



Providence Career and Technical Academy Signing Day

# CONNECTIONS

MAY 13, 2022

## 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 PPSD website](#) in multiple languages.

When you're on a long or challenging path, it's important to stop every now and then to acknowledge your progress. Your goal might still be far away, but it's a lot closer than when you started. I was reminded of this as I reviewed mid-year assessments for PPSD students in grades K through 8. We have made serious progress this year in math, English Language Arts (ELA), and reading:

- In math, we had an average of 21% more K-8 students meet or partially meet expectations for their grade level, compared to the beginning of this school year.
- In ELA, we started the year with just 10% of K-8 students meeting or exceeding expectations for their grade level. By mid-year assessments, we more than tripled that number to 35% of students meeting or exceeding expectations.
- Grades 1 through 8 have all met or exceeded their independent reading growth goals for this point in the school year. Kindergarten increased their reading growth rate by about 33% compared to last year at this time.

Is the job done? Of course not. We want ALL students meet or exceed grade level. But these mid-year assessments show we are building momentum in the right direction. I think it's important that we celebrate our hardworking teachers and students for the progress they've made during this incredibly challenging school year.

I encourage everyone to acknowledge small wins like this as we work to turn PPSD around. It lets our teachers and students know their work is important, appreciated, and seen. That will help motivate and encourage our team so we can keep building this positive momentum. And pretty soon we'll look up and see all of these small wins have stacked up into a big change in Providence.

DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ  
Superintendent

## DISTRICT UPDATES

### PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **Classical High School Principal Scott Barr** for being named the 2022 Rhode Island Principal of the Year by the Rhode Island Association of School Principals! Principal Barr began his career 32 years ago working in Providence Public Schools as a history teacher. Eventually he became the department chair at Classical High School. After a move to administrative leadership as an assistant principal at Cranston East High School, Barr returned to Providence to serve Classical as its 16th principal. Under his leadership, Classical has received numerous awards and is consistently ranked among the best public schools in the state and the entire country.

### SKILLS USA COMPETITION

**Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA)** had 89 students compete in our state SkillsUSA competition this year. SkillsUSA is a nationwide career and technical student organization serving nearly 400,000 high school, college, and middle school students enrolled in training programs in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations. Our students received 34 medals in this year's competition, including 18 gold, 9 silver, and 7 bronze! Our 18 gold medalists will be part of the State Champion SkillsUSA delegation representing the State of Rhode Island at the National SkillsUSA competition in Atlanta this June.

### PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2022 GRADUATIONS

**This year, all PPSD graduations will be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center.** Below is this year's graduation calendar. For more details on each school's ceremony, please visit [www.providenceschools.org/graduations2022](http://www.providenceschools.org/graduations2022). Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors!

#### E-Cubed Academy

Monday, June 13

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

#### JSEC

Tuesday, June 14

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### Classical High School

Tuesday, June 14

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

#### PCTA

Wednesday, June 15

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### Hope High School

Wednesday, June 15

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

#### 360 High School

Thursday, June 16

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### Central High School

Thursday, June 16

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

#### Alvarez High School

Friday, June 17

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### Mount Pleasant High School

Friday, June 17

7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## CELEBRATING STUDENTS

Our hardworking, talented students are doing amazing things every day! Here are just a few examples.



### SIGNING DAYS

Providence Public Schools seniors are in the midst of *Signing Days* across the district. **PCTA** held their signing day on Thursday, May 5th. **Mount Pleasant High School**, pictured above, hosted their *Decision Day* on Monday, May 2. Students wrote their future plans on pennants that were hung in the foyer. During signing days, students announce their plans for the future - college, military, the trades, etc.



### AUTHOR VISIT AT BROAD STREET

The 4th grade students at **Alan Shawn Feinstein Elementary School at Broad Street** were lucky to have author **Evan Glasson** from **American Reading Company** visit their class! The students wrote a paragraph about what they learned about the author's opinion during class.



### GRADUATION DESIGNS

Sophomores in the **Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA)** graphic arts program created senior graduation hoodies for their classmates.



Photo by Nate Suatrito

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Get to know the amazing people who work with our students every day!

### Plinio "Ed" German

**Elementary Resource Teacher, William D'Abate Elementary**  
**Summer School Principal**

**Wrestling Head Coach, Hope High School**

Located in: William D'Abate Elementary

Joined PPSD in: 2005

#### How would you describe your job?

I'm an educator, even as a Coach. I've worn many hats on the way here - this is my first year back as an Elementary Resource Teacher, and before that I was working with high school students as a Dean of Students. But even if the kids have different needs or they're facing different issues, I'm still here to assist them to become a well-rounded student/individual.

