



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

OCTOBER 8, 2026 | VOL. 7

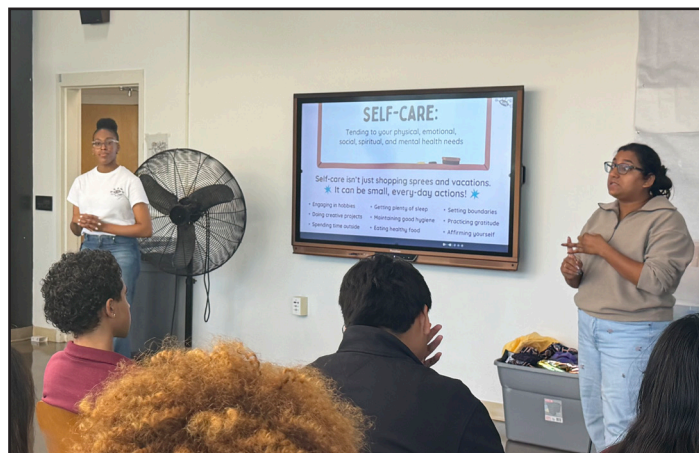
RECOGNIZING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ACROSS PPS

This week marks Mental Illness Awareness Week, alongside World Mental Health Day observed on October 10. This annual observance serves as an important occasion to highlight the role that emotional well-being plays in supporting bright, thriving learning environments across Paterson Public Schools.

Information regarding district, local, and statewide wellness initiatives and support directories is available on the [Healing Hub](#) and [Guidance and Counseling](#) pages of the district website. Sharing resources and recognizing awareness observances helps foster a connected, supportive, and informed Paterson Public Schools community.



STUDENTS LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH & SELF-CARE



To wrap up Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, Student Assistance Coordinator (SAC) Ms. Tejada partnered with NJ4S (NJ Statewide Student Support Services) to host interactive “Mental Health Matters” assemblies at both New Roberto Clemente School and Paterson P-Tech!

Throughout the week of September 28 through October 2, students in grades 6, 7, and 8 at NRC, along with students across all grade levels at P-Tech, participated in tailored sessions focused on understanding mental health and breaking stigmas, practical stress management techniques, daily self-care and coping strategies, and how and where to seek help when needed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

This week, Paterson Public Schools is recognizing the Week of Respect, observed annually across New Jersey during the first week of October. As we mark this observance, it is a meaningful opportunity to reflect on respect as a core foundation of our schools and community.

1. Respect for One Another

Every member of our school community contributes to a positive learning environment. Respect involves engaging with kindness, actively listening to diverse perspectives, and recognizing the impact of our words and actions.

2. Respect for Ourselves

Respect begins with self-awareness and personal integrity. It means taking pride in our efforts, honoring our personal goals, and recognizing our individual value. When we value ourselves, we are better equipped to extend respect to those around us.

3. Respect for Diversity

Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Respect means appreciating and honoring different backgrounds, experiences, and ideas. By welcoming distinct perspectives, we foster an inclusive community where everyone is recognized and supported.

4. Respect for Learning and Growth

Education is a continuous journey of curiosity, effort, and discovery. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of learning opportunities, while educators and staff continue to inspire and guide students toward their aspirations.

In closing, respect is demonstrated daily through the choices we make and the ways we interact. Together, we continue to build a school culture grounded in collaboration, trust, and shared success. Thank you for making respect a cornerstone of the Paterson Public Schools community.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



WEEK OF RESPECT RECOGNIZED ACROSS THE DISTRICT



Paterson Public Schools joined school districts across the state in the Week of Respect, providing schools with a meaningful opportunity to strengthen school climate by reinforcing positive behaviors, empathy, and responsible decision-making. Maria Magda O'Keefe School (pictured left) started the week by taking their Hats off to Respect where students and staff arrived at school with fun and creative hats while reminding us that respect is always in style. Dr. Hani Awadallah School's staff and students also joined in spreading kindness, positivity, and respect throughout their school community.

SCHOOL 10 CELEBRATES ITS DEDICATED SCHOOL SECURITY OFFICERS

School 10 recognized its amazing school security officers, Officer De Leon, Ms. Ellen, and Mr. Alex during National Security Officer Appreciation Week. The school community thanks them for helping keep its students, teachers, and staff safe every day. We appreciate their kindness, dedication, and all that they do to make School 10 a safe and welcoming place.



MMO GOES GOLD FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

For one unforgettable day, Maria Magda O'Keefe School shone in gold. Students and staff came together for MMO's Childhood Cancer Awareness Walk, filling the school with gold and yellow.

