



PCTA took home 30 medals individually during the 48th Annual Skills USA Rhode Island Awards and Recognition Ceremony at the Vets. The school was awarded the gold medal as a Chapter of Distinction.

CONNECTIONS

APRIL 2, 2024

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

March was a busy month, with championship events for our athletes, test preparations, college acceptance letters, and FAFSA completion events. As we look forward, spring is always an exciting time of year; the weather gets warmer, graduations are around the corner, and summer will be here before we know it. There is still much to accomplish before then, and so many great things happening across the District.

Mark your calendar! **RICAS** and **PSAT/SAT** testing starts the first day of April, with RICAS running through mid May. RICAS English Language Arts (ELA) testing will take place April 1 - April 12 for elementary and middle schools. RICAS Math testing will occur May 13 - May 17 for elementary and middle schools. For high schools, PSATs will take place April 3 - April 5, and the SAT will be on April 4. **Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSA)** testing for elementary and middle school students will take place from May 1 - May 3.

Some exciting news out of the District's Office of Equity and Belonging! They will be hosting their inaugural Providence Public Schools equity conference, ***RISE UP! Carving a Path for Educational Equity and Justice (CPEEJ)***. The conference is designed to provide all participants – educators, students, families, and community members – with a foundational understanding of the role they can play in bringing excellence and value to our community, by championing educational equity and justice for Providence students. The conference will be held on Friday, April 5th and Saturday, April 6th at Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA). Registration is now open and is on a first come, first serve basis.

PPSD 12th graders - money for college starts with FAFSA! FAFSA, or the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is required to be used by all higher education institutions in awarding federal student aid. FAFSA can help students to qualify for grants, scholarships, work-study, and federal student loans. To get started, click [here](#).

There is still time to register your child for kindergarten if you have not already done so! If a student is turning five years of age on or before September 1st, then they are eligible for kindergarten. Kindergarten registration closes on Friday, May 10th, so [sign up](#) now! For more information on kindergarten registration, click [here](#).

Let's finish up these last couple months of the school year strong, and keep up the good work with attendance. Remember – it's cool to be in school!



DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
SUPERINTENDENT

DISTRICT UPDATES

BELL TIMES FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Each winter, school start and end times are reviewed to identify potential changes for the upcoming year. We look at ways to improve our school bus service performance, ensure our transportation system is as efficient as possible, and respond to community feedback. This is particularly important for next year given the District's projected financial challenges and our commitment to minimize the impact on schools and students.

Based on this assessment, we are making the following changes for the **2024-2025 school year**:

- **Elementary and middle schools** (with the exception of those noted below), will maintain the same start time as this year.
- **Pleasant View Elementary School and Veazie Street Elementary School** will shift from an 8:00 AM start to a 9:05 AM start.
- **High schools** will shift from a 7:50 AM start time to 7:45 AM start time, with the exception of the **Providence Career & Technical Academy (PCTA)**, which will start at 7:30 AM.

Please note that the additional 30 minutes added to the school day will expire at the end of this school year, meaning your school's end time will change next year. For your school's specific bell time for next year, please visit providenceschools.org/belltimes2425.

NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK

The first week of April is **National Assistant Principals Week**, and we want to take a moment to recognize all of the amazing Assistant Principals (APs) we have here in the District! Assistant Principals are an integral part of school administration, and they help keep the schools running smoothly and efficiently. Make sure to give the APs a huge shout out this week for everything they do for the schools! Happy National Assistant Principals Week!

SPRING RECESS

A reminder that **Spring Recess** begins on Monday, April 15, 2024, and goes until Friday, April 19, 2024. Classes will resume on Monday, April 22, 2024. We hope you all have a relaxing and restful break.

UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS

Elementary & Middle Schools

RICAS ELA Testing: April 1 - April 12th
(Makeups through April 26th)

RICAS Math Testing: May 13th - May 17th
(Makeups through May 24th)

NGAS: May 1st - May 3rd (Makeups through May 31st)

High Schools

PSAT: April 3rd - April 5th
SAT: April 4th

JASON MENARD NAMED 2024 RIIAAA ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **PPSD Director of Operations Jason (Jay) Menard** for being named **2024 Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association (RIIAAA) Administrator of the Year!** Jay has been the Senior Director of Operations for Providence Public Schools for the past eight years, currently collaborating with five Athletic Directors overseeing athletics for five host high schools and four cooperative high schools in the City, serving over ten thousand students and more than three thousand athletes. Jay is also responsible for the direct oversight of the District's Emergency Preparedness Protocols, Chairs the District Crisis Team, Chairs the District's Disciplinary Committee, and is responsible for the contract oversight of the food service provider.

In addition, Jay is also the contact person for community involvement at places such as Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA), Conley Stadium, and all other school department fields that may support the city's youth programs. He has also worked with several colleges inside and outside of Rhode Island to improve the exposure of high school athletes.

Under Jay's leadership, the City and the District has allocated over three million dollars for facility improvements at all five site locations, including satellite locations such as Conley Stadium. Additionally, his office runs an intramural middle school program within the city's seven schools, further enhancing the athletic opportunities for over a thousand students. Over the past year, Jay's office was able to secure just under two hundred and fifty thousand dollars towards new uniforms and equipment. Congratulations on this well deserved honor, Jay, and thank you for all you do for PPSD students and athletes.



SAVE THE DATE: PPSD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

School	Venue	Date of Graduation	DOORS OPEN for Families and Invited Guests	Graduation Ceremony START TIME
Central High School	Veterans Memorial Auditorium	Tuesday, June 11, 2024	5:30PM	6:00PM
Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School	Roberts Hall at Rhode Island College	Wednesday, June 12, 2024	4:00PM	4:30PM
Hope High School	Veterans Memorial Auditorium	Wednesday, June 12, 2024	6:30PM	7:00PM
E-Cubed Academy	Roberts Hall at Rhode Island College	Thursday, June 13, 2024	4:00PM	4:30PM
Mount Pleasant High School	Veterans Memorial Auditorium	Thursday, June 13, 2024	6:30PM	7:00PM
Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex (JSEC)	Roberts Hall at Rhode Island College	Friday, June 14, 2024	4:00PM	4:30PM
360 High School	Roberts Hall at Rhode Island College	Friday, June 14, 2024	7:00PM	7:30PM
Providence Career & Technical Academy (PCTA)	Veterans Memorial Auditorium	Monday, June 17, 2024	5:30PM	6:00PM
Classical High School	Veterans Memorial Auditorium	Tuesday, June 18, 2024	4:00PM	4:30PM



Questions? Please contact Patricia LaSalle at patricia.lasalle@ppsd.org.

CELEBRATING STUDENTS

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



PCTA FOOD TRUCK

Recently, we cut the ribbon on **Providence Career and Technical Academy's (PCTA)** new food truck, part of **Rhode Island Department of Education's (RIDE) Menu For Success** initiative. This initiative will give students real-world experience in culinary arts. Big thank you to Mayor Brett Smiley, members of the School Board, and Councilwoman Vargas for joining us!



MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL PLAYOFF CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the **Gilbert Stuart Middle School Boys Basketball Team** on being named the Middle School Boys Basketball 2024 Playoff Champions! The team had a great season, and played hard all the way through to the championship. Congratulations to the players and coaches!



DIVISION I CHAMPIONS & STATE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the **Classical High School Boys Basketball Team** on being crowned Division I Champions and State Champions! The Purple had an amazing season, earning the number one seed during the playoffs, and emerging victorious in both the Division and State Championships. Congratulations to the players and coaches on their accomplishments, and go Purple!

Congratulations as well to the **Hope High School Girls Basketball Team** for being crowned Division IV Champions! The Blue Wave had a very successful season, and played hard all the way through. Great season!



