



For Immediate Release

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

School 2 Community Gathers to Raise Autism Acceptance Flag

Flag-raising ceremony highlights inclusion, unity, and belonging

Paterson, NJ (April 2, 2026) – School 2 kicked off Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month with an Autism Acceptance Flag Raising Ceremony on April 1, bringing together students, staff, and families in a visible show of unity and support. The event underscored the school’s commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where every student is valued and supported.

A school with a strong and supportive Autism Program, School 2 takes pride in fostering a culture where every student feels valued and empowered. Through initiatives such as its Unity Crew and inclusive school-wide events, School 2 continues to build meaningful connections and promote a true sense of belonging.

“Yesterday’s Autism Acceptance flag-raising ceremony at School 2 was a beautiful reflection of our district’s diversity and commitment to meaningful acceptance,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “By fostering an environment where every child’s perspective and abilities are valued and their potential is nurtured, we ensure that our schools are places where all students can succeed and feel like they belong.”

The program featured brief remarks highlighting the school’s ongoing commitment to its students and the important work being done within the Autism Program. The ceremony concluded with the raising of the Autism Acceptance flag, symbolizing the school’s dedication to recognizing and celebrating the unique contributions of every student.

“This ceremony is a testament to the dedication of our educators and the incredible spirit of our students,” said School 2 Principal Dr. Vanessa Serrano. “Today, we aren’t just raising a flag, we are strengthening a culture of belonging where every child is seen, valued, and celebrated for who they are.”

School 2 extends its gratitude to its dedicated staff, supportive families, and community partners who work together each day to ensure that all students flourish.

For more information about Paterson Public Schools, visit: 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

###