Together, they celebrated the fighters and survivors whose courage inspires hope, while honoring the children who are no longer with us. The walk marked the culmination of a month of giving. Throughout September, the MMO community collected donations for the Johnny Kinney Memorial Foundation's Johnny's Closet, in collaboration with The Valerie Fund, helping bring comfort to children undergoing cancer treatment.

More than an awareness walk, it was an opportunity for our students to learn what it means to show up for others through kindness, empathy, and action.



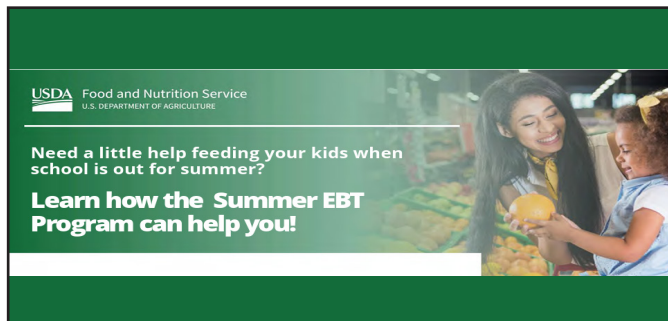
PARENT REMINDERS

SCHOOL MEALS & SUMMER EBT APPLICATIONS DUE OCTOBER 9

Parents and guardians are reminded to submit their School Meals and Summer EBT Application to their child's school by Friday, October 9th.

If you are not directly certified through the State of New Jersey, you must complete an application to qualify for 2027 Summer EBT benefits. To access the application, please visit the district website.

If you need assistance, please email patersonsummerebt@paterson.k12.nj.us or call (973) 321-2434.

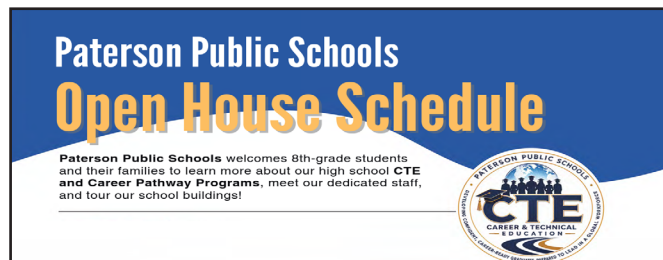


8TH GRADE STUDENTS & FAMILIES INVITED TO HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Paterson Public Schools hosted three successful High School Open Houses this week from October 5th to October 7th. The District will be hosting three additional High School Open Houses this week from 5-7 PM. Dates and locations are listed below:

October 8 | John F. Kennedy High School
October 14 | Paterson STEAM High School
October 15 | Paterson P-Tech

The Open Houses are a chance for 8th grade students and families to learn more about high school CTE and Career Pathway Programs. For more information, [click here](#).



SCHOOL 10 CELEBRATES ITS DEDICATED CUSTODIAL TEAM

School 10 celebrated National Custodian Day last week by recognizing its wonderful custodial team: Chief Miguel, Maria, and Estefanie.

The School 10 community thanks them for all that they do each day to keep School 10 clean, safe, and welcoming. Their hard work, dedication, and care make a huge difference in the lives of our students and staff. School 10 is so grateful to have them as part of the School 10 family.



SCHOOL 10 CELEBRATES COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

School 10 thanks 4th Ward Councilwoman Ruby Cotton and the Pioneers Motorcycle Club for their continued generosity and support. School 10 truly appreciates their ongoing donations of backpacks filled with school supplies for first- and second-grade students. Their commitment to School 10's students and school community does not go unnoticed.

A special thank you as well for providing pizza to the classes with the highest parent attendance at Back to School Night.

Congratulations to Ms. Humghok's first-grade class and Ms. Wilson's second-grade class for having the most parents in attendance.

School 10 also thanks all of its families for making Back to School Night a wonderful success. Their involvement and support make a meaningful difference in students' education.



EASTSIDE SENIORS PARTICIPATE IN VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

Eastside High School's senior class recently participated in a voter registration drive designed to help students learn more about the importance of voting and civic engagement.

Students heard from Shona Mack-Pollock, Superintendent of Elections and Commissioner of Registration; the Honorable Zoila Cassanova, Surrogate Judge of Passaic County; and Mayor André Sayegh, who spoke with students about the importance of participating in the democratic process and making their voices heard.

As part of the event, students also had the opportunity to interact with voting machines, giving them a firsthand look at the voting process.



MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

October 9 Progress Reports (Grades PreK-12)
October 12. . . . Italian Heritage Day/Indigenous People Day - District Closed
October 16. 1:00 PM Student Dismissal/Staff PD

[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 Monday, October 19. 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

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