TRACK STARS

Classical High School's Track and Field Team had incredible performances at Nationals in Virginia Beach, Virginia! Awards include:

- New School Record in Girls 4x200 and state leading performance
- All American 3rd place performance and new state record in the 4x400 Mixed Relay
- **Suzan Adunkle** - 3rd place Adidas All American Weight Throw
- **Cho Cho Idenacio** - 6th place Adidas All American Weight Throw
- **Grace Doyle** - 5th place Adidas All American Girls 2 Mile Run

Congratulations to all!

CELEBRATING STUDENTS CONT.



ART ON TV

This past fall, **William D'Abate Elementary School** art teacher Kira Melville submitted students' artwork to PBS kids. Three pieces of artwork were chosen for the title cards for the show "Lyla in the Loop", a new show being broadcasted on RI PBS! Congratulations to students **Adriana Torna Morales**, **Jainey Hernandez Chingo**, and **Jayleen Morataya** on this amazing honor! We can't wait to see your artwork featured on the show!



WAX MUSEUM AT BAILEY

History came to life at **Robert Bailey Elementary School** recently! Students role-played as historical figures as part of an Interactive Wax Museum in honor of Black History Month. "Museum visitors" stopped before each student to listen to a short speech about the life of the person they represent!



ANNUAL ANCHOR AWARDS

Rhode Island Art Education Association's (RIAEA) Annual Anchor Awards hosted their gallery opening at Rhode Island College in March. We are excited to share that a few of our talented students were recognized:

- **Makayla Sequea** of **Esek Hopkins Middle School**, Printmaking, Anchor Award
- **Peralta Cruz** of **Central High School**, Painting, Anchor Award
- **Jeremy Lopes** of **Central High School**, Painting, Anchor Award
- **Orquidea** of **DelSesto Middle School**, Drawing, Wave Award & Best in Self Portrait category
- **Siren Russell** of **Hope High School**, Mixed Media, Anchor Award



FUTURE CHEF CHALLENGE

Recently, 12 PPSD elementary school students submitted healthy recipes inspired by their favorite lunch meals, and all 12 were selected to participate in the Sodexo's Future Chef Challenge event at PCTA! Finalists prepared and presented their creations before being assessed on criteria including originality, taste, kid friendliness, and use of healthy ingredients. Congratulations to first place winner **Hedely Guzman Monegro** from **Leviton Dual Language School**, and to runner-up **Samantha Aviles**, also from Leviton! Hedely will now be considered for one of 40 regional finalist awards, and the selected regional finalists will compete to become one of five national finalists competing for the public's vote on SodexoUSA.com. Congratulations and good luck Hedely!

CELEBRATING STUDENTS CONT.



ELECTRIC BOAT APPLICATION DAY

The Providence Public School District (PPSD), in collaboration with **General Dynamics Electric Boat (EB)**, is excited to share news of the successful conclusion of the “**PPSD CTE Electric Boat Application Day**” event, held at **Rhode Island Nursing Education Center (NISEC)** in March. The event brought together 85 seniors from various PPSD high schools with 83 students receiving conditional offers for career positions at Electric Boat, marking a 51% increase in the number of offers last year.

This workforce development opportunity started approximately six weeks ago. School counselors shared information about career opportunities at General Dynamics Electric Boat and invited students to an information session on site with an EB Recruiter. Following the session, interested students were invited to a PPSD employment portal on EB’s website where they uploaded their resume and filled out an application profile, selecting the trade(s) they are interested in.

CTE students at PCTA, specifically those in Welding, Electrical, HVAC/Plumbing, are versed and skilled in trades that EB hires for. Selected groups of students from Mount Pleasant and Central participated in a six-night ‘Boat for Next Gen’ program at NEIT & Westerly Education Center with exposure to one trade each evening session.