#### What's the best part of your job?

Masks are off and I can see kids smiling! There's so much joy in their faces. Even the little things - at recess the other day a kid caught a ball and you could just see the pure happiness in that moment. And it's so rewarding to see kids grow and develop. I have students multiplying, doing long division, and doing fractions with confidence now and they couldn't do any of that at the start of the year. But they worked hard and mastered it!

#### What do you wish more people knew about being a teacher?

Being an Educator is a lot of work, but it is rewarding every single day. I support students who are learning disabled and have gaps in reading, writing, and math. Today I had five students who took a math test and I could see they felt confident and good about themselves. That's huge! I have to give props to D'Abate Elementary for creating such a good culture for learning in the school. The entire community here works extremely hard and it's great to see the connection and commitment towards each individual student and their families. This type of dedication to the community gets the kids motivated and in turn they truly buy-in and put in the work!

"As a Coach, I am able to guide students in the right direction, keep them focused & motivated, and provide them with the best opportunities possible."

#### What did it mean to be named the 2022 Rhode Island Interscholastic League Male Coach of the Year, across all sports?

I'm a dad and I love that title the most. However, Coach is the second best title to have, in my opinion. As a Coach, I am able to guide students in the right direction, keep them focused & motivated, and provide them with the best opportunities possible. I owe this award to all the students and coaches I've worked with over the past 18 years. I was fortunate to take over a wrestling program at Hope 13 years ago that had 6 kids. My first year, we brought in 44 kids and were co-division champions. Hope is the only Division 1 school in Providence for wrestling. This year we were third in the state as a team, we had 2 State Champions, 2 Finalists, had a young man who placed at New England's, and high school nationals.

But the thing I'm proudest of and the thing that sets the tone for everything is our focus on academics. We have a 100% graduation rate and over the past eight years, 100% of our kids have ventured on to college and many have continued to wrestle in college. That's special. To know where they come from, the adversity they've had to face and to overcome all of that and still be successful is huge for our wrestling community.

Our Blue Wave Wrestlers are also able to give back and coach at our middle schools here in Providence and they have also started 3 businesses which I am extremely proud of: *Wavy Lawn Care*, *Wavy Bounce Inflatables and Party Rentals*, and *Wavy Trucking*. All three are named after the Hope "Blue Wave" mascot. We push our student-athletes to be their best and I am proud of the fact that they continue to do so even after becoming an alumnus. As Educators, that's the impact we HOPE to have.

## IT'S GOOD NEWS: PPSD IN THE PRESS

- [After-school program gives Providence high schoolers an outlet through art](#) WPRI, May 6 2022
- [Classical High School administrator named Rhode Island principal of the year](#) ABC6, April 29, 2022
- [Providence schools to offer summer career training for students](#) WPRI, April 26, 2022
- [Classical, Barrington, E.G. high schools remain state's top 3 in U.S. News' latest rankings](#) Providence Business News, April 26, 2022
- [Providence offers summer youth programs, jobs through 'Eat, Play Learn PVD'](#) Providence Business News, April 19, 2022

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

#### ○ PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Monday, May 16, 2022

6:00 p.m.

#### ○ SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

6:30 p.m.

#### ○ MEMORIAL DAY - NO SCHOOL

Monday, May 30, 2022

## SPREAD THE WORD



### ARC CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

PPSD teachers, you are invited to join the ARC K-5 Curriculum Committee to help review and strengthen the ARC academic program. Current K-8 teachers who have implemented the ARC curriculum in their classroom or ELA coaches are eligible. Please use the links below to apply!

[Middle school here >](#)

[Elementary school here >](#)

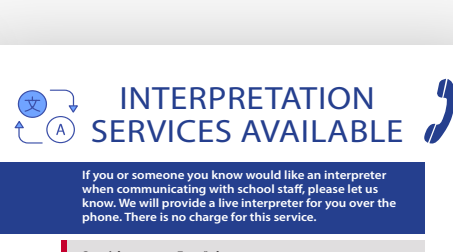


### SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for help with summer learning and have many opportunities available for those who would like to get involved.

External candidates please click [here](#) for our [open summer job postings](#).

Internal candidates [click here](#).



### INTERPRETATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know would like an interpreter when communicating with school staff, please let us know. We will provide a live interpreter for you over the phone. There is no charge for this service.

Spanish Español  
Habla Español? Le proporcionamos un intérprete por teléfono. Sin servicios gratis.

Arabic العربية  
هل تتكلم اللغة العربية؟ سوف نوفر المترجم على الهاتف. غير خدماتنا مجانية.

### INTERPRETATION SERVICES

PPSD families, your voice matters - no matter what language you speak!

**Free, live interpretation services are available in ALL schools.** Look in the main office area for posters with instructions in your language on how to access these free services.

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, send email [communications@ppsd.org](mailto:communications@ppsd.org).