



Mount Pleasant High School's Marching Kilties practice before their performance in the National Memorial Day Parade.

CONNECTIONS

MAY 31, 2023

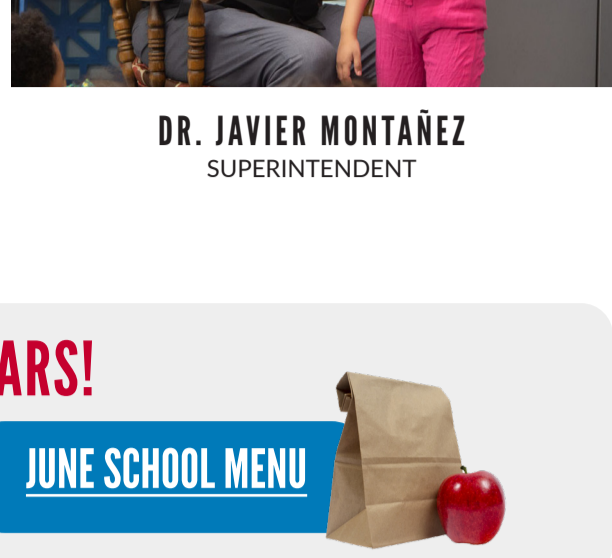
SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the latest edition of the Providence Public School District (PPSD) bi-weekly newsletter! If you or someone you know misses any of our newsletters, you can find past editions on the [District's website in multiple languages](#).

It is the busiest time of year for teachers, students and parents! Classes are winding down and the celebrations are getting into full swing. We look forward to seeing many of you at one of our graduation events. It is not just high school. Middle schools host eighth grade celebrations and many elementary schools host fifth grade and kindergarten stepping up events. High fives to all of our students for making it to the end. It is a well deserved celebration.

I am excited to share that the PPSD Summer Learning Program has 1250 students registered in the elementary program with additional students on the waitlist. We have closed registration for this division but there is still space available in our middle school program. Learn more about the exciting opportunities for students in grades 6-8 at providenceschools.org/summer.

Let's finish the year strong!

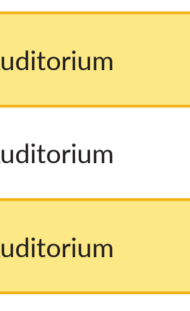


DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
SUPERINTENDENT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- PARENT UNIVERSITY: EAT, PLAY, LEARN AND SUMMER RECREATION
Wednesday, May 31, 2023
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

JUNE SCHOOL MENU



2023 PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATION SCHEDULE

Classical High School	Monday, June 12	4:00 p.m.	Veterans Memorial Auditorium
Hope High School	Monday, June 12	7:30 p.m.	Veterans Memorial Auditorium
PCTA	Tuesday, June 13	4:00 p.m.	Veterans Memorial Auditorium
Alvarez High School	Tuesday, June 13	7:30 p.m.	Veterans Memorial Auditorium
Central High School	Wednesday, June 14	4:00 p.m.	Veterans Memorial Auditorium
Mount Pleasant High School	Wednesday, June 14	7:30 p.m.	Veterans Memorial Auditorium
360 High School	Thursday, June 15	4:00 p.m.	Roberts Hall at Rhode Island College
JSEC	Thursday, June 15	7:30 p.m.	Roberts Hall at Rhode Island College
E-Cubed Academy	Friday, June 16	6:30 p.m.	Roberts Hall at Rhode Island College



SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION OPENS

If you are interested in joining us for summer programs please visit our website at providenceschools.org/summer. Registration will continue but space and transportation cannot be guaranteed. Please check with your school.

MONDAY, JULY 10 - THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

Elementary (Grades K-5)
Summer Stars Learning Academy
Young Woods and Lima Elementary School
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Middle School (Grades 6 - 8)
STEM & E-Sports
DelSesto Middle School
Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

High School (Grades 9-12)
PPSD High School Summer Credit Recovery
Central High School
Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

DISTRICT UPDATES

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

The end of the school year is near, and that means high school graduations are fast approaching! A full list of all the graduation dates and times are posted on our [District website](#), with the first two graduations happening on Monday, June 12th. We hope you can join us for these wonderful celebrations!