The success of the event underscores the importance of collaboration between industry and CTE education in providing students with the skills and opportunities they need to succeed in high-demand industries. Moving forward, Electric Boat and PPSD remain dedicated to continuing their partnership and expanding opportunities for students in the Providence community. Watch video [here](#).



A-VENTURE MID-YEAR GRADUATION

Congratulations to the **A-Venture Academy** students who graduated last week during the school’s mid-year graduation! We can’t wait to see what each and every one of you accomplish in the years to come. Best of luck in your future endeavors!



SENIOR PROFILE

Demetrius Outland - Senior, PCTA - Committed to University of Rhode Island for Track

Elijah Gardea - Senior, Central High School - Committed to University of Rhode Island for Track

Jatan White - Senior, PCTA - Committed to Bridgewater State University for Football

Nasir Perry - Senior, Central High School - Committed to Husson University for Football

Anthony Semin - Senior, Central High School - Committed to Bridgewater State University for Football

Michael Toure - Senior, PCTA - Committed to American International College for Football

What is something that you're looking forward to next year besides your athletic career?

Demetrius: I'm definitely looking forward to starting my civil engineering program at URI. When I first found out I got into the civil engineering program, I was really excited, so I'm really looking forward to learning about civil engineering.

Jatan: I'm going to Bridgewater, and the teaching program there is supposed to be really good, so I'm excited for that.

Elijah: I'm studying industrial engineering at URI. I'm doing the talent development this summer, so that experience should be good. I'm going to meet my talent development advisors, hopefully they will help me. I heard the engineering program at URI is good.

Nasir: I'm excited for the change of scenery. I've been in Rhode Island my whole life, so I'm excited to see what's in Maine.

Anthony: Honestly the same as Nasir, I've been living in Providence my whole life, so being outside of Providence for four years is definitely going to be a little bit difficult at first, but I'm excited to be near new people.

What made you decide to go to the school that you chose?

Demetrius: So, at first, I had no plans to even go to URI. I planned on going to South Carolina and going to prep school for football, but in the back of my head I was kind of tired of playing football. Then track just went crazy and I happened to jump 6'6", and URI got in

contact with me and I went to visit. So, the transition from going to South Carolina to URI literally happened in like a week or two. I had already applied there, got into the civil engineering program because of my grades, and that's why I chose it. I'll be close to home, and their track team is good. I like their team, the coaching staff.

Jatan: Everybody feels like family at Bridgewater. The coaching staff is nice, they know what they're doing, and the facilities they have there are great.

Elijah: I really just started track so this is all kind of fast for me, but I always wanted to go to URI, but now track has come through my mind. The environment was good, the facilities were great. It has a good vibe.



EQUITY AND BELONGING

PPSD EQUITY CONFERENCE

April 5-6, 2024

We are proud to announce the first annual Providence Public Schools equity conference, RISE UP! Carving a Path for Educational Equity and Justice (CPEEJ), hosted by the Office of Equity and Belonging. The CPEEJ Conference is designed to provide all participants--educators, students, families and community members-- with a foundational understanding of the role they can play in bringing excellence and value to our community, by championing educational equity and justice for Providence students. The conference will be held on Friday, April 5, 2024 and Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA), located at 41 Fricker St., Providence. Registration is now open on a first come, first serve basis. PPSD educators can receive up to twelve PLUs, and all who attend will receive a certificate of attendance. The food will be scrumptious, and there will be gifts for all who attend! The conference is free. We urge participants to attend both days to receive the full experience. Language translation services will be available. [Click here](#), to view the CPEEJ Conference webpage or access the [registration form](#) directly [here](#). If you would like to volunteer your time on either or both days, please click [here](#).

PROMOTING EQUITY: ATTENDANCE MATTERS! RICAS MATTERS!

