference in the community.



EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL REMEMBERS SEPTEMBER 11



Eastside High School's annual September 11th ceremony took place last Thursday and was hosted by Principal Dr. Florita Cotto, JROTC program director and Senior Amy Instructor Major Luis Barraza, Army Instructor CSM Ricardo Garcia, and Army Instructor CSM Wilson Ormaza.

The ceremony was attended by Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, cabinet members, school leaders, staff members, and students for the 25th anniversary of a day that will live in the memories of all Americans.

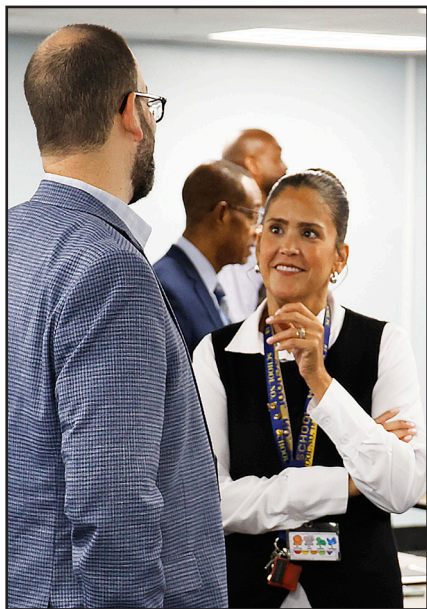
The ceremony also included five JROTC cadet promotions who will help lead the program consisting of over 300 cadets through the 2026-2027 school year.

The cadets promoted included:

- Adriaris Gutierrez, promoted to Cadet Lieutenant Colonel who will serve as Battalion Commander
- Roslyn Hernandez, promoted to Cadet Major who will serve as the Executive Officer
- Scarlet Severino, promoted to Cadet Captain who will serve as the Battalion Liaison Officer
- Jaden Lara, promoted to Cadet Command Sergeant Major who will serve as Battalion Command Sergeant Major
- Alex Gonell, promoted to Sergeant Major, who will serve as the Battalion Operations Sergeant Major.



PRINCIPALS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS INSTRUCTIONAL PRIORITIES



Paterson Public Schools principals gathered at Central Office on September 16th for district's monthly principals meeting.

Led by Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, The meeting focused on strengthening instruction and supporting student achievement. The meeting included discussions on early literacy and non-fiction reading, Management Information Systems updates, and instructional walkthroughs led by Assistant Superintendent Dr. David Cozart, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Nahed Badawy, and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cicely Warren.

Principals also participated in a Danielson Framework for Teaching (FFT) Domain 2 practice and calibration session designed to strengthen instructional observation and feedback.



HUMAN RESOURCES TO HOST IN-PERSON CERTIFIED TEACHER JOB FAIR

The Human Resources Department is kicking off the 2026–2027 school year with its first in-person Certified Teacher Job Fair, giving prospective candidates an opportunity to connect directly with schools and learn about available teaching positions across Paterson Public Schools.

The job fair will take place Wednesday, September 23rd from 4–7 PM at Central Office. School representatives are asked to arrive by 3:45 PM. to prepare for the event. Schools interested in participating must RSVP by the end of the day Tuesday, September 22, so that tables can be prepared and vacancies can be accurately reflected on the event's vacancy list. To RSVP, [click here](#).

FAMILIES INVITED TO BELL-TO-BELL POLICY INFORMATION SESSIONS

Paterson Public Schools' Department of Family and Community Engagement invites parents, guardians, families, and community members to attend upcoming Bell-to-Bell Policy Information Sessions.

Learn more about the updated Bell-to-Bell policy, what it means for students during the school day, and how families can support a successful transition. All sessions will be held from 6 PM to 7 PM.

September 22 – Full Service Community Center (Madison K)
September 24 – Dr. Frank Napier School
September 29 – School No. 21

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

— Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow —

YOUR NEXT CLASSROOM STARTS HERE

**IN-PERSON CERTIFIED
TEACHER JOB FAIR**

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

4:00–7:00 PM

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Family & Community Engagement Hosts

BELL to BELL

POLICY INFO SESSION

Join the Conversation. Support Our Students.