MARCHING KILTIES PERFORM ON MEMORIAL DAY

Mount Pleasant High School's Marching Kilties under the direction of Danielle Trial Lucini headed to Washington D.C. last weekend to perform in the **National Memorial Day Parade**. This was the first time a Rhode Island band marched and performed in the parade. Go Kilties!

DUAL LANGUAGE & BILINGUAL EDUCATION SHOWCASE

Parents, community members, educators, and local leaders are invited to come see how **dual language and bilingual education** best practices are implemented in Providence School District!

Join your peers for a day of:

- Panel and classroom visits
- A panel discussion with students, teachers, and leaders
- A collaborative debrief session and networking opportunities with other leaders

Tuesday, June 6, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

RSVP required by June 1st at forms.gle/d4MopECLzXfdw6v9

FAFSA

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is the form you need to fill out to get any financial aid from the federal government to help pay for college. Each year, over 13 million students who file the FAFSA get more than \$120 billion in grants, work-study, and low-interest loans from the U.S. Department of Education. It is free to complete and opens you up to financial opportunities for college. Please see your high school guidance counselor for additional details. Also, PPSD will be:

- Providing school hours including Saturdays for families to complete FAFSA;
- Working with RI College Planning Center and RIOPC as well as OnWard We Learn, and ETS to support all FAFSA and alternative FAFSA completion efforts; and
- The Office of Family and Community Engagement is also available to collaborate with families and schools.

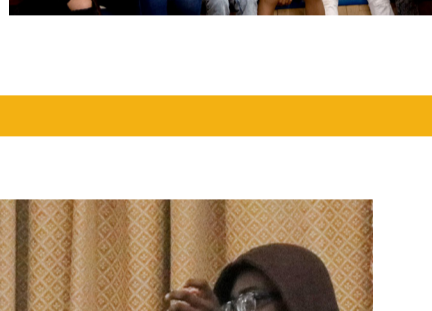
FINISH THE YEAR STRONG: ATTENDANCE

We're in the final stretch and we want to encourage all of our families and students to finish the year strong by attending every day! Before the pandemic, about 8 million U.S. students were considered chronically absent, according to the research group **Attendance Works**. A student is considered **chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of the school year**. The number of chronically absent students doubled to around 16 million in 2022. So let's all work together to be in school!