It's important that we all work together, to help prepare students to take RICAS. Education inequity is a growing crisis. Urban districts like Providence continue to be under-resourced. Students often have unequal access to high quality educators and curricula, as well as high quality culturally responsive instruction. Inequities in school funding formulas, high quality healthcare, and the lack of safe, affordable housing, further exacerbate the problems. We know that these problems result in serious consequences for our students. Furthermore, we know that wealth, class, and ethnicity are significant factors affecting students' educational experiences. But, we can not improve what we cannot measure. Standardized tests like RICAS, although not perfect, allow communities to assess how well students are learning on a state and national scale. They allow us to quantify where students are struggling, and where gaps in performance may exist by gender, ability, language, etc. We have to be able to identify the problems, so that we can analyze, strategize, and advocate for the solutions that often depend on a greater allocation of resources and services. Again, no exam is perfect, but we must not lose focus on the needs of our most underserved students. So, let's all do our part to ensure that we prepare our students for the ever changing complex world in which we live. What's the first step? Let's ensure that our students are in school, on time, every day, not only during testing, but throughout the school year.

SAVE THE DATE: R.E.S.P.E.C.T. STUDENT EQUITY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE-STUDENT SHOWCASE

On May 30, 2024, from 9:15 to 11:00 AM, students will showcase their action projects at the CIC Building located at 255 Dyer St. Providence. The R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Student Equity Leadership Conference, created by the Office of Equity and Belonging, launched in fall 2022. The goal of the conference is to inspire young people to be the change they seek. During RESPECT, students from every middle and high school and one elementary school gather to; (1) identify issues that impede their access to educational excellence, (2) gather and analyze data, (3) create and execute their action plans. They learn how to strategize, problem-solve, engage in critical analysis, write for purpose, and work with their peers to make the change needed to improve their school and local community. The public showcase on May 30, is new this year. Eighty-five young people will be ready to share the work they have been engaged in all year. They sincerely hope you will be able to join us.

Providence Schools

An educational conference hosted by the Office of Equity and Belonging

RISE UP!

Carving a Path for Educational Equity & Justice

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

41 FRICKER ST, PROVIDENCE, RI
PROVIDENCE CAREER AND TECHNICAL ACADEMY

Contact us at equity@ppsd.org for more information

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- [Presidential Primary Election \(No School\)](#)
Tuesday, April 2, 2024
- [School Board: Policy Committee Meeting](#)
Wednesday, April 3, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- [Week of the Young Child Kick-Off Event](#)
Saturday, April 6, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence
- [Eid al-Fitr \(No School\)](#)
Wednesday, April 10, 2024
- [School Board: Finance Committee](#)
Wednesday, April 10, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- [Spring Recess \(No School\)](#)
Monday, April 15, 2024 -
Friday, April 19, 2024
- [Parent Advisory Council \(PAC\) Meeting](#)
Monday, April 22, 2024
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- [School Board: Reg Meeting](#)
Wednesday, April 24, 2024
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- [School Board: CTE Committee Meeting](#)
Thursday, April 25, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- [Mental Health Fair](#)
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Providence Career & Technical Academy
41 Fricker Street, Providence

APRIL SCHOOL MENU



Summer Opportunities Fair

Do you have plans for this summer?

EAT PLAY LEARN PVD is a program that provides Providence youth with access to healthy food, outdoor activities, educational programs, summer work and creative experiences all summer long!

WHEN

Saturday, April 27, 2024
10:00am - 12:00pm

WHERE

Providence Career and
Technical Academy
41 Fricker Street,
Providence, RI 02903



For more information,
visit EatPlayLearnPVD.com or dial 3-1-1.



Providence
Schools



GOOD NEWS:

- [Sone's clutch three-pointer sends Classical past La Salle in boys basketball title](#)
WPRI, March 17, 2024
- [Classical's last-second basket captures boys state championship. Here's how it happened.](#)
The Providence Journal, March 17, 2024

Providence
Schools

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Terrific things are happening across the District, and we want to get the word out! If you have a program, event, Staff member, or student with an amazing story that you'd like to highlight, please email communications@ppsd.org.