The Paterson Public Schools Department of Family & Community Engagement invites parents, guardians, families, and community members to attend our "Bell to Bell" policy info session to learn more about the statewide initiative, ask questions, and share your feedback.

EQUITY
EXCELLENCE
BELONGING

NEW

**STATE MANDATED
POLICY**

P.L. 2025, c. 195

UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING STUDENT GRIEF

Paterson Public Schools' school counselors, Student Assistance Coordinators (SACs), school nurses, guidance secretaries, and 504 personal aides recently gathered for professional development focused on "Kid Grief: An Exploration of How Developmental Stages Affect the Grief Experience and Developmentally Appropriate Strategies to Support Them."

Led by Laura Hinds of Hindsight Consulting Group, the session deepened staff understanding of the unique ways children and adolescents experience, process, and respond to death and loss. The learning strengthened our collective capacity to recognize the challenges youth may face during times of grief and respond with developmentally appropriate, compassionate, and supportive strategies.



PATERSON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC COMING SEPTEMBER 24

Join the Fund for Paterson Public Schools for the Paterson Student Scholarship Golf Classic on Thursday, September 24th at Black Bear Golf Club in Franklin, NJ. The event supports Paterson students through scholarships, partnerships, and programs.

Staff, families, friends, and community members can participate by golfing, sponsoring, purchasing a tee sign, or attending the luncheon.

For information or sponsorship opportunities, contact Bryan Frierson at 973-931-4512 or thefriersongroupllc@gmail.com.



FUND
— FOR —
PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Supporting
opportunity for
Paterson students

- Scholarships
- Partnerships
- Programs



1st ANNUAL
PATERSON
Student Scholarship
Golf Classic



THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026



8:00 AM
Registration
& Breakfast



9:00 AM
Shotgun Start



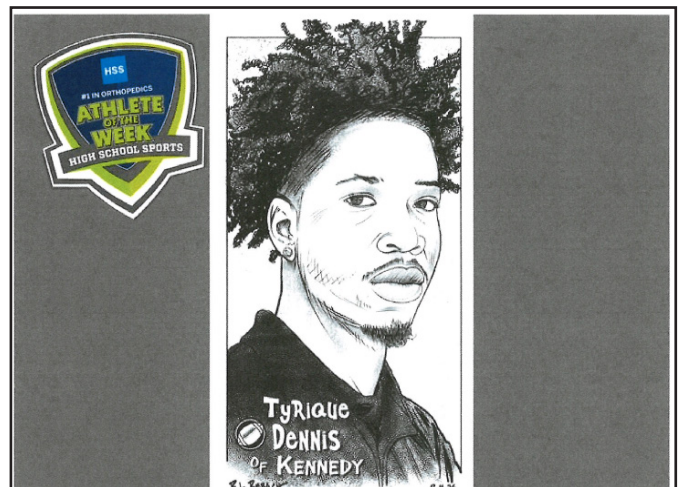
**BLACK BEAR
GOLF CLUB**
138 Route 23
Franklin, NJ 07416

JFK STUDENT NAMED NORTH JERSEY MALE ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

John F. Kennedy High School senior running back Tyrique Dennis was named North Jersey Male Athlete of the Week after a strong performance in the Knights' season opening victory over Ferris on September 5th.

Dennis ran for 185 yards on 17 carries and scored four touchdowns. On defense, he posted five tackles and an interception. His standout play on both sides of the ball helped propel JFK to the 32-6 win.

The Knights' next game will at Dover High School on Friday, September 18th.



MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

September 17 Back-to-School Night 6-8 PM (PreK-8)
September 21 Yom Kippur - District Closed

[Full 2026-2027 School Calendar Here](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

A **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will take place on Wednesday, October 14 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, October 21. 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.

Paterson Board of Education: President Joel D. Ramirez, Vice President Della Wilder, 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

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

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

Aida E. Rosario, MBA | Director of Communications
Jeani Perez | Confidential Communications Assistant
Peter Long | Supervisor of Special Projects and Communications