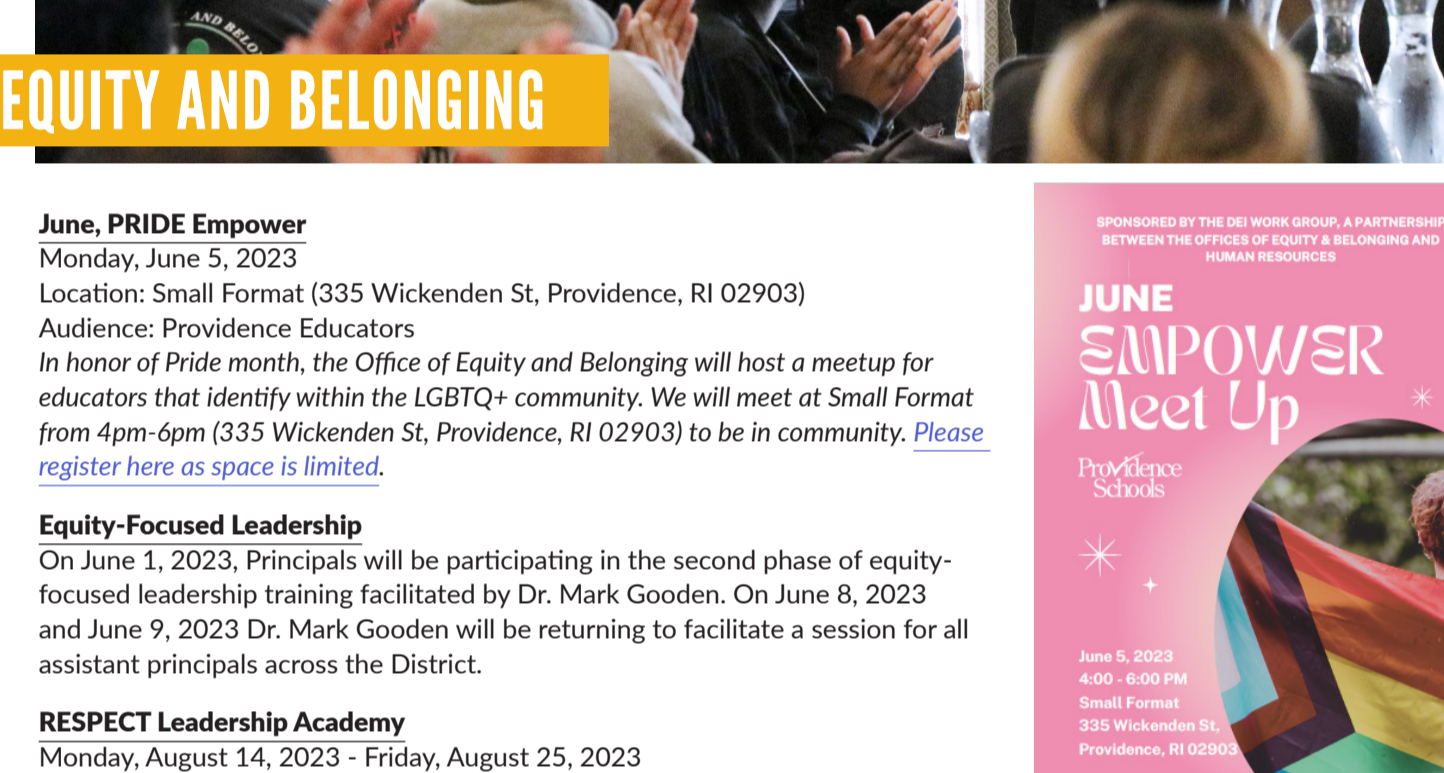
SURVEYWORKS RESULTS

At **Young Woods Elementary School** on Tuesday, **Governor Dan McKee** and **Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos** joined **RIDE Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green** and **Superintendent Javier Montañez** to release the final results of SurveyWorks. Providence Public Schools results reported improvement in several key areas: grades 3-5 responded favorably to learning goals and strategies, and grades 6-12 found Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) useful for their college/career readiness.

Providence also had a higher rate of family engagement than the rest of the state, with an increase of families attending school events at their child's school.



Register here: forms.gle/d4MopECLzXfdw6v9



EQUITY AND BELONGING

June, PRIDE Empower

Monday, June 5, 2023

Location: Small Format (335 Wickenden St, Providence, RI 02903)
Audience: Providence Educators

In honor of Pride month, the Office of Equity and Belonging will host a *Small Format* for educators that identify within the LGBTQ+ community. We will meet at Meetup from 4pm-6pm (335 Wickenden St, Providence, RI 02903) to be in community. [Please register here as space is limited.](#)

Equity-Focused Leadership

On June 1, 2023, Principals will be participating in the second phase of equity-focused leadership training facilitated by Dr. Mark Gooden. On June 8, 2023 and June 9, 2023 Dr. Mark Gooden will be returning to facilitate a session for all assistant principals across the District.

