



CONNECTIONS

Bishop Middle School eighth grade students receive their stepping up certificates during their Stepping Up Ceremony at PCTA. Congratulations!

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

JUNE 29, 2023

Welcome to the latest edition of the Providence Public School District (PPSD) bi-weekly newsletter! I am very excited to announce that we had nine high school graduations this month, with over 1,000 students crossing the stage to receive their diplomas. Congratulations to each and every one of you on getting to the finish line. You earned this. Also, a big congratulations to all of our eighth grade students who had their Stepping Up ceremonies as well.

In the midst of the successful graduations, we launched our summer reading initiative. Before school ended, we distributed 90,000 age-appropriate books to all Pre-K through Grade 5 students. We also had a visit from Clifford the Big Red Dog at **Asa Messer Elementary School** as part of the kick-off for the summer reading initiative.

It was also a big week for our **CTE students**. Many signed contracts with 14 companies from across the state to start their career after graduating high school. I am very proud of the amount of students who have excelled in the CTE programs our high schools have to offer, and have chosen to jumpstart their careers. We wish all of you the best of luck as you begin your journeys in the workforce. Happy Summer! Get outside, enjoy the weather, and read, read, read!



DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
SUPERINTENDENT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- [FIRST DAY OF SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM](#)
Monday, July 10
- [VICTORY DAY](#)
(No Summer Program)
Monday, August 14

- [LAST DAY OF SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM](#)
Thursday, August 17
- [TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT](#)
Monday - Thursday, August 28 - 31

- [TEACHER ORIENTATION](#)
Tuesday, September 5
- [FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL](#)
Wednesday, September 6

DISTRICT UPDATES



SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS BEGIN JULY 10!

School may be out, but our Summer Learning Programs are about to be in full swing! We have over 1,500 K-12 students signed up to participate in all of the programs the District has to offer from July 10th through August 17th. The programs include:

Summer Stars Learning Academy

Grades K-8

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Young Woods Elementary School &
Alfred Lima Elementary School*

During the program, students will enhance their skills in reading, writing, and math as well as participate in an exciting social emotional component to keep kids inspired and connected! Students will build confidence and excel in their learning by studying hard, connecting with friends, and learning the foundational skills that will carry them through their academic year and beyond!

STEM at DelSesto

Grades 6-8

Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

DelSesto Middle School

In the middle school summer learning program, students choose from three options, SeaPerch, NEED, or E-Sports. In SeaPerch, a STEM robotics program, students experience pre-engineering concepts and get hands-on experience including a boat design competition. NEED centers on STEM activities designed for students to see real world connections and build relationships around Science Behind ENERGY Education. In E-Sports, Electronic Sports, students leverage hands-on 21st century skills including critical thinking. E-Sports is the fastest-growing high school competition in the United States, and the sport is aligned with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL). Are you interested in joining the middle school program? [Sign up here!](#)

PPSD High School Summer Credit Recovery

Grades 9-12

Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Central High School


The Credit Recovery program utilizes the Edgenuity online platform and mixes online learning with teacher instruction, group work, and projects. Hands-on classes like physical education and art will be taught in a traditional classroom format.



SUPERCHARGE YOUR SUMMER

BEGINNING MAY 1ST TEENS 14-19
CAN REGISTER TO WORK OUT FREE
ALL SUMMER LONG

MAY 15 - AUGUST 31

PLUS, WE'RE GIVING AWAY \$200,000 TO
HIGH SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS! 

Sign up at
planetfitness.com/summerpass

Under 18? Sign up with a parent/guardian (online or in-club)



*Locations independently named and operated. See club for details. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Open to residents of the 50 US/DC, and Canadian provinces of ON, AB, SK, MB, NL, & BC. 14-19 years of age with parent approval if a minor. \$200,000 award available in the US, and \$200,000 CAD available in Canada. Void where prohibited. Register 5:00 a.m. ET on 5/15/23, ends 8:59 p.m. ET on 5/15/23. Grand Prizes (\$1 for US Students) a \$200,000 USD scholarship, Grand Prize (\$1 for CAN Students) a \$20,000 CAD scholarship, School Prizes (\$1 per US school day) \$2,000 for athletic equipment, field renovations, physical fitness classes, health and wellness classes, School Prizes (\$1 per CAN school day) \$20,000 CAD for athletics and fitness. Winning schools selected based on number of HSP members from the school and applicable school tier. All prizes awarded as a check to school/districts for parent/rep/guardian if winner is a minor. For Official Rules, eligibility, entry and school tier details, visit www.planetfitness.com. Sponsor: Planet Fitness Holdings, LLC.



