

For Immediate Release

Contact: Aida E. Rosario
aerosario@paterson.k12.nj.us

Paterson Public Schools Teacher Recognized as a New Jersey Exemplary Educator

Dr. Andretta was one of only 120 educators in the state to receive this prestigious honor

Paterson, NJ (November 20, 2025) – Dr. Kristen Andretta of Paterson’s School No. 2 has been selected as a 2025 New Jersey Exemplary Educator, a prestigious recognition awarded by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). The program identifies educators who are valued by their school community and have exhibited a clear vision for quality teaching and learning. A 7th grade English Language Arts teacher, Dr. Andretta is one of only 120 educators in the state of New Jersey to receive this prominent honor.

“On behalf of Paterson Public Schools, I would like to congratulate Dr. Andretta on receiving this impressive recognition,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “This well-deserved honor is a testament to the positive impact our educators have, not just on our students, but on our culture and academic excellence within our district.”

“We are incredibly proud to celebrate Dr. Andretta for her commitment to ensuring that every student receives meaningful and high-quality educational experiences,” said School No. 2 Principal Dr. Vanessa Serrano. “This recognition is richly deserved, and we congratulate her on this significant statewide achievement.”

Dr. Andretta, who has been in education for 23 years, was nominated because of her unwavering dedication to her students, her deep content expertise, and her ability to cultivate an engaging, rigorous, and supportive classroom environment. Following a rigorous statewide selection process, the NJDOE determined that Dr. Andretta exemplifies the qualities that define New Jersey’s most outstanding educators. This honor is a direct reflection of Dr. Andretta’s hard work and dedication to her students, colleagues, and school community.

"Being recognized for my work in the classroom is an honor, but the true reward is watching students discover their strengths and realize what they're capable of," said Dr. Andretta. "Every day they inspire me to be a better teacher."

For more information visit our website at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

About Paterson Public Schools

Paterson Public Schools serves over 22,000 students from pre-K to 12th grade in New Jersey’s third-largest city. About 71% of the student population is Hispanic, 16% are Black, 6% are Asian, and 5.0% are Caucasian. Recognizing its proud traditions, diverse community, and strong partnerships, the mission of Paterson Public Schools is to provide an academically rigorous, safe,

and nurturing educational environment that meets the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students. The district is committed to preparing students for post-secondary education and careers. Despite the Paterson community being classified as low-income, many of its students achieve high academic success. A growing number of elementary school students are reading at or above grade level, and more high school students are earning college credits through Advanced Placement exams and enrolling in college-level courses before graduation. Paterson Public Schools is distinguished as one of only 17 school districts in New Jersey to offer the competitive International Baccalaureate program and is among just four districts with a P-TECH high school. In collaboration with IBM and Passaic County Community College, the P-TECH program allows students to graduate with an associate degree in applied science and valuable tech sector experience. For more information, visit www.paterson.k12.nj.us

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