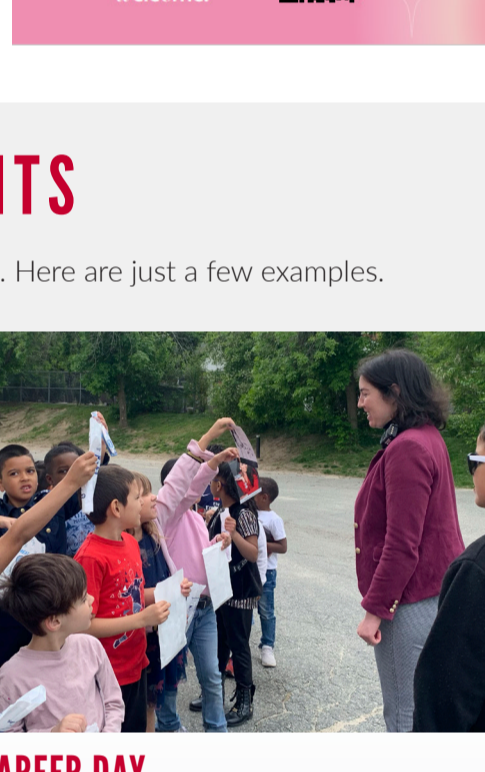
RESPECT Leadership Academy

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

Location: Providence Marriott Downtown

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.



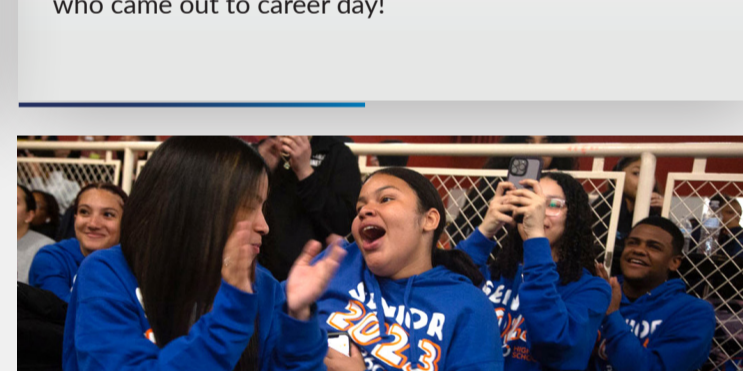
CELEBRATING STUDENTS

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



SHARK AT ALVAREZ

Students at **Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School** took part in a Shark Tank Presentation. Groups of sophomore students presented their website ideas to their fellow classmates, were able to have discussions about each important topic that was presented & built interactive websites. Great job by everyone on your hard work this semester!



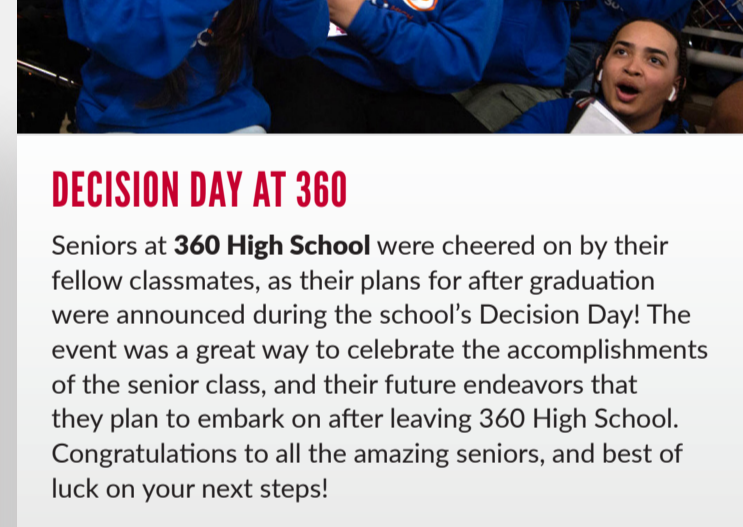
CARNEVALE CAREER DAY

Students at **Anthony Carnevale Elementary School** participated in a career day last week! They got to learn about and explore a lot of different professions from organizations in the surrounding area. From members of the fire department, to the RISCPA, and the Providence Children's Museum, students were able to interact with a lot of the different companies. Thanks to everyone who came out to career day!