EQUITY AND BELONGING

RESPECT Leadership Academy

Monday, August 14, 2023 - Friday, August 25, 2023

Location: Brown University

Audience: PPSD Middle & High School Students

Free to students who have been active participants in the RESPECT. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided. Students will receive a stipend. [Register here.](#)

Equity Advisory Council: Our final meeting for our Equity Advisory Council was held today, June 28. We are so grateful to all of our members for their hard work and especially their work in revising our Racial and Ethnic Equity Policy that was passed by the School Board on June 21. If you would like to join this Council please email equity@ppsd.org.

Equity Leadership Team Lead Ambassadors: We are looking

for two teachers from each elementary, middle, and high school, to participate in a uniquely designed leadership training program. It is intended to prepare participants to serve as Equity Leadership Team Lead Ambassadors. This training will be based on the text, *Five Practices of Equity-Focused Leadership*, and will be facilitated by one of the authors, Dr. Mark Gooden. As Lead Ambassadors, these individuals will develop and lead equity leadership teams in their schools, during the 2024-25 school year. If you are a 12-month employee and would like to participate in this work, please speak with your principal or reach out to the Office of Equity & Belonging at equity@ppsd.org.



MARINE LIFE AS ART

Webster Avenue School third grade students collaborated with artist and Providence Public Schools teacher assistant, **Nilton Cardenas**, on a marine life art project. Each student selected a marine animal to research and created a collage of that animal in an underwater habitat. Cardenas collaborated with Sodexo to create a mural in the 797 Cafe at the Providence Public School's Central Office. Students and the artist hosted an art exhibit at the cafe June 20.



CELEBRATING STUDENTS

Our hard-working, talented students are doing amazing things every day. Here are just a few examples.



STEPPING UP CEREMONIES

Congratulations to all of our students in kindergarten, 5th grade, and 8th grade who celebrated their **Stepping Up Ceremonies!** Students were celebrated for their achievements during their time at the school, and celebrating moving on in their academic journey. We can't wait to see everything you accomplish as you embark on your next academic adventure!



MOUNT PLEASANT SHINES AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Earlier this month, members of the **Mount Pleasant Kilties** Powerlifting Team won 4 gold medals and 11 silver medals in Deadlift and Bench Press categories at the **2023 Special Olympics** games held at University of Rhode Island. Additionally, junior **Mateo Milagro Oliver**, a member of the team, was chosen to represent the District and team in the passing of the torch during the opening ceremony! Special thanks to **Coaches Louie Stravato** and **Katherine Gonzalez**, a Mount Pleasant Special Educator, as well as community specialists, and parent volunteers who all came out to support the athletes!



ATTENDANCE SUPERHEROES

A big thank you to the **New England Patriots** and the **Kraft Foundation** for returning to **Young Woods Elementary School** to help celebrate our Attendance Superheroes! The Patriots were also there to help get students excited about summer reading. Each student was able to bring home three books to read! Our students appeared in a video on the Patriots social media feeds which you can [view here](#).



MOUNT PLEASANT BASEBALL SWEEPS TO WIN RIIL DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to the **Mount Pleasant Kilties Baseball** team on a 5-0 win over [Exeter-West Greenwich in game 2](#) sweeping the [RIIL Division III Baseball Championship](#) this month! They dedicated the game in memory of Mount Pleasant baseball alum **Wilcar Moreno**.



