THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OCTOBER 29, 2026 | VOL. 10



SCHOOL 13 WALKS TOGETHER FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, School 13 proudly held its annual School Wide Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, organized by School Guidance Counselor Mr. Smith, with the wonderful support and leadership of Interim Principal Mrs. Greene and Vice Principal Mrs. Carino.

This meaningful event brought together students, teachers, and staff to raise awareness, honor survivors, remember loved ones, and support families affected by breast cancer. Wearing pink as a symbol of hope and unity, students learned the importance of compassion, kindness, and making a positive difference in their community.

School 13 extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Smith, its dedicated administration, teachers, staff, and students for making the event a success. School 13 encourages the entire Jaguar Family to continue spreading awareness, wearing pink, supporting those affected, and participating in future activities that promote hope and compassion.



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,



I want to recognize and express my sincere appreciation for our outstanding vice principals and the important role they play in advancing student achievement across Paterson Public Schools. Through their daily leadership, collaboration with school staff, and engagement with students and families, our vice principals help foster welcoming, supportive school environments where students can thrive.

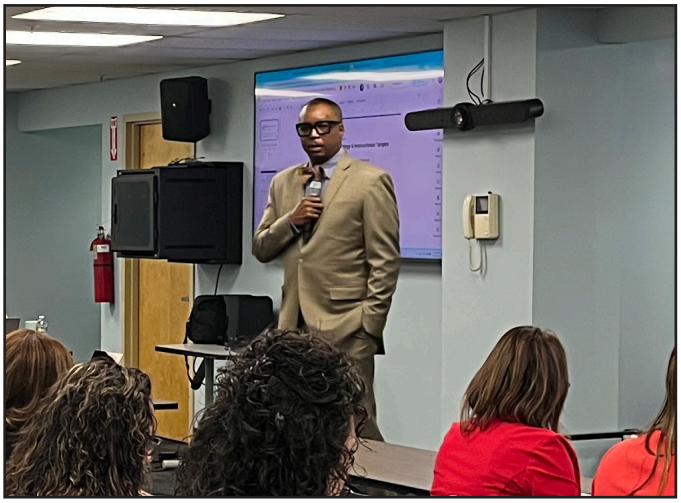
At the district's monthly vice principals meeting at Central Office on October 26, vice principals came together to review instructional priorities and strategies to strengthen student outcomes. Led by Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, the sessions included discussions on English Language Arts (ELA) targets and reading strategies, roster verification and grade entry, and the review of NJSLA, NJGPA, and DIBELS data. Participants also engaged in a Danielson Framework for Teaching (FfT) Domain 3 practice session and reviewed the NJSLA Success Plan and assessment blueprint alignment, with presentations led by Assistant Superintendents Dr. David Cozart, Ms. Nahed Badawy, and Dr. Cicely Warren.

These collaborative efforts reflect our district's continued commitment to strengthening instructional practices, using data to inform decisions, and ensuring our students have meaningful opportunities to succeed. I am grateful to our vice principals for the dedication, care, and professionalism they bring to their work each day. Their contributions support our educators, strengthen our school communities, and help move our district forward. Thank you for all you do on behalf of our students and families.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools





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Have a story you'd like to share?

- Stories highlighting school activities or recognitions (i.e., awards)
- Inspiring stories involving students, teachers, and staff
- Fun events that took place at your school or in the community involving students, teachers, and staff

Use our Newsletter Submission Google Form

DISTRICT LAUNCHES FREE ESL CLASSES TO EMPOWER FAMILIES



A 10-week English as a Second Language (ESL) class for parents and guardians recently kicked off at the Full Service Community Center.

The district is excited to support its families as they build their English skills, gain confidence, and open doors to new opportunities. One class at a time, we're growing together! Classes are free for parents and guardians.

FSCS PROMOTES ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND HEALTHY HABITS

The Full Service Community Center and the Department of Dental Services have begun providing oral health education at school sites, starting with students at New Roberto Clemente School. The initiative emphasizes the importance of maintaining good oral hygiene through regular brushing and flossing. Students also received toothbrushes and were encouraged to visit a dental office for routine care.

The dental team will continue visiting schools throughout the district to provide students with oral health education and promote healthy habits that support their overall well-being.



FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS-SHARING LESSONS LEARNED

Paterson Public Schools recently welcomed the Full Service Leadership Team from District 742 in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Jenna Tschirgi, Assistant Principal, North Middle School, Timothy Warren, Full-Service Community School Site Coordinator at North Middle School and Stephanie Skaalerud, Assistant Principal at Discovery Community School conducted site visits at Senator Frank R. Lautenberg School, School No. 15, and School No. 16 to conclude their attendance at the annual National Center for Community Schools Fundamentals Conference. This site visit will help the St. Cloud team strengthen their Full Service Community Schools in their home district.

The team was impressed by the commitment from our school leaders and the dedication of our community partners. They learned a great deal from the visit. Special thanks to Jenna Goodreau, Director of Full Service Community Schools, Principal Garcia, Principal Tavarez, and Dr. Brackett.



SCHOOL NO. 28 NAMED BEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN NJ



Paterson Public Schools' School No. 28 has once again earned the distinction of being named the No. 1 elementary school in New Jersey by U.S. News & World Report, marking the third consecutive year the school has received the state's top ranking. The publication also recognized School No. 28 as the No. 2 middle school in New Jersey.

In its 2027 Best Schools rankings, U.S. News & World Report ranked School No. 28 first among 1,711 elementary schools and second among 1,015 middle schools statewide. Under the leadership of Principal Nancy Castro, School No. 28 continues to foster a culture of academic excellence through the dedication of its educators, the achievements of its students, and the support of its families.

"Congratulations to the staff and students of School No. 28 on this outstanding achievement," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. "Earning the top elementary school ranking for the third consecutive year is an extraordinary achievement and a source of pride for our entire district. Their commitment to academic excellence demonstrates what is possible when a school community works together toward a shared vision."

To read the press release, click here.

SCHOOL 21 EARNS STATEWIDE AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY PARTNERSHIP

Paterson Public Schools' School No. 21 has earned statewide recognition for its outstanding partnership with William Paterson University. The school and university were jointly honored with the Exemplary School-University Partnership Award by the New Jersey School-University Partnerships (NJSUP) at the 2026 Partnership Powerhouse Conference, held October 13 at William Paterson University.

"This is a wonderful recognition for Principal Nieves and the entire School No. 21 team," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. "Their dedication to improving teaching and learning, along with their willingness to collaborate and embrace new opportunities, reflects the commitment we see in our schools every day. We are proud of this achievement and grateful to William Paterson University for its continued partnership and support of our educators and students."



Under the leadership of Principal Edgard Nieves, School No. 21 has established a strong partnership with William Paterson University that extends beyond the traditional school-university relationship. As a Professional Development School (PDS), School No. 21 provides opportunities for teachers and administrators to participate in university-sponsored professional development, collaborative data analysis, instructional improvement initiatives, and school leadership activities designed to strengthen teaching and learning.

To read the press release, click here.

PPS SHOWCASES STEM INITIATIVE ON INTERNATIONAL STAGE



Paterson Public Schools brought its STEM innovation to the international stage in October as the Paterson P-Tech Planetarium presented its Sun in Our City initiative, a collaboration between the Planetarium and non-profit youth program Paterson Girl Goals, at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), one of Latin America's largest universities.

Supported through the Associated Universities, Inc. (AUI) Women and Girls in Astronomy Program (WGAP), Sun in Our City has provided meaningful opportunities for girls to explore astronomy, develop scientific skills, and discover pathways into STEM.

During the summer, approximately 50 girls participated in hands-on solar science activities through the Sun in Our City initiative, which also aims to prepare middle and high school students to serve as science ambassadors. Selected as one of just 10 projects from across the Americas for the program, the initiative was showcased to an international community of educators, scientists, and STEM professionals.

REMEMBERING DR. FRANK NAPIER, JR.

On October 28, Dr. Frank Napier, Jr. School of Science & Technology commemorated the 24th anniversary of the passing of Dr. Frank Napier, Jr., a visionary educational leader whose legacy continues to shape the Paterson community. In honor of this milestone, the school was proud to welcome Dr. Napier's daughter Tatiyuna Napier and granddaughter Tomika Enzo (pictured with Principal Derwin Smith, left, and PTO President Ms. Esther Sinclar, right) for a special visit celebrating his life, contributions, and enduring influence.