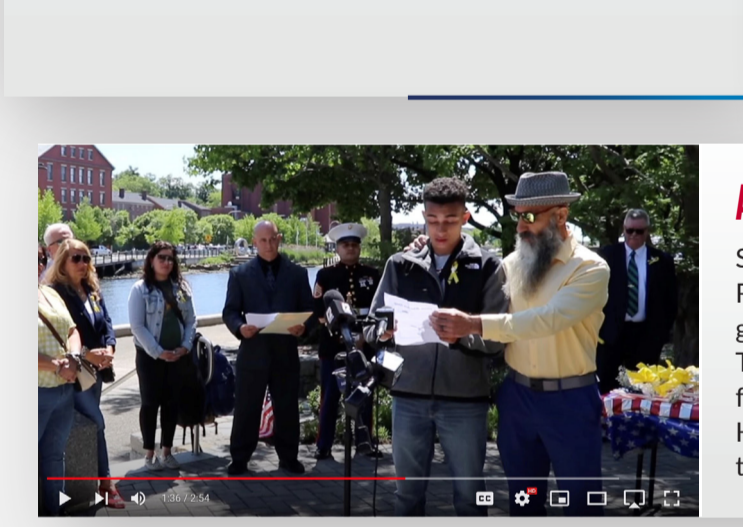
MOUNT PLEASANT HONOR ROLL

Mount Pleasant High School celebrated the success of their students who made the Honor Roll for the third quarter. Guests also had the opportunity to hear from the school's CTE teachers about the different pathways, & the work that their students are doing. Congrats to all, and keep up the great work!



DECISION DAY AT 360

Seniors at **360 High School** were cheered on by their fellow classmates, as their plans for after graduation were announced during the school's Decision Day! The event was a great way to celebrate the accomplishments of the senior class, and their future endeavors that they plan to embark on after leaving 360 High School. Congratulations to all the amazing seniors, and best of luck on your next steps!



ADVENTURE MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

Students from **A-Venture Academy** hosted a ceremony in the Remembrance Garden in dedication of the Rhode Island IX, a group of fallen Marines who lost their lives in Lebanon, Beirut. To commemorate their sacrifice, A-Venture Academy students, faculty, and staff held the poignant ceremony with Michael Harris, Charlie Masterson, and the Gold Star family members of the fallen Marines, who paid tribute to their loved ones.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Get to know our amazing senior students in the District!

Sophia Lemaire
Senior, Hope High School
ES: Martins Luther King
MS: Bishop

Evelyn Nimoh
Senior, Hope High School
ES: Pawtucket Public Schools
MS: Pawtucket Public Schools

Helimet Laureano
Senior, Hope High School
ES: New York Public Schools
MS: Greene Middle School

What are your plans after high school?

SL: I'm going to continue to work. And I am going to RISD in the fall. I'm thinking about concentrating in sculpture or industrial design. I did Project Open Door since last year and I did Saturday classes in the fall. For me it was between RISD and MassArt but I got the POD (Project Open Door) Alumni Scholarship. So I was the first one. This year they decided to give one student who got into RISD a full scholarship.

EN: I am going to go to Springfield College and my major is undecided at this time. They have a really good theater program that I am really interested in and their campus is really pretty. It was between Manhattan College and Pace University or Springfield because I wanted to be in New York. But then I looked at the tuition and I was like do I really need to be in New York? And Springfield it is.

HL: I'll be attending Roger Williams University. I'm thinking of going into criminal justice. It was close to home. The school gave me 95% of the tuition. I got the inter-cultural scholarship and like I said it was close to home and I am close with my family.

"They've had a big impact on us. There are teachers here that will make you feel really cared for and really seen and appreciated."

Tell us your most memorable experience from Hope High School?

SL: Last year, we did a mural in the basement at Hope High School. We came up with an idea and we were a lot of fun to have fun but make sure it fit the theme. It was a lot of fun to be able to have that type of outlet at that time. I really needed it. We did a sea and music based mural called the Music Aquarium.

