



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

OCTOBER 15, 2026 | VOL. 8

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

Last week, Eastside High School celebrated Homecoming and Senior Night on Thursday, October 8, followed by John F. Kennedy High School on Friday, October 9. Both celebrations brought our school communities together to recognize our student-athletes and seniors while showcasing school spirit and pride. Thank you to the school and district leaders who helped make these events a success.

Homecoming is a special opportunity to celebrate the traditions, spirit, and accomplishments that make our schools unique. These events also highlight the dedication of our student-athletes, coaches, and families, whose commitment and support contribute to the strength of our school communities. Senior Night, in particular, provides a meaningful opportunity to recognize our students for their hard work, perseverance, and contributions to their schools.

Congratulations to our seniors and student-athletes, and thank you to everyone who helped make these celebrations memorable for our Paterson Public Schools community.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



EASTSIDE CELEBRATES HOMECOMING AND SENIOR NIGHT

Eastside High School celebrated Homecoming and Senior Night on Thursday, October 8, bringing students, families, and staff together to honor the school's student-athletes and seniors. The celebration highlighted the school's traditions, school spirit, and the dedication of its students, coaches, and families. Congratulations to Eastside's seniors and student-athletes on their accomplishments, and thank you to everyone who helped make this special celebration a memorable occasion for the school community.



DISTRICT EARNS 2026 NJSBA SCHOOL LEADER AWARD

Paterson Public Schools has been named a recipient of the 2026 New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) School Leader Award for its STEM Community Collaboration program. The district was one of three school districts selected statewide, recognizing its efforts to expand access to meaningful, hands-on STEM learning opportunities for students and families through community partnerships.

The Paterson STEM Community Collaboration is a citywide, partnership-driven initiative designed to expand equitable access to high-quality STEM learning experiences for students and families across Paterson. The collaboration brings together the Paterson P-Tech Planetarium, Paterson Museum, Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, NASA Solar System Ambassadors, local schools, and community organizations to provide authentic, hands-on STEM learning that extends beyond the classroom.

“We are proud to see Paterson Public Schools recognized for its commitment to expanding educational opportunities for our students,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “Through the dedication of our educators and community partners, we are providing students with valuable experiences that encourage exploration, develop their interest in STEM, and help prepare them for future success.”

To read the full press release, [click here](#).



EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL JROTC BACK IN FULL SWING

The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) at Eastside High School has started the 2026–2027 school year off strong. This past week, the corps of cadets worked tirelessly to plan and execute the annual Cadet Challenge, in which cadets compete in physical fitness activities based on the U.S. Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) and are scored according to U.S. Army fitness standards. The event is planned, run, and monitored by the senior cadet leadership, marking their first challenge in their new leadership positions.

Later that night, the Eastside Mighty Ghost Battalion was back out to support its fellow student-athletes by honoring the Homecoming Court. The Color Guard led the posting of the colors during the national anthem and remained to represent not only the JROTC program but also Eastside High School, its staff, and its administration.



FROM THE STAGE TO THE CLASSROOM: EXPLORING IDENTITY WITH OSCAR WAO

Newcomers High School students recently enjoyed an unforgettable cultural experience. First, they attended a captivating live performance of *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* at Passaic County Community College. The excitement didn't end on stage as director Kelvin Grullon visited the school to lead engaging, hands-on activities with our students. Together, they explored the play's core themes, reflecting on identity, heritage, and the migrant experience. It was an inspiring blend of live arts and meaningful self-expression.



NJ4US ASSEMBLIES HIGHLIGHT WEEK OF RESPECT AT P-TECH

In honor of New Jersey's annual Week of Respect, Paterson P-Tech students participated in high-energy, interactive assemblies hosted in partnership with NJ4S on October 8 and 9, coordinated by Student Assistance Coordinator Ms. Tejada.

Rather than traditional lectures, these interactive sessions brought respect, empathy, and positive decision-making to life. Facilitators engaged our high schoolers in meaningful discussions about standing up against bullying, practicing online kindness, and fostering an inclusive, supportive school culture.

By empowering our students with real-world strategies for conflict resolution and mutual respect, these assemblies reinforced our commitment to nurturing a safe, connected, and welcoming learning environment at Paterson P-Tech.



DALE AVENUE SCHOOL CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Dale Avenue School proudly celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a wonderful performance featuring its talented students and dedicated staff. The celebration featured culture, music, dancing, and school spirit as students and staff came together to recognize and honor the Hispanic community's rich traditions and contributions.

Special thanks were extended to Patricia Landeira, the event organizer, for her hard work and dedication in putting together such a memorable celebration. We also thank all the students and staff who helped make the event a great success.



SCHOOL 21 RECOGNIZES WEEK OF RESPECT

During the Week of Respect, eighth-grade students at School 21 demonstrated kindness by performing random acts of kindness for one another. Students recorded their acts on individual paper links, creating a colorful chain that symbolized the positive impact of their actions. Each link represented an individual act of kindness, while the completed chain reflected the collective effort of our students to spread compassion, respect, and positivity throughout the week.

This collaborative activity reinforced the message that even small acts of kindness can strengthen our school community and remind us that kindness truly links us together.



JFK STUDENTS GAIN HANDS-ON SKILLED TRADES EXPERIENCE

Students in John F. Kennedy High School's Construction Trades and Carpentry pathways recently gained hands-on experience through a partnership with Servant's Heart Ministry, a Paterson-based nonprofit that provides skilled-trades training and community service. Throughout the school year, students will participate in 12 visits to the Great Falls Center for industry-led workshops in electrical work and plumbing.

During a recent electrical workshop, students worked with wiring, switches, thermostats, and other electrical components, connecting classroom instruction to real-world applications.

The partnership supports Paterson Public Schools' five-year strategic plan, specifically Goal 4: Strengthen Family and Community Partnerships, by connecting students with community organizations that provide hands-on learning experiences, build career-ready skills, and introduce them to opportunities in the skilled trades.



STAFF REMINDER

PPS CENTRAL OFFICE TO HOST DENIM & PINK DAY FUNDRAISER

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CENTRAL OFFICE
CULTURE & CLIMATE COMMITTEE

DENIM & PINK
fundraiser

OCTOBER 23, 2026
ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE
SUSAN G. KOMEN BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

\$3.00
PER PERSON
PARTICIPATION FEE
CASH PAYMENTS ONLY

IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE, PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY
NOON ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026
For additional information or to make your payment, please see any committee member listed below:
Starr Morrison, Nyha Mathis, Alicia Walton, Katori Walton, Syra Brown, or Charmaine Scott

****PARTICIPATION RULES | PLEASE READ****
WRISTBANDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PAID PARTICIPANTS
AND MUST BE WORN ON "DENIM DAY"
ATTIRE: "DRESS UP YOUR JEANS" - BUSINESS CASUAL AND NEAT

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Central Office Culture & Climate Committee will host a "Denim & Pink" Day fundraiser for Central Office staff on Friday, October 23. The fundraiser will support the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, with all proceeds donated to the organization.

Participation costs \$3 per person, and cash payments only will be accepted. Payment must be received by noon on Wednesday, October 21. Wristbands will be distributed to all paid participants and must be worn on Denim & Pink Day.

Participants are encouraged to "dress up their jeans" in neat, business-casual attire. Denim must be free of holes or tears. Shorts, sneakers, and sweatpants are not permitted.

For additional information or to make a payment, please contact a committee member: Starr Morrison, Nyha Mathis, Alicia Walton, Katori Walton, Syra Brown, or Charmaine Scott.

MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

October 16. 1:00 PM Student Dismissal/Staff PD

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

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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