Dr. Napier made history as the first African American Superintendent of Schools for the Paterson Public School District and previously served as principal of the school that proudly bears his name. His dedication to education, commitment to student achievement, and pioneering leadership left an indelible mark on the district and the community he served.

Twenty-four years later, Dr. Frank Napier's legacy lives on—in our school, in our community, and in the generations of students whose futures are shaped by the educational opportunities he helped advance.

PUTTING THE "I" IN KIND AT EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Eastside High School Student Assistance Coordinator Dr. Stephanie Roberts continues to strengthen a positive school climate, recognizing that creating a welcoming, supportive environment starts with each of us.

Through the "Putting the I in KIND" initiative, staff and students are encouraged to embrace kindness and respect, while recognizing that every individual can make a meaningful difference. The initiative reinforces the importance of taking personal responsibility for fostering a school community where everyone feels valued and supported. Together, Eastside staff and students are demonstrating that building a positive school climate starts with being the "I" in KIND!



JFK MARKETING STUDENTS BUILD LEADERSHIP SKILLS THROUGH DECA

John F. Kennedy High School had six Marketing Pathway students join Business Education teacher Mr. Ryan Martin at DECA's Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT) at Kean University on October 26.

DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) is an international career and technical student organization that prepares high school students for careers in business. At COLT, students connected with peers from across New Jersey, exchanged ideas, and developed leadership skills to strengthen JFK's DECA chapter. This experience reflects JFK's commitment to preparing students for success in college, careers, and beyond.



UNIDOS SOMOS MÁS: CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE AT MMO

Maria Magda O'Keefe School concluded Hispanic Heritage Month with a spectacular celebration of culture, creativity, and talent. Under the theme "Unidos Somos Más", the school's Fine and Performing Arts Academy brought the richness and diversity of Hispanic heritage to life through art, drama, music, and dance.

The school community is incredibly proud of its talented students and dedicated Fine and Performing Arts staff for bringing this meaningful celebration to life and reminding us that our diversity is our strength.



OPERATION WARM BRINGS WARMTH TO SEN. FRANK R. LAUTENBERG SCHOOL

On Wednesday, October 21, the Full-Service Community School Program at Senator Frank R. Lautenberg School received a generous donation of more than 500 coats from Operation Warm. Thanks to this wonderful contribution, we were able to provide our students with coats for the upcoming winter season.

We are grateful to Operation Warm for this donation and to everyone who helped make this initiative possible. Seeing the smiles on our students' faces reminded us of the meaningful impact that community support can have.



JFK STUDENTS TAKE CENTER STAGE AT FBLA CONFERENCE

On October 27, 13 John F. Kennedy High School Accounting Pathway students in grades 10–12 attended the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Fall Leadership Conference at Kean University.

Through interactive workshops led by FBLA state officers, students explored competitive event preparation, leadership development, community service, networking, and college transitions. The conference offered students valuable opportunities to develop leadership skills and prepare for future academic and career success. Pictured are five of JFK's senior Accounting Pathway students who attended the conference.



PARENT REMINDERS

SCHOOL 13 RE-REGISTRATION DATES ANNOUNCED FOR 2027-2028

Families of students attending School 13 are required to complete the re-registration process to secure enrollment for the 2027–2028 school year. Re-registration will be available at School 13 and the district's Central Registration office on the dates and times listed below.

Central Registration
90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson, NJ
October 28–29, 2026 | 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

Make-Up Dates — Central Registration
November 16–20, 2026 | 8 a.m.–12 p.m.



SCHOOL 16 RE-REGISTRATION DATES ANNOUNCED FOR 2027-2028

Families of School 16 students must complete re-registration for the 2027–2028 school year at School 16 or Central Registration on the dates and times below.

School 16
11 East 22nd Ave, Paterson, NJ
November 9, 2026 | 8:30 a.m.– 6 p.m.
November 10, 2026 | 8:30 a.m.– 3 p.m.

Central Registration
90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson, NJ
November 12–13, 2026 | 8 a.m.– 3 p.m.
November 14, 2026 | 9 a.m.– 2 p.m.

Make-Up Dates — Central Registration
November 16–20, 2026 | 8 a.m.– 12 p.m.



MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

Full 2026-2027 School Calendar Here

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

A **Board of Education Public Hearing** will take place on Monday, November 2 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 5:30 PM.

A **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will take place on Tuesday, November 10 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, November 16. 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

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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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