EN: My favorite memory is my first high school production ever, The Christmas Carol, and I was the lead. I got to play Croquet. I just remember that it was such a great moment for me because I realized this is what I want to do with my life. I love just being in front of people and performing.

HL: I think for me it would be track. I got to meet new people

and actually win a medal for the first time. That was a big moment. I did the 4x400. I love my teammates and that we all support each other.

What are you going to miss most about high school?

SL: I think I will miss some of the teachers. They've had a big impact on us. There are teachers here that will make you feel really cared for and really seen and appreciated. You don't always feel that way in other places.

EN: I think I will miss the school culture. Since Covid, the culture has started up again and gotten stronger. The staff is enforcing to build a better culture for Hope.

HL: I will miss seeing my friends' faces every single day.

Has there been a teacher who has had an impact on your life at Hope or in PPSD?

SL: Jonathan Goodman, our English teacher. We are lucky to have him. My art teacher Mary McMurtery. And Ms. Erin Mully, she teaches theater and art.

EN: I have a lot. But I will narrow it down to three. The first would be Mr. "Zen" Zienowicz. He made me feel seen as a young actor and have so much passion for acting. I owe him a big pat on the back. I would definitely say Ms. Garcia. She is one of our volleyball assistant coaches. She has been helping me through so much. When I play games sometimes I get panic attacks and she helps me calm down and feel safe. Matt and Johnny, they are so sweet and like my in-school fathers. Anything that is bothering me, I can go to their office and talk to them.

HL: Yes, Mr. Goodman and also, Ms. Sully. They have helped me a lot.

What are you nervous or excited about for graduation?

SL: I am excited to make art. I am afraid I fit at the same time.

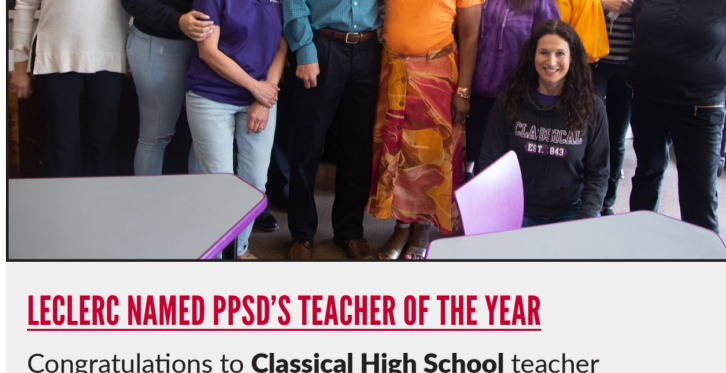
EN: I have a fear of not being coddled anymore when we are in the real world after high school. We're being forced to be on our own and learn new things. We are able to start a new chapter or even a new character for our own life.

HL: Excited for the freedom and to meet new people.

IT'S GOOD NEWS: PPSD IN THE PRESS

- [Mount Pleasant High School Band to perform in National Memorial Day parade in D.C.](#)
WJAR, May 26, 2023
- [Providence teacher named RI Civic Education Teacher of the Year](#)
WPRI, May 23, 2023
- [Providence schools to host ribbon-cutting of Classical High School turf field](#)
ABC6, May 21, 2023
- [Classical's Francesca Leclerc Named Providence Teacher of the Year](#)
WPRI, May 19, 2023