PCTA STUDENTS IN ATLANTA FOR SKILLSUSA

Great job by all the **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** students who were in Atlanta for the **SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference!** Congratulations to **PCTA** cosmetology students **Briana Lopez, Stephanie Ramos** and **Crystal Aguilar** who won gold medals at the national competition at the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference! Kudos to their talented Advisor **Stephanie Accetta** & teacher **Mrs. GomesMcCreary!** Congratulations as well to **Karriana Phoeun, Emelie Rosa,** and **Melanie Rosa,** of the Career Pathways for Human Services program with Mrs. GomesMcCreary, who placed 6th in the country! We'd also like to recognize rising senior **Winifer Rodriguez** who took 5th in the culinary competition. Thank you, **Chef Rodriguez,** for working so hard with her! A shout out to rising junior **Fritz Heitmueller** who took 10th in the country in Industrial Motors and controls with support from Electrical Technology educators **David Santos** and **Robert Gianfrancesco!**

OUTSTANDING PLAYER AWARD

Congratulations to **Gilbert Stuart Middle School** basketball player **John Ramos** for winning the Outstanding Player Award for the Boys Division in the Providence Middle School Basketball League! The award was presented to John by his coach & Superintendent Montañez.



IT'S GOOD NEWS: PPSD IN THE PRESS

- [How should Providence public schools spend \\$100,000? That's up to these middle schoolers](#)
Brown News, June 8, 2023
- [As part of one-year deal, Providence students to get an extra 30 minutes of learning time](#)
ABC6, June 16, 2023
- [Providence Public Schools will have a longer school day next year. Here's what it looks like.](#)
Providence Journal, June 16, 2023
- [Pre K-Gr. 5 Providence students to be given a backpack with 10 books for summer reading](#)
RI News, June 17, 2023
- [Inspired By Moreno's Memory, Mt. Pleasant Completes Division III Baseball Championship Sweep](#)
ABC6, June 18, 2023
- [Hope High School unveils newly renovated auditorium](#)
WPRI, June 21, 2023
- [State, local leaders cut ribbon at new Hope High School auditorium](#)
ABC6, June, 21, 2023



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Get to know our amazing senior students in the District!

Favored Adeoye

Senior, JSEC
MS: Baltimore, MD
ES: Nigeria

Blessed Adeoye

Senior, JSEC
MS: Baltimore, MD
ES: Nigeria

We were told that you are twins. Which of you is older and who is the Valedictorian?

FA: I am the older twin and valedictorian. Interesting story, Blessed got COVID and his grade dropped a little in one of our classes in which I got an A. In the end, he was salutatorian and I became valedictorian.

What are your plans after graduation?

FA: I plan to go to Roger Williams University and I am going to be on the engineering track. For the first few years I am going to be on the track but after the first two years I am thinking of concentrating on electromechanical engineering. It is a custom program so it could change to civil engineering or biomedical engineering. We chose the school after meeting an alumna at our church. She invited us to come and see Roger Williams. We were able to see the school on a normal regular day and talk to some students. We really liked it.

other financial support. The main reason I wanted to go to Roger Williams was because it was the school I connected to the most. It has a beautiful campus and it seemed like it would be a great experience to learn from all of the professors we met. We each received the Presidential Scholarship. We also got additional grants and scholarships.

Why did you choose JSEC?

BA: We moved to Rhode Island from Baltimore right after the 10th grade. It was a whole process of sorting out where we would go. JSEC was a five minute walk from our house. We have enjoyed our time here and we were provided a lot of opportunities. We found out about the accelerated PrepareRI program. As part of the program, we were both able to do an internship at Amgen, a biomedicine company, over the summer. It was a paid internship. We were able to join the honor society as well.

FA: PrepareRI is a program for seniors to spend their whole senior year at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) campus. You can still participate in sports and activities at your school but you basically spend your whole senior year going to college. You are like a freshman in college. You take four classes a semester. The program gave us the opportunity to take classes and get almost a year ahead when we enter college. We both chose the engineering track. We got to experience college and see what it is like. We had counselors at CCRI. There were 68 PPSD students that did the program this year from across all the PPSD schools. We got to make good and lasting friendships in the program. The environment at CCRI was very friendly. You had to apply and be accepted. You had to be recommended by your counselors and have a minimum GPA.

Has there been a teacher who has had an impact on your life at JSEC?