AROUND THE DISTRICT



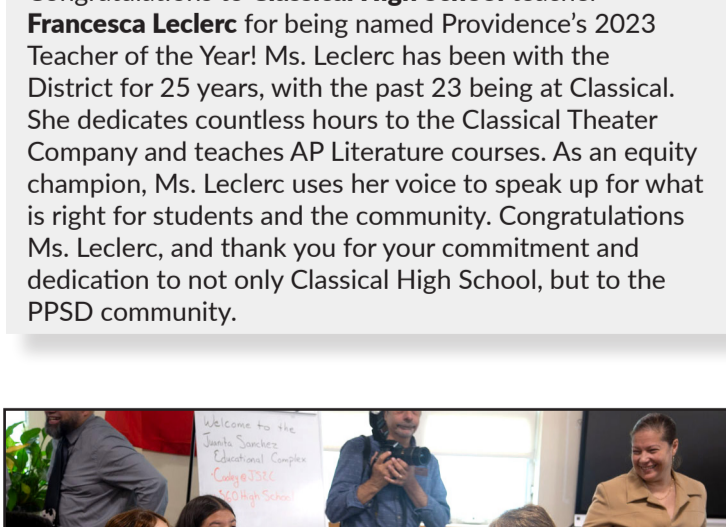
LECLERC NAMED PPSD'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **Classical High School** teacher **Francesca Leclerc** for being named Providence's 2023 Teacher of the Year! Ms. Leclerc has been with the District for 25 years, with the past 23 being at Classical. She dedicates countless hours to the Classical Theater Company and teaches AP Literature courses. As an equity champion, Ms. Leclerc uses her voice to speak up for what is right for students and the community. Congratulations Ms. Leclerc, and thank you for your commitment and dedication to not only Classical High School, but to the PPSD community.



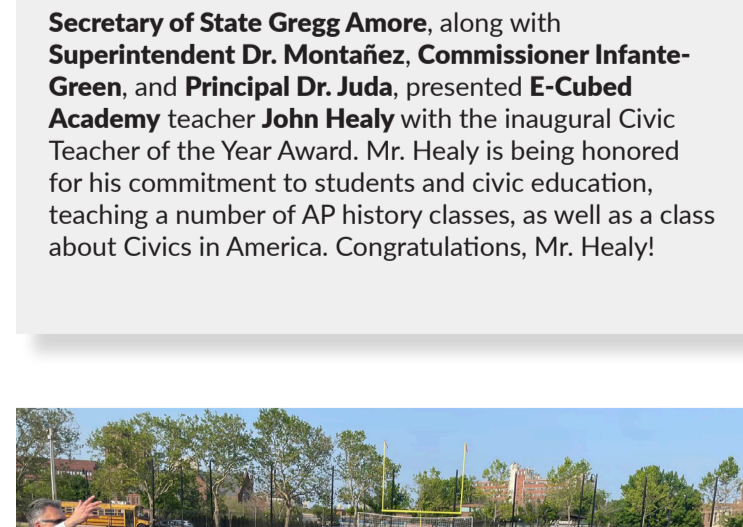
RI CIVIC EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Secretary of State **Gregg Amore**, along with Superintendent **Dr. Montañez**, Commissioner **Infante-Green**, and Principal **Dr. Joffe**, presented **E-Cubed Academy** teacher **John Healy** with the inaugural Civic Teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Healy is being honored for his commitment to students and civic education, teaching a number of AP history classes, as well as a class about Civics in America. Congratulations, Mr. Healy!



PPSD HIGH SCHOOLS RECEIVE GRANT FROM BROWN

Excited to share the news of Brown's award of \$1.25 Million through disbursements from the **Fund for the Education of the Children of Providence** to help Providence Schools at JSEC! The grants will help nine PPSD high school libraries and provide a financial literacy program at **Nathanael Greene Middle School**. Thank you to Brown University for your generosity in helping our students have the best spaces possible to grow their education.



REBIBON-CUTTING AT CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Classical High School hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the school's brand-new turf field. **Mayor Brett Smiley**, **Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green**, members of PPSD, members of the **Providence City Council**, members of the **Providence School Board**, community stakeholders, parents, and students were also in attendance at the grand opening. The Turf Field will serve as the home ground for six of the school's high school sports, including football, soccer, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, field hockey, and softball. We want to thank everyone involved in bringing this project to life, and we're very excited to see lots of sporting events take place here. Go Purple!

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.