BA: A teacher that had a big impact on me was Mr. Maione or as I called him "Mr. G". He was my English teacher, and

"After COVID, I became more introverted. [Mr. G] always said he saw leadership qualities in me...I will always appreciate that. Now, I am always ready to speak up for myself. " - Blessed Adeoye

BA: I am going to Roger Williams as well. I'm planning to major in electrical engineering. I am also considering doing a double major and studying business management. We were open to the idea of going to different schools but Roger Williams gave us the sibling discount on top of the

pg. 6, Student Spotlight continued

he was someone who supported me from the start. He noticed early on that we brought a lot of fundamentals from our old school, so we were ready to take on more challenging work and pushed us to do more. He also encouraged me to come out of my shell. After COVID, I became more introverted. So, coming to this school was my first experience outside of that. He always said he saw leadership qualities in me, and he didn't want to see it go to waste. He always tried to push me and I will always appreciate that. Now, I am always ready to speak up for myself.

FA: The teacher who had the biggest impact on me was Ms. Martha Heald. She taught pre calculus. She is retired now. When we came from Baltimore, we were a year ahead of the rest of the class. She made a sincere effort to reach out to us and include us. She studied civil engineering. When she found out I was also interested in engineering, she helped me to research schools. She helped us get acclimated to the school when we first moved here. She also helped me to see that math can be fun. And I still talk to her today.

What was your most memorable experience while in high school?

FA: I would say in Ms. Heald's class. Coming from Baltimore, we weren't around Dominican food. We tried Mangu, a Dominican dish, for the first time in her class. It was good. It opened me up to the other people in my class and appreciating other cultures. It was for a cultural week.

BA: My favorite memory was from my junior year when we did the Generation Citizen project. The day we went to

the state house and presented was a great experience. We needed four people to go to the state house and present the project. It was the first time I came out of my shell. We presented on trash and recycling in our school and city. We reached out to senators about placing more recycling bins and options in the community. We pushed for incentives for people to recycle more. I feel like I had to take a leadership role. We were all shy people, and I didn't want that to affect all of the work that we did. So, I pushed myself and my classmates to push themselves to present our project and be brave.

What are you nervous or excited about after graduation?

FA: I am excited about seeing how my experience at CCRI will help me amongst my peers. A lot of the tips and advice the counselors were giving us at Roger Williams orientation day were the same things we already learned this past year. Occasionally, I procrastinated during the program and regretted it. This past year, I learned early on how I needed to project manage and try to stay on top of my work. I had to plan and pace myself. Most of my classmates were college freshmen.

BA: Something I feel both emotions about is being in full control of myself. Even though we had the college experience, we didn't have a lot of freedom. We still had advisors we checked in with every Friday. So, we were helped to stay on track. Now on our own, I will need to take more initiative in getting all my stuff done and keeping myself together. I am also looking forward to doing a few sports once I get to school. I would like to play intramural basketball.

AROUND THE DISTRICT



RECOGNIZING PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Thank you to Parent Advisory Council (PAC) members **Elaine Faber Budish** and **Tomoko Shibusawa** for their commitment and dedication to Providence Schools and our students. Your time and endless efforts were greatly appreciated this past year. Both were recognized at the recent School Board meeting. Thank you again for all you've done for the District!



HONORING SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER MARK SANTOW

A huge thank you goes out to the longest serving School Board member, **Dr. Mark Santow**! Santow is Associate Professor and Chair of History at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, specializing in 20th century American urban history, politics, military history, civil rights and social policy. Santow stepped down at the end of the school year to spend more time with his family. Over the past eight years, he served as a strong advocate for Providence students. This past year, he helped lead the updated equity policy while serving as chair on the policy committee. He promises he will continue to be involved as a parent in the District.



HOPE HIGH SCHOOL'S NEW AUDITORIUM

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at **Hope High School** this week to celebrate the unveiling of the auditorium renovations. The redesigned auditorium is part of a \$20 million investment in the school to better serve Hope students, performing arts programs, and the wider community. Special thanks to **Governor Dan McKee**, **Mayor Brett Smiley**, **Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green**, members of the **School Board**, the **Providence Teachers Union**, and the **community partners** for making this renovation possible for our students.

[Click here](#) to see the video.

